

Employment, earnings and decision making of farm women workers in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The findings of the study revealed that the contribution of women workers to the total work force of the farm families was relatively high among the small size groups of the farms. The women workers put lesser number of days of their work on own farm than that of men workers. The women workers of landless families have to seek more outside employment. The women workers belonging to the large sized farm families refrained from hard work to some extent as compared to the women workers of small sized farms. The positive and significant regression coefficient of gross cropped area obtained from the average women worker employment function implies that an increase in gross cropped area would result into additional employment for women workers indicated that the substitutability of men and women workers was totally absent because of operation specificity of labour requirement. The per farm family total wage earning of average men and women workers during the year decreased over the size groups. The per farm annual earnings showed direct relationship with the farm size. The women were significantly involved in decision making process. The analysis brought out many policy implications.

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INTRODUCTION

Women are the lifeblood in developing countries. The contribution of women in agricultural production has been considerable. As per 2001 census total population in India is 1027.0 millions and out of that the population of Maharashtra is 96.7 millions. Total number of males are 53.12 crores (about 52 %) and female 49.58 crores (about 48 %). As many as 72.2 % of population live in rural areas and the urbanities constitute 27.8 %. In India, 67 % of total population are engaged in agriculture. Agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5 % of total female labour. In the case of working population, rural female participation rate is 27.2 % i.e. nearly thrice of the urban female participation rate (9.7 %).

In the economic activities, agricultural labour and cultivation are the main areas of farm women workers. Indian rural women carry a heavy burden of Participation in different farm operations and activities. In addition to this physical work, women also help in decision making with regard to farm practices, operations and household affairs. Thus, women as wives and mother have a considerable part in decision making in home as well as in farm affairs and because of this it is considered that women play an important role in the development process the study was conducted to study the sources of employment

of farm women workers with the sources of income and wage structure of farm women workers and to study the role of women in decision making of farm family.

METHODOLOGY

120 samples were selected from 4 villages. From each selected village, 30 samples were collected. Out of 120 samples, 30 were selected from each size group of farmers viz., I, II, III and IV, having the size of holding, 0.01 to 2.00 ha, 2.01 to 4.00 ha and above 4.01 ha, respectively. The landless families were taken as size group –I. Thus, the sample for the study consisted of 120 families from Sangamner tehsil of Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state. The analytical procedure adopted for the study included simple tabular analysis and the functional analysis. The following were the forms of the multiple regression equations used in the estimation–

Employment function:

$$Y = a + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + b_3 x_3 + b_4 x_4 + u$$

where,

Y = Total employment (days)

X₁ = Holding per female workers (hectare)

X₂ = Percentage work contributed by male

Key words :

Employment, Income, Decision making, Farm women workers.

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