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RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Problem faced by the gender in carrying out the practices in paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation

PARMESHWARI B. PAWAR, VAISHALI R. SHITRE AND R.D. PANDYA

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SUMMARY : The problem refers to the item of difficulty perceived by gender that had carrying out the paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation. Many improved crops cultivation technologies were evolved but due to certain reason farmers are not able to perform it efficiently. Considering this as bottleneck, investigator had tried to find out the crusial problems which prevent the gender to perform various roles as well while taking decision in paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation. The various problems which faced by them were gathered from the respondents. The non-availability of labour in time was reported as major problem by men and ranked first followed by, non-availability of critical inputs got second rank, lack of security scored third rank, lack of skilled labour ranked fourth, extensive work load ranked fifth, unfavourable weather condition ranked sixth, lack of finance ranked seventh, lack of scientific knowledge ranked eighth, lack of moral support ranked ninth, lack of interest got tenth rank, lack of social support ranked eleventh, lack of confidence ranked twelfth, non-availability of implements in time ranked thirteenth and scarcity of irrigation and lack of foresight to conduct the operation ranked fourteenth. In case of women, the non-availability of labour in time was their major problem and ranked first fallowed by, extensive work load got second rank, lack of security scored ranked third, ranked fourth, lack of skilled labour, ranked fifth, lack of scientific knowledge ranked sixth, unfavourable weather condition ranked seventh, lack of finance ranked eighth, lack of confidence ranked ninth, lack of moral support got tenth rank, lack of social support ranked eleventh, lack of interest ranked twelfth, non-availability of implements in time ranked thirteenth, scarcity of irrigation ranked fourteenth and lack of foresight to conduct the operation ranked fifteenth.

KEY WORDS:
Problem, Gender, Paddy, Sugarcane

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Author for correspondence :
PARMESHWARI B. PAWAR
Department of Extension Education, K.K. Wagh College of Agriculture, NASHIK (M.S.) INDIA
Email: pari2805@rediffmail.com
See end of the article for authors' affiliations

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agriculture is the backbone among the India's development concerns and is regarded as the largest sector of the country's economy. It is a way of life for millions of farm families with pre-domination of small and marginal farmers and landless labourers. This working force found either directly or indirectly depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Today, still nearly 74 per cent of the country's working force dependent on agriculture out of which 41.8 and 32.2 per cent is from rural and urban areas, respectively, therefore, it is recognised as the biggest unorganized sector (Reddy and Reddi, 2005). Indian agriculture

is known for its multi-functionalities of providing employment, food, livelihood and social security. A proportion of 27.1 per cent of rural population live below poverty line which reflects the fact that people are poor despite work as they are getting (Singh, 2006). The issues of women are the essence of growing importance of gender because of their relatives' subordinate position to men. However, 'gender' as a substitute for women is also used to suggest that information about men, that one implies the study of the other. The uses insists that the "world of women is a part of the world of men, created in and by them". Looking at gender differences thus, entails identifying the distribution of tasks, activities, and rewards associated with gender division of labour as well as the relative position of women and men. A better understanding of the labour with type and extent of their participation in economic development provide a stronger base for planning which leads to realistic policies. In addition, identification of the different tasks, opportunities, constraints and incentives allow for more accurate recognition of target groups, it also provides support to develop the appropriate policies for efficient use of resources. Equitable policies can be gained through attention to differences in social and economical position of men and women, enabling the distribution of benefits of certain activities to achieve an impartial impact. It would also allow identification of gaps and weaknesses in policy from the points of view of particular groups of women and men (Hussain and Grover, 2004).

South Gujarat is the most productive region, which contributes the maximum adoration of agricultural technology. Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, is playing active role in generating the technology along with the means to provide guidance to the gender engaged at on and off farm activities to increase their efficiency as well as of the technology to get maximum advantages from their farm produce. University have evolved hundreds of technology, out of which some are rejected but, it is observed that such technology were adopted later on by the big mass of the working force with different reasons. Some technology had brought drastic change by involvement of gender. Several researchers explored their views that certain technology has shown its impact through involvement of gender in decision making process. The problem faced by men and women while working in the field was also important one. Considering these facts a study was organised to see the "problem faced by the gender in carrying out the practices in paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation".

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study has been undertaken on the role of gender in paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation in the Navsari district of Gujarat state. Among the five talukas of the Navsari district, two talukas *i.e.*, Navsari and Gandevi were selected for the study. Five villages were selected from each talukas at random. Thus, the study was carried out in ten villages. The list of farm families who have at least five years of experience of paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation were obtained from the *Talati-cum-Mantri* of respective villages and ten men and women respondents were scrutinized by using simple random sampling method. The man and woman of selected farm families were basically husband and wife in relation. In all, the total sample size for the study was two hundred. Problem refers to the items of difficulties faced by the respondents in carrying out paddy and sugarcane crops practices. The man and woman respondents were asked to mention the problem faced in handling or while executing the package of practices in paddy and sugarcane crops cultivation. The responses were obtained and summed up. Lastly, the figures were converted into frequency and percentages. To obtain the clear inference they were ranked in descending order.

The response obtained for each of the items in the interview schedule were scored and tabulated into a master sheet. The following statistical parameters were included for analysis and developing the inference. The parameters used are defined as under.

Frequency (f) :

Number of times a variate value is repeated is called frequency.

Percentage (%) :

A proportion in context to hundred.

Rank :

An order is according to some statistical characteristics.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The various problems which faced by them were gathered from the respondents. The problems encountered by the respondents while paddy and

sugarcane crop cultivation are enumerated with rank in Table 1 and Fig. 1.

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that out of all fifteen problems, the non-availability of labour in time

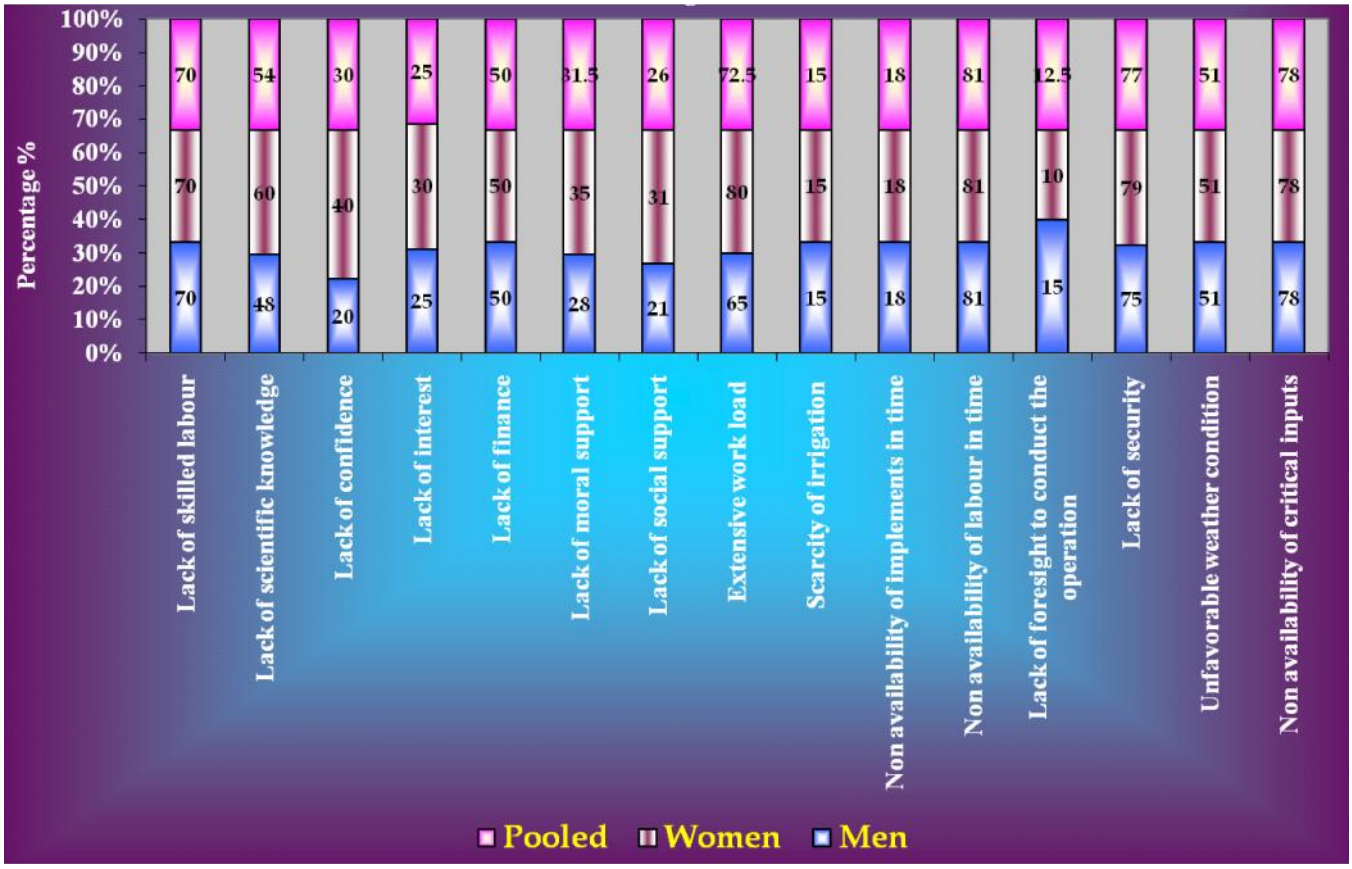

Fig. 1 : Problem faced by the gender in carrying out the cultivation practices of paddy and sugarcane

Table 1 : Problems faced by the gender in carrying out the cultivation practices of paddy and sugarcane (n=200)

Sr. No.	Problems in paddy and sugarcane cultivation practices	Men			Women			Pooled		
		f	%	Rank	f	%	Rank	F	%	Rank
1.	Lack of skilled labour	70	70.00	IV	70	70.00	V	140	70.00	V
2.	Lack of scientific knowledge	48	48.00	VIII	60	60.00	VI	108	54.00	VI
3.	Lack of confidence	20	20.00	XII	40	40.00	IX	60	30.00	X
4.	Lack of interest	25	25.00	X	30	30.00	XII	50	25.00	XII
5.	Lack of finance	50	50.00	VII	50	50.00	VIII	100	50.00	VIII
6.	Lack of moral support	28	28.00	IX	35	35.00	X	63	31.50	IX
7.	Lack of social support	21	21.00	XI	31	31.00	XI	52	26.00	XI
8.	Extensive work load	65	65.00	V	80	80.00	II	145	72.50	IV
9.	Scarcity of irrigation	15	15.00	XIV	15	15.00	XIV	30	15.00	XIV
10.	Non-availability of implements in time	18	18.00	XIII	18	18.00	XIII	36	18.00	XIII
11.	Non-availability of labour in time	81	81.00	I	81	81.00	I	162	81.00	I
12.	Lack of foresight to conduct the operation	15	15.00	XIV	10	10.00	XV	25	12.50	XV
13.	Lack of security	75	75.00	III	79	79.00	III	154	77.00	III
14.	Unfavourable weather condition	51	51.00	VI	51	51.00	VII	102	51.00	VII
15.	Non-availability of critical inputs	78	78.00	II	78	78.00	IV	156	78.00	II

(81.00 %) was reported as major problem by men and ranked first fallowed by, non-availability of critical inputs (78.00 %) got second rank, lack of security (75.00 %) scored third rank, lack of skilled labour (70.00 %) ranked fourth, extensive work load (65.00 %) ranked fifth, unfavourable weather condition (51.00 %) ranked sixth, lack of finance (50.00 %) ranked seventh, lack of scientific knowledge (48.00 %) ranked eighth, lack of moral support (28.00 %) ranked ninth, lack of interest (25.00 %) got tenth rank, lack of social support (21.00 %) ranked eleventh, lack of confidence (20.00 %) ranked twelfth, non-availability of implements in time (18.00 %) ranked thirteenth and scarcity of irrigation and lack of foresight to conduct the operation (15.00 %) ranked fourteenth.

It is obvious from the table that the majority of the women had also reported non-availability of labour in time (81.00 %) as their major problem and ranked first fallowed by, extensive work load (80.00 %) got second rank, lack of security (79.00 %) scored third rank, non-availability of critical inputs ranked fourth, lack of skilled labour (70.00 %), ranked fifth, lack of scientific knowledge (60.00 %) ranked sixth, unfavourable weather condition (51.00 %) ranked seventh, lack of finance (50.00 %) ranked eighth, lack of confidence (40.00 %) ranked ninth, lack of moral support (35.00 %) got tenth rank, lack of social support (31.00 %) ranked eleventh, lack of interest (30.00 %) ranked twelfth, non-availability of implements in time (18.00 %) ranked thirteenth, scarcity of irrigation (15.00 %) ranked fourteenth and lack of foresight to conduct the operation (10.00 %) ranked fifteenth.

In general, it can be seen from the table that the non-availability of labour in time (81.00 %) as their main problem and ranked first fallowed by, non-availability of critical inputs (78.00 %) got second rank, lack of security (77.00 %) scored third rank, extensive work load (72.50 %) ranked fourth, lack of skilled labour (70.00 %) ranked fifth, lack of scientific knowledge (54.00 %) ranked sixth, unfavourable weather condition (51.00 %) ranked seventh, lack of finance (50.00 %) ranked eighth, lack of moral support (31.50 %) ranked ninth, lack of confidence (30.00 %), got tenth rank, lack of social support (26.00 %) ranked eleventh, lack of interest (25.00 %) ranked twelfth, non-availability of implements in time (18.00 %) ranked thirteenth, scarcity of irrigation (15.00 %) ranked fourteenth and lack of foresight to conduct the operation (12.50 %) ranked fifteenth.

It can be concluded from the foregoing discussion that, major problems faced by the gender in the paddy and sugarcane cultivation practices are non-availability of labour in time, non-availability of critical inputs and lack of security

Anuradha and Rani (2004) concluded that men suffers training, marketing, technical and family problem whereas social, family training and other type of problems encountered by women.

Naruka and Singh (2005) stated that farmers possessed most important technological problem was “dry fodder has no value as cattle feed”. In economic problem “high cost of fertilizers” and in educational problem “lack of knowledge about plant protection measures”.

Patel (2006) pointed out that the major constraints faced by the tribal farm women in the field of agriculture were illiteracy, lack of irrigation facilities, lack of educational facilities, uneven land, lack of financial resources, scattered and small size of land holding, lack of knowledge about improved agriculture technology, lack of transportation facility, non-availability of inputs in time, inappropriate technology, unfavourable climatic conditions, low selling price of farm produce, lack of regular and timely contact with VLW and experts, lack of marketing facility, lack of training, social handicaps and unemployment during off season.

Rath *et al.* (2007) found that the major problems as perceived by the farmers in order of rank were ‘non-availability of high yielding upland rice varieties in sufficient quantities’, ‘moisture stress after sowing’, ‘low nutrient status of soil’, ‘inadequate plant population’, ‘incidence of different pests like termite, gundhi bug and diseases like blast and brown spot’, ‘infestation of weed’, ‘unavailability of machineries for sowing the seeds in line’, ineffectiveness of plant protection chemicals used for control of pests and diseases’ and heavy rain at the time of harvesting’.

Thangamani and Umarani (2005) reported that 89.20 per cent of women faced the economic problems, followed by problem of high cost of fertilizers and pesticides faced by 85.00 per cent of them, 74.20 per cent of women faced the problem of poor economic status and 70.80 per cent non-availability of labour in time.

Zala (2005) found that the less exposure of training, inadequate knowledge about various uses of *Neem*, non-availability of *Neem* based products in market, insufficient quantity of *Neem* and lack of sufficient literature on usages of *Neem* were major problems and lesser

coverage of such information in communication means were minor problems faced by the *Neem* tree owner tribal farm women in using *Neem* for agriculture, health and other purposes. Similarly Agarwal and Rao (2004); Chaudhary and Singh (2007) and Sujatha and Nanjaiyan (1999) also worked on the related topic.

Authors' affiliations :

VAISHALI R. SHITRE, Department of Extension Education, B.A. College of Agriculture, Anand Agriculture University, ANAND (GUJARAT) INDIA

R.D. PANDYA, Department of Extension Education, N.M. College of Agriculture, Navsari Agriculture University, NAVSARI (GUJARAT) INDIA

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