

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Role expectations of tribal women as perceived by their husbands in farm and home management

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SUMMARY : The study was undertaken to find out the role expectations of tribal women as perceived by their husbands in farm and home management. The study revealed that the tribal husbands expectations were more in areas like horticulture (12.24), animal husbandry operations (6.69) and agro bio-diversity conservation (3.86). As far as toda community is concerned, the husbands expected their wives to perform well in areas like horticulture (11.60), animal husbandry operations (7.07) and agro bio-diversity conservation (2.55). The tribal husbands of irula women expected best performance in areas like animal husbandry operations (8.03), agro bio-diversity conservation (4.50) and farm forestry (4.58). As far as kota community is concerned, horticulture (4.98), animal husbandry operations (4.98) and agro bio-diversity conservation (4.53) were the expected roles from husbands of kota women.

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KEY WORDS :

Role expectations,
Tribal husbands,
Farm management,
Home management

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Women contribute one third labors force required for farming operations and allied enterprises. They have been playing significant role in Home, farm and Allied activities (Das et al., 2011). The day of the tribal farm women is starting form early morning to late evening. They remain engaged with home, crop and livestock management throughout the day (Chauhan, 2009). Thus, study was therefore, designed to appraise the role expectations of tribal women as perceived by their husbands in farm and home management. Results of the study reveal that the tribal husbands' expectations were more

in areas like horticulture, animal husbandry operations and agro bio-diversity conservation.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Nilgiris district was selected for the study by simple random sampling based on the highest tribal population recorded in the district. Out of four blocks in Nilgiris district, Kotagiri and Udthagamandalam blocks were deliberately selected because of the prevalence of more number of tribal farm communities. Among the six tribal communities, Toda, Irula and Kota communities were selected for the study because these tribal communities are actively

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engaging themselves in farming. A sample of 10 tribal women from each selected tribal community were randomly selected thus, comprising 30 respondents as sample for the study.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

It was attempted to study the role expectations of tribal women as perceived by their husbands in farm and home management. Three categories *viz.*, farm management, home management and community management have been identified and the distribution is given in Table 1.

Farm management :

The overall analysis revealed that, the tribal husbands expectations were more in areas like horticulture (12.24), animal husbandry operations (6.69) and agro bio-diversity conservation (3.86). As far as toda community is concerned, the husbands expected their wives to perform well in areas like horticulture (11.60), animal husbandry operations (7.07) and agro bio-diversity conservation (2.55). The tribal husbands of irula women expected best

performance in areas like animal husbandry operations (8.03), agro bio-diversity conservation (4.50) and farm forestry (4.58). As far as kota community is concerned, horticulture (4.98), animal husbandry operations (4.98) and agro bio-diversity conservation (4.53) were the expected roles from husbands of kota women.

Expectations were more among irula husbands. The reason might that, the irula women were hard working farm women but their roles had not been recognised. Hence, the tribal husbands would have more expectations on their wives to perform roles much better.

As the todas are traditionally pastoral people, the tribal husbands expect their wives to perform more in animal husbandry related activities. Also this community is still lacking participation in agro bio-diversity conservation. The tribal husbands felt that their wives could undergo various training programmes and perform better in this area. Irula women undergo various training programmes related to agro bio-diversity conservation. So their husbands expected their wives to become experts in this area and earn a better standard of living. Since the main occupation for the irula women is collection of non-wood timber forest products, the tribal husbands

Table 1 : Role expectations of tribal women as perceived by their husbands in farm, home and community management. (n=30)

Sr. No.	Category	Todas (n=10)		Iruulas (n=10)		Kotas (n=10)		Total (n=30)	
		Total scores	Mean scores	Total scores	Mean scores	Total scores	Mean scores	Total scores	Mean scores
Farm management									
1.	Animal Husbandry operations	424	7.07	482	8.03	299	4.98	1205	6.69
2.	Farm forestry	60	1.00	269	4.58	268	4.47	597	3.32
3.	Horticulture	696	11.6	749	12.48	758	12.63	2203	12.24
4.	Agro bio-diversity conservation	153	2.55	270	4.50	272	4.53	695	3.86
5.	Overall mean score	5.56		7.40		6.65		6.53	
F=8.187** ** Significant at 0.01 probability level									
Home management									
1.	Purchasing	272	4.53	265	4.42	209	3.48	746	4.14
2.	Money management related tasks	269	4.48	271	4.52	273	4.55	813	4.52
3.	Food related tasks	271	4.52	266	4.43	269	4.48	806	4.48
4.	Household tasks	269	4.48	265	4.42	273	4.55	807	4.48
5.	Child related tasks	271	4.52	268	4.47	272	4.53	811	4.51
6.	Overall mean score	4.51		4.45		4.32		4.43	
F=7.739** ** Significant at 0.01 probability level									
Community management roles									
1.	Role in SHG activities	275	4.58	271	4.52	208	3.47	754	4.19
2.	Role in economic developmental activities	267	4.45	206	3.43	150	2.5	623	3.46
3.	Role in social developmental activities	155	2.58	152	2.53	93	1.55	400	2.22
4.	Overall mean score	3.87		3.49		2.51		3.29	
F=27.539** ** Significant at 0.01 probability level									

expected their wives to perform more in this area. Kota women though have rich experience in farming, they lack training experience in horticulture and agro bio-diversity conservation aspects. So the tribal husbands expected their wives to excel in these areas.

Home management :

The overall analysis depicted that, the tribal husbands expectations were more on financial management related tasks (4.52), child related tasks (4.51), food related tasks (4.38) and household tasks (4.38).

Husbands from toda community had secured the highest overall mean score (4.51). They expected their wives to perform much better in home management. While the kota tribal husbands had secured the lowest overall mean score (4.32). The reason might be due to the fact that, the kota women would have enhanced their role performance with respect to home management.

With respect to toda community, the husbands expectation was more on activities like purchasing (4.53) followed by food related tasks (4.52) and child related tasks (4.52).

As purchasing is a male oriented activity, the tribal husbands expected sharing this activity along with their wives. Since the irula and kota women were more of home bound, their husbands would have expected their wives to handle mainly on financial management related tasks.

Community management :

The overall analysis revealed that, the tribal husbands expected their wives to perform well in areas like SHG activities (4.19), economic developmental activities (3.46) and social developmental activities (2.22).

Among the three tribal communities, the toda tribal husbands had secured the highest overall mean score (3.87). But their role performance was lesser in social developmental activities. The toda tribal husbands expected their wives to perform much better in community management roles with special reference to the social developmental activities. The least overall mean score (2.51) had been secured by the kota tribal husbands. The reason might be due to the fact that, the kota women stood next to toda women in terms of community management activities. But still they had not come in the mainstream. Hence, their husbands expected their wives to perform much better in the community management

roles. The significant 'F' value confirmed the significant differences among the three tribal communities.

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