

Change of role of women in agriculture after green revolution in district Hoshiarpur

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Women are active partners in farming and undertake management along men in addition to their responsibilities at home stead level. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varies greatly from region to region. The role of woman in agriculture has gone in tremendous change after the advent of green revolution in Punjab. The present study was carried out to assess the change in role of women in agriculture after green revolution in district Hoshiarpur and to assess the factors affecting the change. The findings showed that small and medium land holder women of group I were used to perform all operations. Large land holder women of group I and group II were lesser engaged in all main three operations *i.e.*, farm, subsidiary and allied farm operations.

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Women are active partners in farming and undertake management along with men in addition to their responsibilities at home stead level. There are certain unit operations in production agriculture in which women dominate in production agriculture, post harvest management and agro processing. Women perform maximum farm operations thereby contributing a lot towards the upliftment of the economic and social status of their families and finally accelerating the pace of rural development (Singh, 2003). Rural women have been intensively involved in agriculture and its allied fields. They perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as sowing, weeding, hoeing, land preparation and grain storage (Deepali, 1987). She is the backbone of agricultural workforce. She does the most tedious and backbreaking tasks in agriculture, animal

husbandry and homes (Sidhu, 2011) and irrespective of land status of the family, all women in India provide 14 to 18 hours of productive physical labour in different chores (Sangwan *et al.*, 1990).

The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture varies greatly from region to region. The role of women in agriculture has gone in tremendous change after the advent of green revolution in Punjab owing to farm mechanization, fragmenting land holdings, influence of entertainment culture through media changing socio-economic condition in the state etc. The present study was carried out to assess the change in role of women in agriculture after the green revolution in district Hoshiarpur and to assess the factors affecting this change.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

The present study was carried out in two purposively selected blocks of district Hoshiarpur *viz.*, Mahilpur and Hoshiarpur. Two villages were selected from each selected block out of which ten farm families belonging to different farm sizes *i.e.* small, medium and large farming were selected from each village. A total of 120 farm families from which two different women of same farm family in the different age group were selected for data collection to find out the role which they were used to perform and their present role in agriculture. The responses were collected by means of a structured interview schedule. The information related to role of women on the basis of main farm operations, subsidiary operations and allied farm operations were recorded. Then, the inferences were drawn based on percentage.

■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads :

Participation in farm activities :

Per cent participation of different women land holders in farm activities were analyzed and presented in Table 1. The Table 1 depicts that majority of group I

women having small land holding were used to perform main farm operations *viz.*, storage and cleaning of seed, plucking of vegetables, seed sowing, transplanting of seedlings, field preparations and weeding whereas medium and large land holding women were usually involved in plucking of vegetables, seed sowing and transplanting of seedlings. From over all view of group I women involving in farm activities, it was clearly seen that more than 81.3 per cent women were engaged in main farm operations and lesser participation was seen in irrigation activity. Aggarwal *et al.* (2013) observed that more than 85.3 per cent of women are engaged in transplanting nursery in fields.

In group II, young women participation in larger proportions was observed in plucking of vegetables whereas lesser participation of young women belonging to large land holding was seen in all farm activities. On the whole, it was observed that women of group I were more involved in farm activities.

Participation in subsidiary operations :

In case of participation of women in subsidiary operations (Table 2), group I women belonging to small, medium and large land holdings were involved in cooking food for labour and supplying food to farm workers. The

Table 1 : Per cent participation of different women land holders in farm activities (n = 120)						
Main farm operations	Group I (Age 60-65 years)			Group II (Age 20-25 years)		
	Small	Medium	Large	Small	Medium	Large
Field preparation	87.1	74.3	69.1	57.5	37.5	13.9
Seed sowing	87.5	87.0	73.5	57.5	36.0	17.2
Transplanting of seedlings	87.5	80.0	74.0	54.5	38.3	13.3
Weeding	82.0	79.7	71.8	46.0	35.0	17.4
Irrigation	76.0	74.0	72.0	52.7	42.3	12.6
Storage and cleaning of seed	88.3	79.0	76.1	50.2	44.7	15.4
Plucking of vegetables	88.0	85.2	81.3	68.1	52.7	13.3
Percentage in average	85.2	79.8	73.9	55.2	40.9	14.7

Table 2 : Per cent participation of different women land holders in subsidiary operations (n = 120)						
Subsidiary operations	Group I (Age 60-65 years)			Group II (Age 20-25 years)		
	Small	Medium	Large	Small	Medium	Large
Cooking food	97.0	95.8	90.6	85.0	72.5	53.3
Supplying food to farm workers	95.2	90.1	81.5	72.3	60.6	50.2
Kitchen gardening	89.7	87.5	80.0	75.4	70.2	48.1
Decision about different farm operations	90.4	86.7	83.3	52.7	48.0	40.9
Percentage in average	93.0	90.0	83.8	71.3	62.8	48.1

Table 3 : Per cent participation of different land holding women in allied farm operations (n = 120)

Allied farm operations	Group I (Age 60-65 years)			Group II (Age 20-25 years)		
	Small	Medium	Large	Small	Medium	Large
Cutting and carrying fodder	86.0	84.8	64.2	52.5	35.2	12.4
Feeding animals	97.5	90.0	70.3	58.7	38.4	19.2
Milking animals	92.3	90.0	68.9	60.0	33.7	16.7
Cleaning shed	90.4	87.6	60.8	51.0	32.0	8.2
Dung collection	90.0	89.9	66.9	47.3	30.4	6.6
Percentage in average	91.2	88.4	66.2	53.9	33.9	12.6

involvement of group I small land holder women in decision making regarding different farm activities was more than medium and large landholder women. This might be due to their more involvement in farm activities.

In group II, majority of young women were engaged in activities of cooking food and kitchen gardening whereas lesser involvement was seen in decision making activities regarding farm activities. This might be due to the reason of lesser interest of women in farm operations and more involvement in house keeping, more attention to children studies, personal health and hygiene.

Participation in allied farm activities :

In case of participation of women in allied farm activities (Table 3), it was found that more participation of group I women having small and medium landholding was seen in all activities *viz.*, feeding animals, milking animals, cleaning shed, dung collection and cutting and carrying fodder. Lesser involvement of large land holder women was seen in cleaning shed (60.8 %) and cutting and carrying of fodder activities (64.2 %).

Group II small land holder young women (60 %) were engaged in milking animals activity followed by feeding animals (58.7 %), cutting and carrying of fodder (52.5 %) and cleaning shed activities (51.0 %). Whereas medium and large land holder women of group II were attached with feeding animals activity. Less than 10 per cent respondents of large land holding were involved in cleaning shed and dung collection activities.

Conclusion :

Women play an significant and crucial role in agricultural operations. On the whole, it was concluded that small land holder women of group I were used to perform all operations. Large land holder women of group I and group II were lesser engaged in all main three operations *i.e.*, farm, subsidiary and allied farm operations. Higher education level and farm mechanization was the significant and decisive factors for reduction in the number of women engaged in main farm operations and also reduction in the participation in allied farm activities for group II women irrespective of land status of the family.

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