

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Farm women decision making in integrated activities of Barmer district of Rajasthan

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SUMMARY : The women's contribution in the farming sector with respect to participation and decision making has largely been ignored. Though women performed more than four-fifth of agricultural work, their decision were accepted less than one-third of the case. The objective of present study were to find out women and their role in farming decision. The present study was conducted in Barmer district of Rajasthan. There are 3 block namely Barmer, Sheo, Chohtan. Forty women from each block were selected randomly thus making a total sample of 120 were interviewed with structure interviewed schedule. Results revealed that the male member of the family participated in decision making process of farm activities. This is not surprising because the joint family system is still prevalent where women have no role to play in decision making. In case of selection of seeds, quality of seeds, type of pesticide, time of harvesting, vaccination, calving of animals, foods of animals, maintenance of agricultural equipment, applying fertilizer, all decision were taken by elder person of the family. In all these cases women's decision was almost negligible. Further, more than 50 per cent of decision in the area of home science were taken by the women such as preservation of fruits and vegetables, food to be cooked, income of the family, saving in the family and child care practices. Further it showed that although women earned and saved the money by working in the field but their decisions were still centered to the kitchen only. It was also concluded that in financial matter, the involvement of women was less.

KEY WORDS:

Activities,
Agricultural, Decision
making,
Empowerment,
Women

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The role of women has always been a multidimensional and significant as women have performed well in case of agricultural activities, domestic activities, marketing activities, as far as labour requirement is considered. The decision-making process is

an important segment of every household because the functioning of family resources management depends on the efficiency of decision-making progress. So, women's involvement in decision-making process has been of great importance because women play an important role in every household activities and gives excellent performance most of the

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time. It may be related to household activity or for the decision-making at household or any other level. In rural society, there has been noticed a considerable fluctuation regarding the decision making power of women. The state like Punjab and Haryana show positive role of women in decision-making process in many of the families but it has become in significant and negligible in rural families due to illiteracy of women. The contribution of women has not taken seriously because it is considered very disgraceful to accept the decision of women. This is because the abilities of women have been neglected and undermined as the responsibility of forming the policies is always regarded the job of male traditionally. The study was, therefore, conducted to know the role of women in decision making in various activities in Barmer district of Rajasthan.

Objectives :

- To study farm women participation in integrated activities.
- To find out farm women decision making in integrated activities.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Barmer district of Rajasthan. There are 3 block namely Chohtan, Barmer and Sheo. Forty women from each block were selected, thus making a total sample of 120. For studying the extent of decision by rural women in their family, structured interview schedule was administrated in the year who have attended at least 1 training programme at KVK. Trainees were those women who have attended training of agriculture, horticulture, agriculture engineering and home science. Age, education level, exposure to media, their past experience of the training, marital status, type

and size of family, land holdings, and attendance in the trainings were few variables of the study. For interpretation of data frequencies, percentage, mean and 'T' Test were calculated.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Perusal of Table 1 shows that the men in the family mainly took decisions. This is not surprising because the joint family system is still prevalent where women have no role to play in decision making. Khanduri and Chandra (2011) mentioned that this is a unique situation of the rural Garhwal of Uttarakhand, where women perform more than 80 per cent home and farm activities but their participation in decision making has been less than 20.91 per cent. It showed that there was a clear-cut gender bias in the society, which explains traditionally subjugated status of women, as well as their role in decision making process. These gender biases shall improve with the improvement in the education of women in rural areas of Uttarakhand. Middle age groups and above age groups participated more in the decision making process in different areas of agriculture and level of participation was also high as compared to younger age group.

The data (Table 1) revealed that in case of selection of seeds only 8.33 per cent of women were involved in decision making which is 8th part of men's decision making (61.67) which express much involvement of male member.

In judging quality of seeds (55.83%) and choosing type of pesticide (68.33%) men taken decision. Further about 53.33 per cent men decided time of harvesting. It is clearly shown from the table that men decision was welcomed in animal context, vaccination (46.66%) and calving of animals (43.33%) decided by them and 60.00 per cent beneficiaries taken joint decision about feeds

Table 1 : Decision making role of women in the area of agriculture/plant protection/animal science/ agricultural engineering/horticulture

Sr. No.	Activity	(n=120)							
		Self	Per cent	Joint	Per cent	Men	Per cent	Not applicable	Per cent
1.	Selection of seeds	10	08.33	30	25.00	74	61.67	06	05.00
2.	Quality of seeds	13	10.83	35	29.17	67	55.83	05	04.17
3.	Types of pesticides	09	07.50	19	15.83	82	68.33	10	08.33
4.	Time of harvesting	11	09.17	45	37.50	64	53.33	00	00.00
5.	Vaccination	08	06.67	41	34.17	56	46.66	15	12.50
6.	Calving of animals	24	20.00	40	33.33	52	43.33	04	03.34
7.	Feed for animals	14	11.67	72	60.00	25	20.83	09	07.50
8.	Maintenance of agriculture equipment	09	07.50	29	24.16	74	61.67	08	06.67
9.	Applying Fertilizer	08	06.67	17	14.17	82	68.33	13	10.83

for animals maintenance of agriculture equipment and applying fertilizer, all decision were taken by elder person of the family. In all these cases women's decision was almost negligible. The findings are in line with the findings of Tiwari and Tripathi (2014); Bhattacharjee (2005); Kumari *et al.* (2018). Mishra *et al.* (2009) also reported that husbands consult their wives in respect of the practices namely application of manure in the field, type of vegetables, harvesting time. Gondaliya and Patel (2012) mentioned that in case of major activities such as sowing practices, nutrient management, crop protection, harvesting and post harvest activities, majority of the farm women have taken joint decision with family members or with husband while independent female decision was negligible.

The data (Table 2) indicated that majority of farm women taken decision regarding preservation of fruits and child care practices as these two work are mainly women part. Further the table reveals that 60.83 per cent of women decides food to be cooked in family this may be due to the reason that women knew raw material available in kitchen and at time of cooking many a times she is alone in the house to taken decision over the food. Table 2 reveals that 41.67 per cent of women taken decision regarding saving in the family although women saved the money by working in the field but their decision

were still centered to the kitchen only. Health and hygiene is mainly a joint effort which was found out to be 55.83 per cent.

It was evident from Table 3 that the variables *viz.*, education, marital status, occupation, family type, family income, cosmopolitaness, and social participation were found to be positively and significantly correlated with the level of knowledge. It showed that although women were having knowledge but the family members did not give them weightage to them to include in decision making. It was also evident that the five variables education, family income, cosmopolitaness and social participation were significantly and positively correlated with the level of adoption of advanced technologies of agriculture.

It indicates that women who were exposed to T.V. and had some contacts with the extension personnel, scientist, agriculture supervisor etc. adopt the advanced technologies of agriculture more easily than others. Similar work related to the present investigation was also carried out by Sharma *et al.* (2014) and Tsegaye *et al.* (2012).

Conclusion :

It may be concluded that high number of farm women were found to have overall high level of

Table 2 : Decision making role of women in the area of home science

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Activity	Self	Per cent	Joint	Per cent	Men	Per cent	Not applicable	Per cent
1.	Preservation of fruits and vegetables	101	84.17	12	10.00	07	05.83	00	00.00
2.	Food to be cooked	73	60.83	23	19.17	24	20.00	00	00.00
3.	Saving in the family	50	41.67	32	26.67	29	24.16	09	07.50
4.	Health and hygiene	33	27.50	67	55.83	20	16.67	00	00.00
5.	Child care practices	82	68.33	16	13.33	22	18.34	00	00.00

Table 3 : Correlation between knowledge, adoption and improvement in skill with independent variables

(n=120)

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Knowledge	Adoption
1.	Age	-0.819 ^{NS}	-0.769 ^{NS}
2.	Caste	-0.450 ^{NS}	-0.984 ^{NS}
3.	Education	8.879**	7.201**
4.	Marital status	4.112**	4.003**
5.	Family size	0.768 ^{NS}	-0.621 ^{NS}
6.	Occupation	3.215**	3.101**
7.	Family type	-1.780 ^{NS}	-1.531 ^{NS}
8.	Family income	3.351**	3.011**
9.	Cosmo politeness	5.240**	5.113**
10.	Social participation	3.334**	1.679*

** indicates significance of value at P=0.01 level of significance (P≤0.01)

NS=Non-significant

participation in agricultural operations. On the other hand, the farm women participation in decision making process in farm activities was found out to be negligible. The data clearly indicate that the men in the family mainly took decisions. This is not surprising because the joint family system is still prevalent where women have no role to play in decision- making. Women have multi tasking mind and it is proven that they survival and sustenance of agriculture and home making, rest squarely on the rural women. They, therefore, deserve to be given due recognition as far as decision – making process in agricultural and home making.

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