



RESEARCH PAPER

Gender analysis in resource utilization among homestead vegetable growers

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Abstract : Agriculture plays a significant role in the growth and development of the nation. Agriculture productivity is happened only when correct combination of various resources combines. So that access to resources is often claimed to be essential for improving agricultural productivity. But many of the farmers lack access to various agricultural resources on time, especially women. They are often claimed to have less access to resources in comparison to men. This undermines their chances of entering in to agricultural sectors. Hence, the present study was conducted to analyze the gender role in resource utilization. The study was conducted in 120 homesteads of Kollam district. From the result we can conclude that access and control of various agriculture related resource is more men dominated, it does not mean that such resources were not available for use of women instead it meant that for the use and control of such resources women required assistance or permission of their spouse.

Key Words : Gender roles, Resource utilization, Homestead vegetable production, Access to resources, Control of resources

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INTRODUCTION

Rural women play a major role inside the home and outside as a partner in the man's profession. She is the central figure in the family influencing and serving the social, economic and cultural standards of the family. Access to resources is often claimed to be essential for improving agricultural productivity. But in certain homesteads the growers lack access to various agricultural resources, among this women are often claimed to have less access to resources in comparison to men. According to FAO (2011) women have less access than men to agricultural assets, inputs and services. The recognition of their crucial roles in

agricultural production has recently increased. But still some discriminatory practices as well as certain stereotypical attitudes exist in the society, which prevent women from accessing appropriate resources. According to Yojana (2012) among the small and marginal farmers, only 11 per cent of the farm women have access to land holdings. The situations they face may not only vary according to the degree of their lack of resources, but also according to different types of farming systems, social-ethnic groups and cultural institutions in general. Studies have argued that male and female farmers are equally efficient as farm managers and attribute lower levels of inputs and human capital to explain women

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farmers' lower yields than men (Quisumbing, 1994). Keep this in view the present study was conducted to analyze the extent of resource utilization among the homestead growers. This helps the policy makers to implement programmes which ensure women access to innovations and various resources which would result increase in agricultural productivity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Kollam district. In Kollam district two Agro Ecological Zones were selected from the 5 zones. Three *Panchayaths*, each were selected two zones. They are Nedumpna, Chithara, Kadakkal from AEZ 9 and Veliyam, Ummannoor, Piravanthur from AEZ 12. Out of these *Panchayaths*, 20 homesteads each was selected which makes a total of 120 homesteads. To identifying the extent of resource utilization a suitable structured schedule was developed. The data collected were analyzed using percentage analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the resource analysis section access and control of men and women to certain basic resources were identified with the help of percentage analysis. Access to resources could be explained as those resources to which women had the power to use without consultation and permission. Whereas control of resources implies

powers not only to use them but also to own them and utilize them for one's own purposes. Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents based on resource analysis of Kollam district.

A cursory look at the distribution of respondents based on resource analysis from Table 1 revealed that men had maximum access and control over most of the resources. For the resources like labour (74%), money (66%), technology (64%), capital good (62%) and land (58%) the more access was recorded on men. They too exercised maximum control on all the resources under consideration. There was no single resource for which women had a sole access and control, it does not mean that such resources were not available for use of women instead it meant that for the use and control of such resources women required assistance or permission of their spouse. In the case of combined access to resource, maximum access was recorded in the cases of knowledge (100%) and inputs (46%) and maximum control was exercised on resources namely knowledge followed by money. This finding is in accordance with the results of Tiwari (2010) who reported that marketing of the farm produces commonly done by men which give them complete control over household finance and only 5 per cent of women farmer are benefited from extension services.

Scrutiny of the overall distribution of data regarding resource analysis showed that access and control to resource is more men dominated. Which pointed towards

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on resource analysis of Kollam district							(n=120)	
Sr. No.	Access	Women		Men		Joint access		
		F	%	F	%	F	%	
1.	Capital goods	11	9	74	62	35	29	
2.	Inputs	25	21	40	33	55	46	
3.	Land	17	14	70	58	33	28	
4.	Knowledge	0	0	0	0	120	100	
5.	Labour	19	16	89	74	12	10	
6.	Money	8	7	80	66	32	27	
7.	Technology	16	13	77	64	27	23	
Control						Joint control		
1.	Capital goods	4	3	90	75	26	22	
2.	Inputs	7	6	86	71	27	23	
3.	Land	15	13	80	67	25	20	
4.	Knowledge	0	0	0	0	120	100	
5.	Labour	15	13	71	59	34	28	
6.	Money	5	4	80	67	35	29	
7.	Technology	8	7	89	74	23	19	

the less power of women to access and control resources that they come across in their day to day life. Women did not have sole access and control on any of the resources. This happens not because women are less skilled, but because they do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities like men. The result shows the female oppression that was still prominent in Kollam district for accessing and controlling agricultural resources such as land, farm, labour, money and technology. Women face many restrictions of being a woman and as a result they are deprived of several facilities and opportunities. Promoting gender equality is crucial for agricultural development and food security, we need to promote economic opportunities for women, allowing them to build assets, increase incomes and improve family welfare. The society should be made aware that both men and women are equal, and they both should have equal access to resources. So we need to empower women, by providing them access to land, fertilizer, education and financial services. Extension agencies should give them sufficient information regarding new technologies moreover help them to access these resources for the effective utilization. Similar findings have also been reported by Dhanusha (2017) and Pooja *et al.* (2016).

Conclusion:

The result showed that access and control to resource is more men dominated. Women did not have sole access and control on any of the resources. This

happens not because women are less skilled, but because they do not have equal access to the resources and opportunities like men. Women face many restrictions of being a woman and as a result they are deprived of several facilities and opportunities. So special attention should be given to them by providing sufficient information regarding new technologies moreover help them to access to land, fertilizer, education and financial services.

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