

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

A comparative gender study on participation and time utilization in community works in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh

■ P. Laxmi Prasanna and B. P. Mohapatra

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SUMMARY : The present study attempts to compare the participation and time utility pattern of farmer and farm women in community works. The investigation was conducted in YSR Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh. Total 120 respondents selected from 10 randomly selected villages, out of 120 respondents 60 respondents were farmers, 60 respondents were farmwomen. Farmer and farm women were interviewed separately with pre structured interview schedule. Majority of farm women were middle aged, illiterates, landless labour, working as agriculture labour, falling under medium income level. Most of farmers were actively participated social rituals (93.3) and allotted more time to organizing village welfare activities (1.66) social awareness programmes and field trips and exhibitions. Farm women actively participated to SHG meetings (1.5). Farm women allotted very less time to field trips and exhibitions (0.3). The study has recommended need to empower and educate the farm women to participate in community management programmes by imparting knowledge.

KEY WORDS :

Farmer, Farm women,
Community works,
Time utilization,
Participation

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agriculture play very important role in national economy. Agriculture contributes 15.4 per cent of India's total gross domestic product (GDP). Agriculture is backbone for rural economy. India occupied first position in milk and fruits and vegetable production, second position in rice production on global ranking. Majority of rural people depending directly and indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood. Rural farmwomen playing vital role in agriculture production as most of them

working as agriculture labours and cultivars. Rural farm women role agriculture production and livestock management are significant in each and every stage of food grain production and attain national food security. The rural women perform a reproductive role, encompassing child bearing, child rearing and housework. At the same time, they also fulfill a productive role, engaging in paid labour activities outside the house and/or being in charge of a number of tasks related to household farming activities, including livestock management. In some developing

Author for correspondence :

P. Laxmi Prasanna
Department of
Agriculture Extension,
Agriculture College,
Bapatla (A.P.) India
Email: prasannachandu539@gmail.com

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

countries, they make on average upto 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force and contribute substantially to the livestock management (Paul *et al.*, 2015). Closing gender gaps is the not only a matter of human rights and equity; it is also one of efficiency Global Gender Gap Report, 2012). Women make an important contribution to family-run economic activities and represent an average of 43 per cent of the agricultural workforce worldwide (FAO, 2011). Rural women's long working hours correlate to a triple work burden in the productive, reproductive and social spheres, and in contrast to men their work is mostly unpaid and unrecognized. This work overload restricts women's well-being and their engagement in activities of value, including remunerative activities. Surveys from 45 developing countries show that women and children bear the primary responsibility for water collection in the vast majority of households (76%). This is time not spent working at an income-generating job, caring for family members, or attending school (WHO/UNICEF, 2010). Rural women's daily activities revolve around a mixture of tasks pertaining to domestic and productive work. Thus, time-saving in one sphere can directly affect time availability in the other, and vice versa. Labour-saving technologies and services developed to reduce the domestic work burden (in support of water and fuel wood collection, cooking and care) have received more attention and are already well covered (IFAD, 2014). Recent studies have observed a trend towards the "feminization of agricultural labour", referring to the rising share of women in the agricultural labour force as a result of migration and additional opportunities available to men (Abdelali-Martini and Dey de Pryck, 2014). Men and women have different roles depending on local norms regarding resource access and control, mobility, type of technology involved, the extent of commercialization in the sector and the product involved. Despite their role in the fish value chain, women's contributions are rarely seen as "productive". Rather, they have low social value and are normally seen as an extension of the "domestic" space (ICSF, 2015). The heavy burden of unpaid household responsibilities often leads to "time poverty" – the absence of discretionary time that women can dedicate to personal interests, paid labour, education, or other endeavors. Among those endeavors is learning skills that would allow them to adopt new technologies to improve their productivity or start a small business (Shelton and John, 1996; Karlsson and McDade, 2001 and Hafkin and

Taggart, 2001). In these scenario, to investigate farm women participation and average time allotment to community works was conducted to find out the actual picture of farm women contribution in community programmes with following objectives:

- To study socio-economic status of farmer and farm women
- To study comparative analysis of participation of farmer and farm women in community programmes.
- To study average time utilization pattern of farmer and farm women in community programmes.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The ex-post facto survey research was conducted in Y.S.R. Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh with a comparative sample of 60 farm women and 60 farmers. 5 mandal were selected randomly out of 31 mandal of Kadapa district. From each mandal two villages were selected randomly and proportionate Random sampling was applied for selection of respondents. The data were collected through personal interview by means of pre structured interview schedule. Both farmer and farm women were separately interviewed for collecting first-hand information. Data so collected were statistically analyzed with the help of frequency, percentage and standard deviation. The results were separately interpreted to see the decision making pattern and activity profile in three series by male, female or by jointly in different activities like feeding, health care and management and processing and marketing. The responses have been tabulated, analysed and results are discussed in the following sections.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

Socio personal characters of the respondents:

The following Table 1 indicates the map of socio personel characters of the respondents.

Table 1 reveals the socio personal characteristics of farmer and farm women. Majority of farm women were middle aged, illiterates, landless labour, working as agriculture labour, falling under medium income level. In case of farmer, most of the respondents are middle aged, having illiterates followed by secondary educational qualification, medium farmers falling under medium

income level. Farmers having more outward orientation (18.3) then compared with farm women (10).

Comparative analysis of participation of farmer and farm women in community programmes:

Table 2 shows participation of farmer and farm women in different community activities. The community activities in this research includes organizing social awareness programmes, SHG meetings, organizing village welfare meetings, attending training and demonstration programmes, attending cultural rituals, attending political meetings and attending field trips and exhibitions. The results shows that most of farmers actively participated in attending social rituals (93.3%), organizing social awareness programmes (90%), attending field trips and exhibitions (88.3%), organizing village welfare activities (85%) and attending marriages/ cultural rituals activities (85%) followed by attending political meetings (81.6%). Most of farm women actively participated in attending DWACRA/SHG meetings (95%), attending social rituals (81.6%), attending

marriages/ cultural rituals activities (78.8%) followed by organizing social awareness programmes (75%), very less number of farm women participated in attending field trips and exhibitions (48.3). More number of farmers participated in social rituals, programmes and trips and exhibitions than compared to farm women. More number of farm women were participated in SHG meetings and very less number of farmwomen were attended field trips and exhibitions.

Average time utilization pattern of farmer and farm women in community programmes:

Table 3 indicates average time utilization pattern of the farmer and farm women in community works. Farmer spend more time in organizing village welfare activities (1.66), attending training and demonstration programme (1.5), attending social rituals (1.5), organizing Social awareness programmes (1.41), attending marriages/ cultural rituals activities (1.41). Farm women spend more time in attending dwacra/SHG meetings (.5), attending marriages/ cultural rituals activities (1.0), organizing

Table 1 : Socio personal profile of the respondents

| Sr. No. | Variables | Categories | Farmer frequency (%) | Farm women frequency (%) |
|---------|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Age | Young age (upto 25 years) | 13(21.6) | 7 (11) |
| | | Middle age (upto 50 years) | 30(50) | 40 (66.6) |
| | | Old age (above 50 years) | 17(28.3) | 13 (21.6) |
| 2. | Level of education | Illiterate | 25(41.6) | 41 (68.3) |
| | | Primary education | 13(21.6) | 4 (6.6) |
| | | Secondary education | 18(30) | 15 (25) |
| | | Graduation | 3(5) | 0 (0) |
| | | Post graduation | 1(1.6) | 0 (0) |
| 3. | Income per month | Below poverty line | 17(28.3) | 12 (20) |
| | | Low income level | 10(16.6) | 19 (31.6) |
| | | Medium income level | 29(48.3) | 22 (36.6) |
| | | High income level | 4(6.6) | 7 (11.6) |
| 4. | Farm category | Landless labour | 9(15) | 26 (43.3) |
| | | Marginal farmer | 3(5) | 14 (23.3) |
| | | Small farmer | 21(35) | 7 (11.6) |
| | | Medium farmer | 23(38.3) | 12 (20) |
| | | Large farmer | 4(6.6) | 1 (1.6) |
| 5. | Family occupation | Farmer | 31(51.6) | 12 (20) |
| | | Agri. Labour | 25(41.6) | 38 (63.3) |
| | | Any other | 4(6.6) | 10 (16.6) |
| 6. | Outward orientation | Localite | 49(81.6) | 54 (90) |
| | | cosmopolite | 11(18.3) | 6 (10) |

Table 2 : Participation of respondents in different community activities

| Sr. No. | Community work | Farmer participation (%) | Farmer participation (%) |
|---------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Organizing Social awareness programmes | 90 | 75 |
| 2. | Attending DWACRA/SHG meetings | 16.6 | 93 |
| 3. | Organizing village welfare activities | 85 | 56 |
| 4. | Attending training and demonstration programme | 78 | 51.6 |
| 5. | Attending political meetings | 81.6 | 43.3 |
| 6. | Attending marriages/ cultural rituals activities | 85 | 78.3 |
| 7. | Attending social rituals | 93.3 | 81.6 |
| 8. | Attending field trips and exhibitions | 88.3 | 48.3 |
| 9. | others | 75 | 35 |

Table 3: Average time utilization pattern of the farmer and farm women in community works

| Sr. No. | Community work | Male (hr/day) | Female (hr/day) |
|---------|--|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Organizing social aweness programmes | 1.41 | 0.25 |
| 2. | Attending DWACRA/SHG meetings | 0.5 | 1.5 |
| 3. | Organizing village welfare activities | 1.66 | 0.4 |
| 4. | Attending training and demonstration programme | 1.5 | 0.25 |
| 5. | Attending political meetings | 1.0 | 0.33 |
| 6. | Attending marriages/ cultural rituals activities | 1.41 | 1.0 |
| 7. | Attending social rituals | 1.5 | 0.5 |
| 8. | Attending field trips and exhibitions | 1.16 | 0.33 |
| 9. | others | 0.4 | 0.3 |

village welfare activities (0.4), attending political meetings (0.33). Farm women allotted very time to attending field trips (0.33) and exhibitions and organizing social aweness programmes (0.25). Farmer were allotted more time to organizing village welfare activities, attending training and demonstration programme, organizing social aweness programmes. Farm women allotted more time to attending DWACRA/SHG meetings and very less time to attending field trips and exhibitions.

Conclusion:

The study conclude that majority of farmer were actively participated and allotted more time to social rituals, village welfare activites, training and demonstrations and field trips and exhibitions. Farm women were actively participated and allotted more time to shg meeting and cultural rituals and allotted very less time to field trips and exhibitions, trainings, social awareness programmes. Among triple roles of women those, reproductive and community management role, community management plays very critical and important for empowerment of farm women. Active participation

of farm women in community activites will enhance decision making abilities, creative thinking. There is a need to empower farm women to participate in community management programmes. Providing awareness, providing transportation and allotting suitable priority to farm women will empower community development as well as women development.

Authors' affiliations :

B.P. Mohapatra, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar (Orissa) India

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