

Development of role perception scale of farm women in decision making

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ABSTRACT

The investigation was conducted to develop the role perception scale of farm women in farm and home activities from Parbhani district of Maharashtra state (India). One hundred twenty respondents were selected randomly. For development of scale, firstly list of farm and home activities were prepared. The statement were rated for the response on a five continuum base and the scale procedure as per the Likkert technique of summated, rating was followed. The scale was found to be reliable and valid for future research.

INTRODUCTION

Role perception scale of farm women in decision making has to be studied because women share abundant responsibilities and perform wide spectrum of duties in home and farm activities, moreover their involvement as a key person is now a days can not be neglected.

Role has been operationally defined as the actual functions performed by farm women in relation to their position in the household.

Dalton and Robert (1961) viewed perception is both in individual and universal process. Thakur *et al.* (1991) stated that more than two third of the women perceived that they should be involved in decision making connected with preparation of seed, weeding operation, storage of farm produce or engaging of labourers.

All India Coordinated Research Project (1998) reported that the maximum female initiated the decision in farm related practices. The final decision making by male members ranged between 98.00 to 100.00 per cent. This highlighted the fact that the decision regarding farm related activities are still being

dominated by men.

From the above reference it is clear that women play the major role in farm operations, however the males play dominant role in hard work like ploughing, marketing, spraying etc. which required more physical exertion and skill. Farm women perceive their role very well but very few of them felt that they should be involved in preparatory tillage and intercultural activities.

The personality of the individual adds something to the process under certain conditions which alter the perceptions. Man acts upon his ideas, who he thinks, what he believes and what he anticipates. The scale was developed by applying the Likert technique of summated rating (Edward, 1969).

METHODS

List of villages of Parbhani district was obtained from the Block Development Officers. Gangakhed, Purna Taluka were taken randomly three villages from each taluka were selected for the represents study.

Selection of tools:

In order to carryout field research, the tools used in the

study were developed. 'Role perceptions scale' was developed by to measure the role perceptions although, they did not cover-up the major and important aspects of home and farm activities.

In order to develop and standardize the measuring instruments, the method of summated rating was followed. The detail procedure adopted for this purpose is described here under.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

Selection of statements

The first step followed in the development of a scale was obtaining statements. In the very beginning, a list of home and farm activities performed by rural women was prepared. This list was prepared after discussion with expert members. On the basis of the suggestions given and ratings of the subject matter specialist, number of farm and home activities were prepared. In all, 35 statements were prepared under farm activities and 31 statements under home activities. The statements thus prepared were given to 50 judges for the relevance of face validity. The judges selected were from Agricultural University. The statements were rated for the response on a five point continuum *viz.*, strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree. A total score of each statement taking, the test was obtained by summing up to value of each item. The item from each component was selected with relatively high discriminative scale value. In all, twelve statements of farm activities (Table 1) and ten statements of home activities (Table 2) were selected for final preparation of the scale.

Item analysis:

The subjects were arranged in an ascending order based on the scores obtained by them. The top 25 per cent of the subjects (high group) were used as criterion in a group. The middle 50 per cent respondents were deleted. The responses were analysed to determine which of the items discriminated most clearly between the high and low groups.

For evaluating the response of the high and low groups to the individual statements, 't' value was calculated by applying the formula given by Edward (1969). The value of 't' was used as measure of the extent to which a given statement differentiates between the high and low groups. Based on the 't' values, the statements were arranged in rank order. The statements with largest 't' values were selected for the scale (The 't' values calculated for the tables are given in Table 1 and 2).

The statements after being selected for the relevance and face validity and language were then given to 15 rural women who were randomly selected from various villages in order to ascertain the applicability.

Reliability of the scale:

Reliability of the scale can be determined in a number of ways. In this study, reliability of the scale was determined by test re-test and split half method. In case of reliability of the scale, items were administered twice to the same respondents *i.e.* 15 rural women at 15 days interval. The correlation coefficient obtained was $r = 0.862$ which was highly significant at 0.01 level of probability of instrument for measuring perception role of rural women. Similar test was applied for home activity item selection. The reliability coefficient thus obtained, indicated that internal consistency of the scale was quite high.

The scale was further subjected to split-half reliability

Sr. No.	Farm activity	't' value
1.	The suggestions of farm women in storage of seed is valuable	2.2000
2.	The harvesting and cutting of crop is only possible through the participation of women in farm activity	4.432
3.	Preparing bread for feeding farm labour is the only work of farm women.	4.412
4.	It is only because of participation of women in farm activities, the participation of women in farm activities, the production has increased	4.600
5.	The farm women actively participate in fruit and vegetable storage	2.858
6.	Women perform weeding operation effectively	3.604
7.	Preparation of various milk products from milk is the only activity that is performed by farm women	3.054
8.	Milking and cleaning of cattle shed is solely the activity of farm women	4.412
9.	Farm women keep the account of farm expenditure accurately	2.356
10.	Farm women undertake marketing of farm produce effectively	2.276
11.	The farm women are unsuitable for watch and ward activities	2.754
12.	Transfer of technology to others can effectively be done by farm women	2.151

Sr. No.	Farm activity	't' value
1.	It is not necessary to consult the women for purchase of household commodities	4.362
2.	Plastering with cow dung slurry and cleaning house is the only household activity of farm women	5.138
3.	While deciding the marriage of children, both husband and wife should be involved	2.159
4.	It is not necessary for girls to attend schools and acquire knowledge	3.218
5.	It is not necessary for farm women to participate in embroidery and sowing activities	4.001
6.	House decoration at the time of religious festivals and auspicious occasions is the only duty of women	2.717
7.	Participation in social work is the activity of literate women	8.350
8.	Fetching the water from well is the only duty of women	8.416
9.	Cleaning of utensils and washing of clothes is the only work of women	3.559
10.	While deciding about borrowing on lending of money, it is necessary to consult the women	2.401

test. The scale items were arranged according to their rank order and the scale was administered on a five continuum of strongly agree to strongly disagree to a group of 15 rural women possessing different land holdings. 12 statements were divided into even and odd numbered items.

Test re-test reliability:

This test was conducted on 15 respondents selected from one village from Parbhani district. The score of each respondent for all items scale was calculated. The re-test correlation coefficient was found to be $r = 0.832$.

Validity of the scale:

The scale was considered as valid at its face value as items were selected by the rural women themselves and also they were got approved by the experienced judges. Further, the item analysis of difference between the means of high and low groups and selection of items with mean difference more than grand means different for each item were magnitudes which justify the conclusion that selected items had good discrimination value and hence indicates the scale as a valid measure of perception role of rural women. Thus, the validity was built in the process of preparation of the scale.

Conclusion:

The scale was found to be reliable and valued. Therefore, it can correctly measure the role perception of farm women in farm and home activities. This scale could also be used to measure the farm women role perception about their roles in the other fields even beyond study areas with necessary modification in the wording of the scale items.

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