

A Case Study :

Productive resources and women empowerment

TRIPTA TIKANIYA AND S. MEHTA

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It has been concluded that not only female independent access but their joint ownership was found to be negligible on land. Regarding education, 16.0 and 6.0 per cent male and female respondents were graduate and above. Where as fifty per cent female were found to be illiterate. 83.0 per cent male and 81.0 per cent female never attended any of the training where as 19.0 per cent female and 17.0 male attended one or other training. Cent per cent male were getting wages for their work where as approximately 1/3 females were paid workers and getting less salary/wages as compare to males. Over all female had low access and control to productive resources than male.

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries etc. It is a fact long taken for granted but also long ignored but at large they have remained as “invisible workers”. There is no denying the fact that women have suffered utter neglect and deprivation over centuries. But they have still made significant contribution in all walks of life. It was in this context that the United Nations had declared the ten years period ending 1985 as the decade for women with a view to ‘promote genuine equality between women and men; ensure the full integration of women and to enhance the contributions of women to the promotion of world peace’. It is a happy augury that women in general and rural farm women in particular since recently have been engaging due attention of the nation.

Gender is the process by which

males and females become men and women through the acquisition of culturally defined attributes of masculinity and feminity giving rise to sex stereotypes. Unlike sex which is a socially distinction, gender is a biological distinction which can be changed. It is a gender which determines the roles and functions of a female within the family. How gender affects the access to resources for the female require elaboration. Women are engaged in collection of fuel, fodder, dairy, poultry and kitchen households activities within the family. Consequently fundamental decision making regarding vital issues such as education, health care, expenditure of income on necessities, comforts, marriage of children, investment for permanent assets, earning from land are all taken by men. Therefore, the women left with little or no access to resources except her own self. Her situation is worsened due to limited mobility, illiteracy, poor health care, comparatively poor nutrition, fewer opportunities to acquire skill for self improvement, lack of ownership of land, property and assets and lack of access to institutionalized credit. Her productive role in generating income in the form of saving budgeting providing unpaid services goes unnoticed. Thus, the present study was conducted to explore the gender differences in assess to and control over productive resources.

The study was conducted in two randomly selected villages *i.e.* Dhigtana and Matershyam of Hisar district in Haryana state. Fifty couples from each village were selected randomly. To find out differential access to and control over productive resources, both husband and wife were interviewed. Thus, total sample size comprised of 200 respondents. Access to and control over productive resources

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

TRIPTA TIKANIYA
Department of Home
Science Extension
Education, I.C. College of
Home Science, C.C.S.
Haryana Agricultural
University, HISAR
(HARYANA) INDIA

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Table 1: Profile of the selected families

Sr. No.	Variables	Hisar		
		Dhigtana n = 50 couples	Matarshyam n = 50 couples	Per cent
1.	Caste			
	Low	16 (32.0)	10 (20.0)	26.0
	Medium	28 (56.0)	24 (48.0)	52.0
	High	06 (12.0)	16 (32.0)	22.0
2.	Family type			
	Joint	13 (26.0)	19 (38.0)	32.0
	Nuclear	37 (74.0)	31 (62.0)	68.0
3.	Family size			
	Upto 3 members	11 (22.0)	12 (24.0)	23.0
	4 to 5 members	23 (46.0)	23 (46.0)	46.0
	More than 5 members	16 (32.0)	15 (30.0)	31.0
4.	Average monthly income			
	Upto Rs. 5000	14 (28.0)	10 (20.0)	24.0
	Rs. 5001 to Rs. 10000	20 (40.0)	27 (54.0)	47.0
	Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000	16 (32.0)	13 (26.0)	29.0
5.	Access to mass media			
	Possession of TV			
	Yes	34 (68.0)	41 (82.0)	75.0
	No	16 (32.0)	09 (18.0)	25.0
	Subscription of news paper			
	Yes	13 (26.0)	32 (64.0)	45.0
	No	37 (74.0)	18 (36.0)	55.0
6.	Land holding			
	No land	14 (28.0)	13 (26.0)	27.0
	Upto 2 acres	09 (18.0)	07 (14.0)	16.0
	3 to 6 acres	06 (12.0)	18 (36.0)	24.0
	More than 6 acres	21 (42.0)	12 (24.0)	33.0

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

was operationalized as possession/ownership and power to use/sale purchase the productive resources. Productive resources taken from the study were land, employment, income/wages, credit, training and saving. Data were collected with the help of structured pre-tested interviewed

schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profiles of the selected families:

Results in Table 1 revealed that out of total sample, 52 per cent respondents were from medium caste, nuclear families (68.0%) having 4-5 members in their families (46.0%). As regards average monthly income, 47 per cent respondents were in the income category of Rs.5001-10,000/- per month and 33 per cent families had more than 6 acres of land, 75.0 per cent families were having T.V. in their house and only (45.0%) subscribed to newspaper.

Gender-wise access to and control over land:

It is evident from the Table 2 that out of total sample (N=73) majority of male respondent (42.5%) had more than 6 acres land followed by 3 to 6 acres land on their name. In case of female, only one case was observed where woman had 3-6 acres land on her name and joint ownership of land was observed only in 3 cases. As regards cultivation of land, majority of male respondents were cultivating the land (owned name) jointly (63.0%) followed by independently (31.6%).

Thus, it can be concluded that out of total sample, not only female independent access but joint ownership was found to be negligible. Similar contentions was shared by Bansal (2004), Arora (2006) and Sabharwal (2006), who reported that 91 per cent female had no land.

Gender-wise information about age and education:

It is clear from the data in Table 3 that 54.0 per cent male and 50.0 per cent female were in the age group of 41-55 years. It was followed by 25-40 years (28.0% male and 42.0% female). As regards education, exactly half of the female and 26 per cent male were found to be illiterate followed by Primary educated (29.0% male and 20.0% female, respectively) interestingly 16 and 6 per

Table 2 : Gender-wise access to and control over land

Sr. No.	Aspects	Dhigtana			Matarshyam			Per cent		
		n = 36 couples			n = 37 couples			N = 73 couples		
		Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both	Male	Female	Both
Land holding										
1.	Up to 2 acres	9 (25.0)	-	-	7 (18.9)	-	-	16 (21.8)	-	-
2.	3 to 6 acres	5 (13.9)	1 (2.8)	-	17 (45.9)	-	1 (2.8)	22 (30.1)	1 (1.4)	1 (1.4)
3.	More than 6 acres	19 (52.7)	-	2 (5.6)	12 (32.4)	-	-	31 (42.5)	-	2 (2.8)
Cultivation of land and related decisions										
1.	Land owned by male	13 (36.0)	-	20 (55.5)	10 (27.0)	-	26 (70.3)	23 (31.6)	-	46 (63.0)
2.	Land owned by female	-	-	1 (2.8)	-	-	1 (2.7)	-	-	2 (2.7)
3.	Land owned by jointly	-	-	2 (5.6)	-	-	-	-	-	2 (2.7)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table 3: Gender-wise information about age and education

Sr. No.	Variables	Dhigtana		Matarshyam		N = 200	
		n = 50 Male	n = 50 Female	n = 50 Male	n = 50 Female	N = 100 Male	N = 100 Female
1.	Age						
	25 to 40 years	13 (26.0)	16 (32.0)	15 (30.0)	26 (52.0)	28.0	42.0
	41 to 55 years	26 (52.0)	28 (56.0)	28 (56.0)	22 (44.0)	54.0	50.0
	56 years and above	11 (22.0)	06 (12.0)	07 (14.0)	02 (4.0)	18.0	8.0
2.	Education						
	Illiterate	17 (34.0)	34 (68.0)	09 (18.0)	16 (32.0)	26.0	50.0
	Primary	16 (32.0)	08 (16.0)	13 (26.0)	12 (24.0)	29.0	20.0
	High School	07 (14.0)	03 (6.0)	08 (16.0)	15 (30.0)	15.0	18.0
	10+2	06 (12.0)	03 (6.0)	08 (16.0)	03 (6.0)	14.0	6.0
	Graduate and above	04 (8.0)	02 (4.0)	12 (24.0)	04 (8.0)	16.0	6.0

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Table 4 : Gender-wise access to and control over employment and training

Sr. No.	Variables	Dhigtana		Matarshyam		Per cent	
		n = 50 Male	n = 50 Female	n = 50 Male	n = 50 Female	N = 100 Male	N = 100 Female
A	Employment						
1.	Working						
	Yes	50 (100.0)	50 (100.0)	50 (100.0)	50 (100.0)	100.0	100.0
	No	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Type of work						
	Paid	50 (100.0)	19 (38.0)	50 (100.0)	20 (40.0)	100.0	39.0
	Unpaid	-	31 (62.0)	-	30 (60.0)	-	61.0
B	Training						
1.	Attended training						
	No	47 (94.0)	42 (84.0)	36 (72.0)	39 (78.0)	83.0	81.0
	Yes	03 (6.0)	08 (16.0)	14 (28.0)	11 (22.0)	17.0	19.0

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

cent male and female respondents were graduate and above.

Gender-wise access to and control over employment and training:

Information regarding employment in Table 4

Table 5 : Distribution of paid female respondents according to control of income/wages

Sr. No.	Aspects	Dhigtana n = 19	Matarshyam n = 20	Total per cent N = 39
1.	Female getting same salary for same work			
	Yes	10 (52.9)	9 (45.0)	19 (48.7)
	No	9 (47.4)	11 (55.0)	20 (51.3)
2.	Who keeps the income			
	Woman herself	6 (31.6)	9 (45.0)	15 (38.4)
	Husband	13 (68.4)	11 (55.0)	24 (61.6)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

indicated that out of total sample, although 100.0 per cent male and female were working but only 39.0 per cent female were paid workers whereas in case of male, it was 100.0 per cent. Regarding training, only 19.0 per cent female and 17.0 per cent male had attended training.

Distribution of paid female respondents according to control of income/wages:

Out of total sample it was highlighted in Table 5 that total 39 females were paid workers. Only 48.7 per cent were getting same salary for the same work as their male counter parts while rest (51.3%) were getting less salary. Further data indicated that money earned by female was mostly kept by their husband (61.6%). Similar results were stated by Arora (2006) who revealed that money earned by females mostly was kept by their husbands (62.8%) followed by to keep themselves (20.0%) and hand over to their in-laws (17.1%).

Sr. No.	Aspects	Dhigtana n = 50 couples	Matarshyam n = 50 couples	Total per cent N = 100 couples
1.	Credit			
A.	Access to credit			
	Yes	27 (54.0)	19 (38.0)	46.0
	No	23 (46.0)	31 (62.0)	54.0
B.	Who's name			
	Male	27 (100.0)	14 (73.7)	41 (89.1)
	Female	-	05 (26.3)	05 (10.9)
C.	Subsidy if any Yes	07 (26.0)	03 (15.8)	10 (21.8)
2.	Saving			
A.	Operating bank account			
	Yes	36 (72.0)	39 (78.0)	75.0
	No	14 (28.0)	11 (22.0)	25.0
B.	Who's name			
	Male	29 (80.6)	24 (61.5)	53 (70.3)
	Female	02 (5.6)	07 (18.0)	09 (12.0)
	Both	05 (13.8)	08 (20.5)	13 (17.3)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Gender-wise access to and control over Credit and Saving:

Results revealed that out of the total 100 families/couples only 46 families availed the loan (Table 6). Out of that 89.1 per cent families had loan on male's name. Further result revealed that 75.0 per cent couples were operating bank account. Out of which, 70.7 per cent account were operated by male, only 17.3 per cent and 12.0 per cent accounts were operated jointly and female independently, respectively.

Gender-wise level of access to and control over productive resources:

Result in Table 7 indicated that women had low access (68.0%) and control over productive resources.

Sr. No.	Categories	Hisar	
		n = 100 Male	n = 100 Female
A.	Access		
1	Low (6 to 26)	24	68
2	Medium (27 to 46)	46	32
3	High (47 to 66)	30	-
B.	Control		
1	Low (Upto 4)	4	90
2	Medium (5 to 8)	58	6
3	High (9 to 12)	38	4

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Whereas incase of male 46 per cent and 30 per cent and 58 per cent and 38 per cent had medium to high access to and control over productive resources.

Authors' affiliations:

S. MEHTA, Department of Home Science Extension Education, I.C. College of Home Science, C.C.S.Haryana Agricultural University, HISAR (HARYANA) INDIA

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