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Gender differential time use pattern in crop activities poultry sericulture and dairy include farming systems

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ABSTRACT

Field survey was carried out at Salem district to assess the time utilization pattern of farm men and women in seven different farming systems.The farming systems included 4 components *viz*., Crop, Dairy, Poultry and Sericulture. The results revealed that the farm men and farm women used to work normally for 15 hours on an average per day to attend farm and home related activities. Sericulture included farming systems *viz*., C+S, C+D+S,C+P+S, C+D+S+.P. Women contribution in allied enterprises was higher as compared to other systems by spenting 5.48, 6.02, 7.03 and 8.09 hours/day, respectively. When additional enterprises were added to crop, women adjusted their home related activities in such a way to concentrate more on allied activities and marked reduction in their leisure time. The time spent by both men and women on crop related activities registered a reduction when more than two enterprise were added in their farming. To reduce the drudgery of farm women, urgent attention related to invention and popularization of labour saving devices applicable to crop, dairy, poultry and sericulture is very much warranted

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INTRODUCTION

Women as human resource in India, constitute about 50% of the total population and about 77 per cent of them belong to rural areas. Majority of them come from small and marginal farmers or landless families. Time is an important human resource and an important part of the total pattern of living. Every individual is endowed with a limited time of twenty four hours a day. In a farm family, women who have the multiplicity of the task to be performed both at home and on farm will have to apportion her time to meet all the responsibilities. She works for long hours in kitchen and on farm compared to her counterpart at home. The energy spent by them in performing these tasks is more than it is physically feasible, particularly in a below subsistence level of living Srivastava, (1985) and Sheela and Katteppa (1995) revealed that farm women with three enterprises spend maximum time on farm activities and farm women with single enterprises spend more time on household activities. Goyal and Sharma (1992) observed that more the number of mitch animals, less time was spend on personal grooming, care of clothes and food management activities. Therefore, it was thought that it is worth investigating into the time use pattern of farm women and men of Tamil Nadu state with single, two, three and four enterprises (crop + dairy + poultry + sericulture) with 7 different combinations in order to quantify the amount of time spent on different farm household, allied and other activities. The specific objective of the study was to compare the gender differential in time use pattern in various integrated farmings.

METHODOLOGY

Puduchatram block from Namakkal Taluk and Namagiripet block from Rasipuram Taluk were selected for the study. Five villages from each block were randomly selected for the study by using simple random sampling method. A preliminary investigation was made to identify the different farming systems on the basis of crops, livestock, poultry and sericulture enterprises. Thus, seven different farming system *viz.*, crop + dairy, crop + sericulture, crop + poultry, crop + dairy + poultry, crop + poultry + sericulture, crop + sericulture + dairy, crop + dairy + sericulture + poultry were identified from 10 villages. A sample of 30 farm house holds of each integrated farming system was selected for giving proportionate allocation to the available integrated farms in 10 village (five village in each blocks).

When a farmer adds one or more enterprises to crops, it is expected to affect the time use pattern of the farmer and the farm women keeping the pattern of spending the

Table 1: Gender differential in time use pattern in integrated farming system (n=30 farm households of each category)

Sr. No.	Activities	Crop alone		C + D		C + S		C+P		C+D+S		C+D+P		C+P+S		C+D+P+S	
		M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W
1.	Hours spent on crop related activities (hours)	5.30 (35.0)	4..10 (27.0)	5.30 (35.0)	4. 0 (26.67)	4.50 (30.0)	3.10 (26.67)	5.0 (33.3)	4.12 (27.5)	3.00 (20.0)	3.53 (23.5)	3.40 (22.7)	5.0 (33.3)	4.0 (26.6)	3.10 (20.7)	3.03 (20.2)	2.03 (13.5)
2.	Hours spent on allied activities hours)	-	-	2.10 (14.0)	3.15 (21.0)	3.00 (20.0)	5.48 (36.5)	4.05 (27.0)	4.10 (26.7)	5.10 (34.0)	6.02 (40.1)	5.10 (34.0)	4.30 (28.67)	5.12 (34.1)	7.03 (48.7)	5.45 (36.3)	8.09 (53.9)
3.	Hours spent on home and other activities (hours)	4.2 (28.0)	5.45 (36.3)	4.10 (27.3)	4.45 (29.67)	4.10 (27.3)	3.02 (20.1)	3.12 (20.8)	3.40 (22.7)	4.50 (30.0)	3.0 (20.0)	3.02 (20.1)	3.30 (22.0)	4.40 (29.3)	2.12 (14.1)	4.08 (27.2)	3.40 (22.7)
4.	Leisure time available (hours)	5.10 (34.0)	5.05 (33.7)	3.10 (20.7)	3.00 (20.0)	3.00 (20.0)	3.00 (20.0)	2.43 (16.2)	3.08 (20.5)	2.00 (13.3)	2.05 (13.7)	3.08 (20.5)	2.00 (13.3)	1.08 (7.2)	2.08 (13.8)	2.04 (13.6)	1.08 (7.2)

n=30 farm households of each category.
Figure in parenthesis indicates per cent to the accounted time

total available time of 15 hours on crop alone system as the base and the time allocated to additional enterprise / enterprises the change in time use pattern of the respondents was worked out both for farmers and farm women.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study have been discussed under following heads:

Sericulture included farming system:

It could be observed from Table 1 that sericulture included farming systems *viz.*, crop + sericulture, crop + sericulture + poultry, crop + dairy + sericulture, crop + dairy + sericulture + poultry, women contribution in allied enterprise was higher as compared to other systems by spending 36.53, 40.13, 48.67 and 53.94 per cent of the accounted time to allied enterprises. This finding is in accordance with those of Siddaramaiah and Kumar (1994) and Venugopal (1994). When more and more enterprises added to the farm, times spent on crop activities and leisure time was reduced for both men and women. Sixty per cent of the sericulture activities were performed by women. The activities like rearing of worms, picking of mulberry leaves, feeding, cleaning, maintaining optimum density of mounting and harvesting of cocoons were performed by women work force. Uma and Chhaya (1994) also revealed that participation proportion of farm women was higher than men in the field of mulberry cultivation, silkworm rearing and harvesting ,where as participation proportion of male workers was higher than farm women in the field of control of pests and diseases and marketing.

Poultry and dairy included farming system:

In the case of farming system which included crop + dairy + poultry enterprises, time spent by men on allied activities was 5.10 hours (34% of accounted time) and for women it was 4.3 hours (28.67%). In this case, women have spent the maximum duration of 5 hour (33.33) on crop related activities compared to any other system. There was not much deviation in the time spent on allied activities and available leisure time for women. This may be due to the fact that the women had less contribution in the management of poultry related activities while they concentrated more on dairy. Chauchan and Sharma (1989) found that poultry farming provided additional employment of about 140 man days to each family. Prasad (1989) stated that all the labour input for cleaning of dairy animals and feeding, milking and marketing was met

by family.

In the case of crop and poultry included farming systems, the men and women have worked for about 4 hours (26.67%) of their accounted time (Table 1) on poultry related works. In this case, they were able to allot adequate time on crop related activities *i.e*. almost equal time when they were practicing crop alone compared to sericulture.

The men's contribution to poultry related activities was more by an hour and they have achieved by taking away some time for home related activities and their leisure time.

Conclusion:

From the study, it was concluded that there was a reduction in time spent on crop related activities both by men and women when they have added one or more enterprises in the integrated farming system. The time spent by women on crop related activities suffered which included sericulture. The time spent by men and women on allied activities was less in the case when either poultry or dairy was added to crop alone. Their contribution increased whenever sericulture was added as a single enterprise or added to other enterprises. Therefore, it could be informed that of the three allied enterprises considered, sericulture involved more time consuming activities. When additional enterprises were added to crop men and women adjusted their home related activities in such a way to concentrate more on allied activities. In the case of leisure time available, there was marked reduction when enterprises were added and more particularly whenever sericulture was included in the integrated farming system. Invention and popularization of labour saving devices applicable to crop, dairy, poultry and sericulture are warranted to reduce the drudgery of farm women when more enterprises are added to farm.

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