



Research Note

Correlates of extent of participation in decision making among farm women

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SUMMARY : Participation of farm women in decision making process regarding different agriculture activities is depend on various personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics as well as regions, ecological sub zones, farming system, caste, class and stages in the family cycle. In all characteristics, only characteristics such as social participation, economic motivation and scientific orientation had positive and significant influence on the women's participation in decision making process about various agriculture activities. While, all other characteristics failed to show significant influence on the women's participation in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities.

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Till now, many attempts have been made by many researchers to know the women's participation in various agriculture as well as allied activities, but its limit to their physical or labourer contribution either alone or with family members. There is dearth of study about women's contribution about decision making in various agriculture practices. Decision making ability is certainly effect by various personal, social as well as economical and psychological factors. its also differ from region to region so it is necessary to made an attempt to study relation between profile of the farm women and their extent of participation in decision making about different agriculture practices. Keeping in view, present study was conducted with following objective: To study the correlates of extent of participation in decision making of farm women with different agriculture activities.

The study was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat. Anand, Borsad and Petlad talukas which have maximum numbers of small and marginal farmers were selected purposively. Accordingly, five villages from each talukas *i.e.* a total 15 villages were selected purposively. List of

farm women living in these villages which are working on their farm were obtained from VLW's of concerned village. Randomly eight farm women were selected for study, in all, 120 farm women were selected to serve as the respondents for the study. Keeping in view the objectives of the study, well structured pre tested Gujarati version interview schedule was developed. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondent farm women in an informal atmosphere either at home or farm.

The data presented in Table 1 reveal that irrespective of age, education, family size, risk orientation, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitaness and extension contact of farm women, their participation in decision making in relation to all the practices of agriculture were uniform and had no influence on it. However, the extent of participation of farm women in decision making about land preparation, sowing practices, fertilizer management and marketing is significantly and positively influenced by scientific orientation. Social participation failed to show any significant contribution in determination of extent of participation of farm women in decision making about all the practices except marketing as it had

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Table 1 : Correlation coefficient values between extent of participation of farm women in decision making and selected personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Name of practices							
		Land preparation	Sowing practices	Fertilizer management	Crop protection	Intercultural activities	Harvesting and post harvesting activities	Marketing	Policy decision
1.	Age	-0.090	-0.720	0.0430	0.0130	0.0340	-0.0500	-0.0790	-0.0910
2.	Education	0.083	-0.0200	0.0420	0.0630	0.0460	0.1020	0.0080	0.0720
3.	Family size	0.081	0.0610	0.0280	0.1180	0.0860	0.0620	0.0310	0.0110
4.	Social participation	0.179	0.0540	0.0670	0.1440	0.1410	-0.0010	0.2230*	-0.0460
5.	Risk orientation	0.037	0.0160	-0.1300	-0.1080	-0.0430	0.0750	0.1180	-0.0090
6.	Land holding	0.138	0.0400	-0.0880	0.0740	0.0670	0.0220	0.0240	-0.6500
7.	Annual income	-0.220	-0.1750	-0.1420	0.5200	-0.1230	-0.1570	-0.0850	-0.0420
8.	Cosmopolitaness	0.025	0.0610	0.1530	0.0780	0.0370	0.1210	0.0250	0.0530
9.	Economic motivation	0.254**	0.0960	0.2610**	0.2220*	0.1450	0.253**	0.1340	0.194*
10.	Scientific orientation	0.192*	0.262**	0.2420**	0.1040	0.1700	0.1550	0.1990*	0.0990
11.	Extension contacts	-0.360	0.0320	0.0230	0.1010	0.0320	-0.0470	-0.0960	0.0600

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2- tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2- tailed)

positive and significant relation with social participation. Extent of participation of farm women in decision making about land preparation, fertilizer management, crop protection, harvesting and post harvesting and policy decision activities had positive and significant relation with economic motivation.

It can be concluded that majority characteristics of the farm women such as age, education, family size, risk orientation, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitaness and extension contacts failed to show significant influence on extent of participation of farm women in decision making about majority of agriculture practices included in this study. Economic motivation and scientific orientation had significant influence in shaping women's participation in decision making about majority of agriculture activities.

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