



WOMEN IN FARM ACTIVITIES – A STUDY FROM DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Ladies play a huge and pivotal job in rural improvement and united fields. It is most shocking that the job of ladies in agribusiness has not featured. By and large they have remained invisible workers. Therefore, efforts were made to analyze the work performed by women in agriculture. The study was undertaken in Dharmapuri district of Tamilnadu. A sum of 200 homestead ladies chose as respondents through proportionate irregular inspecting. The chose respondents were met expressly utilizing pre-ried very much organized meeting plan. The information were examined utilizing suitable measurable instrument. The discoveries demonstrated that cutting, picking, cleaning of grains, drying of grains, stockpiling, handling, weeding, winnowing are the real homestead activities principally performed by ranch ladies. Interest of ranch ladies in agribusiness was essentially influenced by financial factors like – age, family salary, arrive holding.

KEYWORDS: Participation of farm women, Role performance, Invisible workers.

INTRODUCTION

There is increasing realization of the critical role of women in agriculture and of the fact that empowerment of women is necessary for bringing about sustainable development at a faster pace. However, much need to be done to ensure that women get direct benefit particularly those from underdeveloped areas and underprivileged communities. The farming systems are more complex in resource poor, rainfed areas and socio-economic factors influence production systems. Illiteracy, lack of awareness, low level of skills, suppression, lack of appropriate technology, extension and training programmes are the main factors which need be tackled for empowerment of women.

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

In the rural areas, the work participation rate as a percentage to the total population in 2011 was 53 per cent male workers and 27 per cent female workers. Women's contribution to farming is insufficiently recognized and agriculture policy is still dominated by the false view that 'farmers are men', women are only housewives. Their work in agriculture tends not to be recorded as 'work' or as 'production' because it falls outside the so-called 'production boundary'. Studies with gender perspective prove that women in India are major producers of food in terms of value, volume and hours worked. Whether it is subsistence and low input agriculture or high external input agriculture, women work longer and harder than men. Yet their control over resources is not necessarily assured. Even among women recorded as "cultivators", three out of four do not own or cultivate land independently. They assist in family production units. With increasing deforestation and declining common property resources, women devote longer hours on fuel and fodder collection. Land redistribution has historically ignored both the existence of female-headed households and the rights of married women to a joint share in land. Women's access to credit is severely restricted. They do

not have the collateral (land title and cattle) required for agricultural loans. Not only do all occupations in which females are engaged carry a lower wage rate, but even in similar occupations, such as harvesting, reaping and weeding, the male wage is higher than the female rate for equal hours of work. There is a close relationship between rural poverty and the high incidence of female agriculture labour. The majority of landless women labourers in agriculture have poor literacy, irregular employment and a heavy work burden. Thus a growing imbalance exists between women's access to land, labour, capital, services and facilities on the one hand and the demands of production on the other.

It is not an exaggeration, that women in India are the backbone of food security. Ladies are playing a huge and pivotal job in rural improvement and united fields including crop creation, domesticated animals generation, agriculture, post gather activity, agro/social ranger service, fisheries and so on. There is a more prominent inclusion of ladies under different rural activities alongside house course of action out of the aggregate 329 million hectares geological region of the nation, net indicated territory is 142 million hectare. It is estimated that women are responsible for 70 percent of actual farm work and constitute up to 60 percent of the farming population. Be that as it may, it is most deplorable that the job of ladies in horticulture has not featured. By and large they have remained invisible workers. Throughout the years ladies cultivators are normally and wrongly portrayed as monetarily inert and ladies cultivator assume just a strong job in horticulture as agriculturists' spouses (Samanta; 1994).

OBJECTIVE

1. To Analyze the Participation of Women in Farming Operations in Dharmapuri District.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken in dharmapuri district of Tamilnadu, to analyse the participation of women in agriculture. The population of study consisted of farm women involved in agriculture and allied activities. An example of 200 homestead ladies was chosen through proportionate arbitrary inspecting. Chosen respondents were met specifically utilizing all around organized pre tried meeting plan. The measure of work done by homestead ladies in different ranch exercises was found by utilizing the accompanying criteria score class and the mean weighted score was discovered for individual ranch exercises.

Amount of work done

Category	Score
Least	1
Less than half	2
More than half	3
Major	4
Completed	5

Data thus collected were analyzed using appropriate statistical tool to infer results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1. Socio personal characteristics of respondents
(N=200)**

VARIABLE	CATEGORIES	N	PERCENTAGE
Age	Young (<30)	60	30
	Middle (31-40)	105	52.5
	Old (>40)	35	17.5
Type of family	Joint family	80	40
	Nuclear family	120	60

Annual family income (Rs.)	Below 30,000	55	27.5
	30000-60000	50	25
	60000-90000	89	44.5
	90000& above	6	3
Caste	General	10	5
	OBC	85	42.5
	Schedule caste	15	7.5
	Schedule tribes	90	45
Education	Illiterate	114	57
	Literate	70	35
	Primary	10	5
	Middle	5	2.5
	Graduation	1	.5
Land holding	Small	75	37.5
	Medium	85	42.5
	Large	40	20

The Table 1 delineates that greater part (52.5 %) of the respondents had a place with middle age assemble pursued by youthful age (30 %) and maturity (17.5 %) gathering. It was likewise uncovered that larger part (60%) of respondents were had a place with family unit and pursued by (40 %) were from joint family. Result on family income shows that majority (44.5 %) of respondents were belongs to income group Rs. 60000-90000 followed by (27.5 %) income group below Rs. 30000, (25%) income group Rs. 30000-60000 and (3%) income group above Rs. 90000 annually. Results on cast categories indicate that maximum (45%) were from other backward class and (42.5%) were from schedule tribe category and rest of respondents (7.5%) were belonged to schedule class. While taking a gander at their instructive status, results uncovered that greater part (57%) respondents were uneducated, (35%) were proficient and (5%) were from essential dimension (2.5 %) were from center dimension and just (0.5 %) were graduate. Result ashore holding delineates that dominant part (42.5%) were had medium scale arrive pursued by little (37.5%) scale arrive and just (20%) had extensive scale arrive.

**Table 2. Participation of farm women in farm activities
(N=200)**

S.No.	Farm activities	N	percentage
1	Ploughing of field	4	2
2	Cleaning of field	170	85
3	Leveling of field	10	5
4	Raising nursery for seedling(okra,chilly,tomato, pea)	110	55
5	Sowing	51	25.5
6	Transplanting	41	20.5
7	Mannure application	65	32.5
8	Fertilizer application	2	1
9	Weeding	151	75.5
10	Thinning	121	60.5
11	Gap filling	161	80.5
12	Irrigation	52	26
13	Plant protection measures (Insecticide, pesticide used)	0	0

14	Cutting	200	100
15	Picking	200	100
16	Shifting production to	179	89.5
17	threshing floor	100	50
18	Threshing	190	95
19	Winnowing	200	100
20	Drying of grains	200	100
21	Cleaning of grains	180	90
22	Grading	200	100
23	Storage	0	0
24	Marketing	200	100

The information in Table 2 uncovers that cutting, picking, cleaning of grains, drying of grains, stockpiling and preparing are the significant homestead tasks wherein ladies interest was 100 percent. Singh et.al. (2004) likewise detailed that the ranch activities in which the support of ladies was 100 percent were cleaning the produces, cutting, picking, stockpiling and handling. It was seen that winnowing, weeding, hole filling, reviewing, moving produce to sifting floor and cleaning of field cultivate tasks in which the interest of ladies was in excess of 75 percent. The assignments in which ladies interest was differed between 50-75 percent were whipping, raising nursery for seedlings and diminishing. The outcomes additionally demonstrate that sowing, excrement application and water system were performed on field by ladies 25 to 32.5 percent. Slightest association of homestead ladies was found in furrowing of field (2%) and in fertilizer application was (1%). There was no participation of women reported in marketing, plant protection measure.

Table 3. Amount of work done by farm women in various farm activities (N=200)

S.No.	Farm activities	Work done (MWS)
1	Ploughing of field	1
2	Cleaning of field	4.9
3	Leveling of field	1
4	Raising nursery for seedling (lady finger, green chilly, tomato, cauliflower)	4.5
5	Sowing	3.4
6	Transplanting	5
7	Mannure application	3.5
8	Fertilizer application	1
9	Weeding	4.21
10	Thinning	3
11	Gap filling	4
12	Irrigation	2
13	Plant protection measures	0
14	Cutting	2.9
15	Picking	4
16	Shifting production to threshing floor	4.9

17	Threshing	2
18	Winnowing	4.5
19	Drying of grains	5
20	Cleaning of grains	5
21	Grading	4.1
22	Storage	4.59
23	Marketing	0
24	Processing	5

MWS = (Mean weighted score)

The information in Table 3 demonstrates that the transplanting, drying of grains, cleaning of grains and handling were significant homestead exercises which were totally done by ranch ladies. Similar results were reported by *Singh et.al. (2004)*. The estate exercises including cleaning of field, raising nursery for seedling, weeding, gap filling, picking, moving creation to filtering floor, winnowing, storage & assessing in which genuine proportion of work done by farm women. They accomplish the greater part work of sowing, diminishing, and excrement application. The ranch ladies do not exactly half work of water system, cutting and sifting tasks. If there should arise an occurrence of furrowing of field, leveling of field, and compost application slightest measure of work was performed by ladies. Choudhary and Singh (2003) additionally detailed that the job of ladies in furrowing of field, use of excrement and compost was observed to be less. The work was also not done in marketing and plant protection measure by farm women.

Table 4. Relationship of personal variables of women with their participation in agriculture activities (N=200)

S.No	Personal variables	Coefficient of correlation "t"
1	Age	- 4.76*
2	Type of family	1.28 NS
3	Family income	2.13 *
4	Land holding	3.63 *
5	Education level	1.4 NS
6	Caste	1.08 NS

* Significant at 5 percent level of significance

NS - Non significant

Endeavors were made to discover the relationship whenever existed between the individual factors of ladies with their interests. Table 4 delineates that ladies age was contrarily associated with farming activities. Clearly the youthful matured homestead ladies are progressively inclined to change. Their physical quality empowers them to perform more horticulture exercises. The discoveries are bolstered by Choudhary and Singh (2003). Sort of family, training level, position were found non noteworthy with ladies interest in horticulture. It is additionally appears by information that arrive holding and family salary were likewise impacts the support cultivate ladies in agribusiness exercises fundamentally.

CONCLUSION

The present study concludes that the women play an significant and crucial role in agriculture and allied fields. Research demonstrated that cultivate ladies' cooperation was most extreme in Cutting, Picking, cleaning of grains, drying of grains, stockpiling, handling tasks and significant piece of cleaning of field, raising nursery for seedling, weeding, moving creation to sifting floor, winnowing, and evaluating activities

are additionally done by homestead ladies . In the event of leveling of field, compost application they do slightest measure of work, though there is no cooperation of ranch ladies in furrowing of field, plant assurance measures and promoting exercises. The investigation additionally delineates that age, family salary, arrive holding impact the ladies cooperation in agribusiness and the ladies support in horticulture. Sort of family, training level, cast were not influenced by the ladies investment in horticulture.

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