



Research Article

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARM WOMEN IN PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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Abstract: Agriculture is the main source of livelihood in our country where farm business has become a family enterprise in which both men and women take part evenly. The role of women is generally complimentary, not only in physical participation in agricultural activities, but also with respect to decision making. In most of the stages, women are actively involved in carrying out agricultural activities but women remained as "invisible workers". It is necessary to know the constraints faced by them participation in agricultural activities and in decision making. With this consideration, the study was undertaken. A study was conducted in Rajkot district of Gujarat state. Nine villages were selected from three talukas. Fifteen farm women from each village were selected. Thus, total 135 farm women were considered for study. The ex-post facto research design was followed for the study. The most important constraints faced by farm women in participation in agricultural activities were dual responsibility of work at farm and home (Rank I), non-availability of suitable farm implements and machinery for women (Rank II) and difficulties in some agricultural works (Rank III).

Keywords: Farm women, Constraints, Participation, Agricultural activities

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Introduction

Agriculture is a key driver of India's long-term growth and food security. The significance of agriculture cannot be ignored because it constitutes the foundation of growth and stability of the entire economy. The sector is dominated by mixed farming where men and women contribute equally. The role of women has always been a multi-dimensional and significant as women have performed well in case of agricultural activities, domestic activities, marketing activities as far as labour requirement is considered. Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, etc.

Objective

The objective of this study was to ascertain the constraints faced by farm women in participation in agricultural activities.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Rajkot district of Gujarat state. The study was conducted under ex-post facto research design. A multistage simple random sampling technique was followed for this study. Out of eleven talukas of Rajkot district, three talukas were selected for the study. three villages of each selected taluka were purposively selected for the study. From each selected village, 15 farm women were considered as respondents. Thus total 135 farm women, who had at least experience of three years of cultivation, were considered as respondents for the study. For ascertaining the constraints faced by farm women in participation in agricultural activities and decision making, an explorative study was made. The constraints were kept open before respondents to offer their difficulties. The respondents were asked to mention their constraints about participation in agricultural activities and decision making. They were asked to respond on three-point rating on 'mostly', 'some times' and 'never' regarding the constraints they faced in participation in agricultural activities with weightage 2, 1, and 0, respectively.

The constraints were given rank by calculating the mean score for each constraint. Keeping in view the objectives of the study and to draw logical conclusion, statistical test i.e. percentages and means were used for analyzing and interpretation of the data.

Results

The data presented in [Table-1] reveal that farm women experienced some constraints at major level. These constraints were: "dual responsibility of work at farm and home work" ranked first and with weightage mean score 1.889 followed by "non-availability of suitable farm implements and machinery for women" with rank second (WMS 1.785) and "difficulties in some agricultural work" with rank third (WMS 1.689).

Farm women faced the constraints on moderate level were i.e. "lack of physical abilities to carry out some agricultural works" with rank fourth and weightage mean score 1.593 followed by "social barriers" (WMS 1.517), "lack of interest to participate in agricultural work" (WMS 1.450), "lack of female extension workers for imparting training to women" (WMS 1.342), "lack of experience about agricultural works" (WMS 1.075) and "lack of specific skill for agricultural works" (WMS 0.767) with rank fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth, respectively. The constraints which were less experienced by farm women were: "lack of knowledge about latest agricultural technology" with rank tenth and weightage mean score 0.533 followed by "lack of extension contact" (WMS 0.492), "lack of land holding power" (WMS 0.457), "difficulty in getting loan" (WMS 0.389) and "lower consideration in decisions related to farming" (WMS 0.315) with rank eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth, respectively.

Conclusion

It was observed that in spite of participation of farm women in most of all agricultural practices, they were facing one or more constraints in participation either in agricultural activities or decision making.

Table-1 Constraints faced by farm women in participation in agricultural activities, (n= 135)

SN	Constraints	Mean Score	Rank
1	Lack of experience about agricultural works	1.075	VIII
2	Non-availability of suitable farm implements and machinery for women	1.785	II
3	Social barriers	1.517	V
4	Lack of physical abilities to carry out some agricultural works	1.593	IV
5	Lack of female extension workers for imparting training to women	1.342	VII
6	Dual responsibility of work at farm and household work	1.889	I
7	Lack of interest to participate in agricultural work	1.450	VI
8	Difficulties in some agricultural work	1.689	III
9	Lower consideration in decisions related to farming	0.315	XIII
10	Lack of land holding power	0.457	XII
11	Lack of extension contact	0.492	XI
12	Lack of knowledge about latest agricultural technology	0.533	X
13	Difficulty in getting loan	0.389	XIV
14	Lack of specific skill for agricultural works	0.767	IX

Application of research: Efforts should be made to overcome those constraints to increase their participation in agricultural activities like they should be informed about the latest agricultural technologies and practices, training should be organized specially for women, suitable farm implements should be designed for women.

Research Category: Agricultural Extension

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Study area / Sample Collection: Rajkot district of Gujarat state

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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