

Constraints faced by women in farm decision making

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ABSTRACT

Decision making directs the things to happen instead of just letting it to happen. The contribution of women in decision making in rural areas is equal but not attended by male members. To know what kind of problems these women have to face in rural area for any kind of decision is important. Considering this importance the present study was conducted to assess the constraints faced by women in farm decision making. The finding proved that, Neglecting from farm decision making due absence of financial earning, Non co-operation from other family members in seeking information about improved Agricultural Technology, Lack of guidance for improving decision making capacity were the some of the major constraints faced by women

Key Words : Constraints, Decision making

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the main occupation as far as its potential prospects in India are concerned. Progress of agriculture will help for rural reconstruction and development. From time immemorial, women played different roles in their home activities as wives in their personal lives with their husbands, as mothers in their responsibilities for the development of their children and as home makers in-charge of the operation of their homes. In addition, women also played a pivotal role in agriculture and livestock management. In modern agriculture too, women continued to share a number of farm operations with men.

Decision making is an important aspect of daily life. An individual is required to take many decisions in certain important matters in her day to day activity. Achievement of family goal depends upon effective decision making involving coordination, supervision and checking of action.

In every aspect of life, profession etc. the decision taken at an appropriate time has its impact on the success of endeavour. In rural farm family, the decisions are required to be taken in farming, dairying and other family activities. In practice, the farming community does not take decision unilaterally or in isolation about several aspects of farming and home activities but they have to arrive at decisions collectively at appropriate level in a rational manner.

The contribution of farm women in a decision making process is roughly estimated to

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be 50 to 60 per cent in our country. So it is necessary to know difficulties faced by the farm women in decision making on farming, which would hopefully provide guidelines to planners, policy makers and extension workers with respect to women's programme. For that purpose the present study, "Constraints faced by women in farm decision making" was undertaken with the following objectives:

- To know the personal and socio-economic characteristics of women.
- To assess the constraints faced by women in farm decision making.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Chakur and Nilanga tahsils of Latur district. Three villages from each taluka and twenty women from each village were selected randomly. In this way total six villages from two talukas were selected to comprise total 120 respondents. The information was collected through personal interview so as to get the required data. The data were tabulated and analyzed by using frequency, percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal and socio-economic characteristics of women :

It was noticed that majority (72.50 %) of the respondents were from middle age group. The percentage of respondents educated up to primary school level was 75.00, maximum number (43.44 %) of the respondent were having semi-medium land holding. Regarding the annual income, majority of the respondents (77.50 %) were belonged to medium annual income category and 47.50 per cent respondent had medium social participation. Most of the respondents 55.83 per cent were from nuclear family and 35.84 per cent respondents were from higher caste category. Regarding mass media exposure 65.00 per cent of the respondents were having medium exposure, 65.00 per cent of respondents were having medium sources of information. This finding is in line of the findings of Aswar Unnati (2008) and Bansode Smita (2007).

Constraints faced by women in farm decision making :

The data pertaining to the constraints experienced by the women while performing the role in farm decision making are presented in Table 2.

The constraints faced by the farm women were of varied type and having intensity. The Table 2, illustrated distribution regarding constraints faced by women in farm decision making. It was noticed that, 70.00 per cent faced lack of needed knowledge regarding in farming and 76.66 per cent faced lack of information about improved technology, 81.66 per cent respondent faced the constraints like non-cooperation from other family members in seeking information about improved Agricultural Technology, 72.50 per cent stated inability in identifying the problems. 68.33 per cent expressed that lack of knowledge about the solution to problem and 77.50 per cent reported inability to solve problem with available resources, 65.00 per cent stated lack of knowledge about the availability of resources. 72.50 per cent and 82.50 per cent respondents had constraint about neglecting from decision making due to non financial earning and prevailing male dominance in farm decision making. 71.66

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per cent stated non-participation in decision making process due to the drudgery, 55.00 per cent respondents reported the lack of confidence required to take decisions, 80.83 per cent and 73.33 per cent stated lack of proper guidance for improving decision making capacity and lower status of women in family, respectively, 74.16 per cent reported suspicious about

Table 1 : Personal and socio-economic characteristics of women			
Sr. No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young	16	13.33
	Middle	87	72.50
	Old	17	14.17
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	23	19.17
	Primary School (1 st to 4 th)	90	75.00
	Middle School (5 th to 7 th)	03	02.50
	High School and above (8 th to 12 th)	04	03.33
3.	Land holding		
	Marginal	20	16.67
	Small	41	34.15
	Semi-medium	52	43.34
	Medium	07	05.84
4.	Annual income		
	Low	10	08.33
	Medium	93	77.50
	High	17	14.17
5.	Social participation		
	Low	43	35.83
	Medium	57	47.50
	High	20	16.67
6.	Type of family		
	Nuclear	67	55.83
	Joint	53	44.17
7.	Caste		
	Lower (SC & ST)	37	30.83
	Middle (Baniya, Marwadi, Muslim, OBC and NT 1-4)	40	33.33
	Higher (Maratha, Brahman)	43	35.84
8.	Mass media exposure		
	Low	22	18.33
	Medium	78	65.00
	High	20	16.67
9.	Use of Sources of information		
	Low	21	17.50
	Medium	78	65.00
	High	21	17.50

Table 2 : Constraints faced by women while performing the role in farm decision making			
Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Lack of confidence in participating the farm decision making process	66	55.00
2.	Lack of needed knowledge regarding farming	84	70.00
3.	Lack of timely information about improved Agricultural Technology	92	76.66
4.	Non co-operation from other family members in seeking information about improved Agricultural Technology	98	81.66
5.	Inability in diagnosing the problems	87	72.50
6.	Lack of knowledge about the solution of problem	82	68.33
7.	Lack of timely information about the solution of problem	93	77.50
8.	Inability to solve problem with available resources	93	77.50
9.	Lack of knowledge about the availability of needed resources	78	65.00
10.	Neglecting from farm decision making due absence of financial earning	99	82.50
11.	Prevailing male dominance in farm decision making	87	72.50
12.	Non participation in farm decision making process due to the drudgery	86	71.66
13.	Lack of guidance for improving decision making capacity	97	80.83
14.	Low status in family	88	73.33
15.	Suspicious about anticipating the possible repercussions of the decision making	89	74.16
16.	Avoidance of the women's decision by other family members	80	66.66
17.	Lack of information about selection of agri business and different Government schemes	95	79.16

anticipating the possible repercussions of the decision making, 66.66 per cent and 79.16 per cent respondents reported avoidance of the women's decision by other family members and lack of information about selection of government schemes of agriculture business as the constraints in farm decision making.

Conclusion :

It was noticed that majority of the respondents were from middle age group, educated up to primary school level, were having semi-medium land holding. Regarding the annual income, majority of the respondents were belonged to medium annual income category and had medium social participation. Most of the respondents were from nuclear family and higher caste category. Near about half of the respondents were having medium exposure and medium sources of information.

The findings pertaining to constraints faced by farm women while performing their role in farm decision making concluded that majority of women faced the five major constraints like, Neglecting from farm decision making due absence of financial earning, Non co-operation from other family members in seeking information about improved Agricultural Technology, Lack of guidance for improving decision making capacity, Lack of information about selection of agri business and different Government schemes, Lack of timely information about the

solution of problem, Inability to solve problem with available resources. These findings of the present study are in conformity with the findings of Patil and Sawant (1996) and Gadhe Manisha (2004)

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