



Full Length Research Article

TO STUDY THE CONSTRAINTS EXPERIENCED BY THE TRIBAL WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN DECISION MAKING IN FARMING

***¹Patil, J. M., ²Galande, P. S. and ¹Rajput, S. N.**

¹Department of Extn. Edu., Post Graduate Institute, Dr. P.D.K.V., Akola

²Department of Extn. Edu., Post Graduate Institute, M.P.K.V., Rahuri

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:

Received 21st May, 2016

Received in revised form

18th June, 2016

Accepted 06th July, 2016

Published online 30th August, 2016

Key Words:

Constrain,
Decision making,
Tribal women,
Farming.

ABSTRACT

The study entitled "to study the constraints experienced by the tribal women participating in decision making in farming" was conducted in Chikhaldara tahsil (Melghat) of Amravati district in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra State. The study was conducted in ten villages of Chikhaldara Panchayat Samiti. From list of 197 villages 10 villages were selected by 'Nth' method of randomization. A list of tribal women from randomly selected villages was prepared. They were arranged alphabetically and thus total 120 tribal women were selected randomly as respondents for the study. Data were collected by personally interviewing with the help of presented and well structured interview schedule and analyzed by using statistic tools like mean, standard deviation and percent frequency. In the study an exploratory research design of social research was used. The finding pertaining to constraints experienced by the tribal women while participating in decision making on farming shows that burden of family work i.e. lack of time, lack of technical knowledge / information poor economic status of family, low educational qualification, secondary status of women in family and fear of failure were the important difficulties faced by them.

Copyright©2016, Patil et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

INTRODUCTION

Etymologically, the term 'tribe' derives its origin from the world 'tribuz' meaning three divisions. For Romans the term tribe was political division. A tribe occupies a definite geographical area and exercise effective control over its people. Permanent settled in a particular area gives geographical identify to the tribe. The territory under the domain of particular tribe was generally named after it. It is believed that India derives its name Bharat from the mighty Bharata tribe king from ancient period. In a recent survey conducted by Anthropological Survey of India, under the 'People of India Project' 461 tribal communities have been identified all over the country out of which, 174 are subgroups. According to 2011 census, tribal population in Maharashtra state was ranked at third position with 105.10 lakhs tribal population which accounts to 9.3 per cent to the total population of the state. In Maharashtra nearly 47 scheduled tribes has been representing. Etymologically, the term 'tribe' derives its origin from the world 'tribuz' meaning three divisions.

For Romans the term tribe was political division. A tribe occupies a definite geographical area and exercise effective control over its people. Permanent settled in a particular area gives geographical identify to the tribe. The territory under the domain of particular tribe was generally named after it. It is believed that India derives its name Bharat from the mighty Bharata tribe king from ancient period. In a recent survey conducted by Anthropological Survey of India, under the 'People of India Project' 461 tribal communities have been identified all over the country out of which, 174 are subgroups. According to 2011 census, tribal population in Maharashtra state was ranked at third position with 105.10 lakhs tribal population which accounts to 9.3 per cent to the total population of the state. In Maharashtra nearly 47 scheduled tribes has been representing. India is an agricultural country, with an economy which is preliminary agrarian in nature. India ranks second in world with the population of 121.05 crore, 58.74 crore of which are females (Census of India, 2011). Indian women play significant role in agriculture and contribute one third of labour required for farming operation. At present almost all rural development activities of the government are centered on male and female farmers. However, it is not the male farmer alone who needs to be

***Corresponding author: Patil, J. M.,**

Department of Extn. Edu., Post Graduate Institute, Dr. P.D.K.V., Akola

changed to attend the development of rural India, rural women also need to be involved in the developmental activities as they are backbone of Indian agriculture. The participation by tribal women in co-operation with their husband in decisions making not only affects family but farm business too. Therefore, women are considered as backbone of Indian economy. Women usually contribute in harvesting of crops, weeding, threshing, irrigation, plant protection, use of biofertilizers, supervision, post harvest operation etc. (Parshuramkar, 2004). Women work with male members and participate in farming activities putting much of hours of productive manual family labour, in Korku family women's always work much more than males. After all this, she is not considered an important element in decision making. The tribal women actively participate in agricultural activities and successful without disturbing their routine household activities. They are the integrated part of their family but are found to enjoy a secondary role i.e. decision maker and status in the family. Therefore, it is necessary to know the extent of 'Participation of tribal women in decision making in agriculture' and also problems faced by them. In view of this the present investigation, 'Participation of tribal women in decision making in agriculture' is planned and will be undertaken in selected villages from Melghat.

Need and Importance of study

It goes without saying that, women play an important role in the social and economic welfare of the family. Tribal women have to play many roles in their daily life such as wife, mother, farm producer, livestock raises etc. In addition to these women also help the males in decision making related to farm and family activities. It may be said that participation of women in decision making would enhance the decision making power of males and also improve the quality of decisions. The farm economy depends on such decisions and therefore, the involvement of tribal women in decision making along with males will prime importance. It is hoped that the present research study would revealed some of the facts about the problems experienced by tribal women and also their participation in decision making in agriculture.

Scope of the study

The present study basically aims in finding out the facts about the nature and extent of participation of tribal women in decision making in agriculture. It will show possibility to understand the present status of tribal women from Chikhaldara Taluka in the process of decision making. Lastly, an attempt was made to know difficulties faced by the tribal women while participating in decision on farming, which would helpfully provide guidelines to planners, policy makers and extension workers with respect to women's programme. The present study was conducted in Chikhaldara tahsil (Melghat) of Amravati district in Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra State. The study was conducted in ten villages of Chikhaldara Panchayat Samiti From list of 197 villages 10 villages was selected by 'Nth' method of randomization. A list of tribal women from randomly selected villages was prepared. They were arranged alphabetically and thus total 120 tribal women were selected randomly as respondents for the study. Data were collected by personally interviewing with the help of presented and well structured interview schedule and analyzed by using statistic tools like mean, standard deviation and percent frequency. In the study an exploratory research design of social research was used. The Independent variables selected for the study and the procedure adopted for their measurement are Age, Education, Marital status, Family type, Family size, Farming experience, Land holding, Risk preference, Family income, Occupation and Mass media exposure. Extent of participation of tribal (Korku) women in decision making in farming was measured in term of actual participation of tribal women respondent in making decisions in respect of farm activities. Score was given according to scales developed by Kishor et al. (1999) and Alka Patki and Nikhade (1999) with slight modifications.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Constraints experienced by the tribble women participating in decision making in farming

During the investigation efforts were made to elicit the responses of tribal woman respondents regarding problems

Table 1. Difficulties experienced by Tribal women while participating in decision making

Sr. No.	Difficulties	Respondents (n=120)	
		Number of respondents	Percentage
1	2	3	4
1	Higher time consumption for household work	119	99.17
2	Inability to take decision due to contingent problems	119	99.17
3	Increasing prices of farm inputs	118	98.33
4	Inability in anticipating the possible repercussions of the decision taken	116	96.67
5	Perplexity of time for farm and home activities.	116	96.67
6	Lack of information about the sources of availability of resources to solve the problems	114	95
7	Inability in diagnosing the problem about which decision is to be taken	113	97.17
8	Lack of adequate information about the solutions to problems.	112	93.33
9	Lack of information about Government schemes	111	92.50
10	Lack of proper guidance for taking decisions	110	91.67
11	Lack of help for seeking information about the solutions to problems.	106	88.33
12	Afraid of making any improvement in farming	106	88.33
13	Lack of help in diagnosing the problems about which decision is to be take	105	87.50
14	The present system of decision making is right	103	85.83
15	Lack of help for securing information about new things	94	78.33
16	Poor economic status of the family	87	72.50
17	Lack of confidence required to take decisions	83	69.17
18	No knowledge about improved technology	57	47.50
19	Dominance of male members in the family	51	42.50
20	Resistance of family members to take any improvement in farming	44	36.67
21	Inability to take decision due to lack of education	44	36.67
22	No permission to take decisions due to younger age	38	31.67
23	Lack of confidence about solving the problems within available resources	21	17.50

* The sum of total is more than 100 due to multiple responses.

faced by them in performing extent of participation of decision making regarding agriculture. The responses obtained in this regard have been furnished in Table. 1. The constraints reported by the respondents (Table 1) indicate that the constraints are of varied types and intensity. Since the tribal women are engaged both in household and farm activities they might not be finding time to participate in the process of decision making. This is evident from the two constraints related to time namely higher time consumption for household work (99.17 %) and perplexity of time for farm and home activities (97.67 %). Further, tribal women were found facing the constraint of lack of information / knowledge about the sources of availability of resources to solve the problems (95.00 %), solutions to problems (93.33 %), government schemes (92.50 %) and improved technology (47.50 %).

The poor economic status of the family was also responsible for less participation tribal women in the decision making process. This becomes clear from the constraints reported by the (tribal women such as increasing prices of farm inputs (98.33 %) and poor economic status of the family (72.50 %). The tribal women also complained that they did not get adequate help and support which would help them in taking decisions. The close observation of the constraints reported by them reveal that they did not get proper guidance (91.67 %) help for seeking information about the solutions to problems (88.50 %), help in diagnosing the problems (88.33 %) and help for seeking information about new things (78.33 %). The secondary status of tribal women in the family also posed problems in their participation in taking the farm decisions. This is evident from the constraints reported by them namely, dominance of male members in the family (42.50 %), resistance of family members to make any improvement in farming (36.67 %) and no permission to take decisions due to younger age (31.67 %).

The tribal women have also expressed their inability to take decisions because of some reasons, the important among those were contingent problems (99.17 %), anticipating the possible repercussions of the decisions taken (96.67 %) diagnosing the problems about which decisions are to be taken (94.17 %) and lack of education (36.67 %). These constraints indicate the perception of the tribal women about their own qualities and situation-that obstructs their participation in decision making. The fear in the mind of the tribal women also becomes clear from the constraints namely afraid of making any improvement in farming (88.33 %) and lack of confidence required to take decisions (69.17 %), lack of confidence about solving the problems within the available resources (17.50 %). Thus, it may be concluded that female in the study are faced various problems in decision making process while making decisions of farm which need to be sold on priority to improve

their involvement in decision making The findings of the present study are in conformity with the findings of Patil and Sawant (1966) and Nita Divekar (2010).

Conclusions

The finding pertaining to difficulties experienced by the tribal women while participating in decision making on farming shows that burden of family work i.e. lack of time, lack of technical knowledge / information poor economic status of family, low educational qualification, secondary status of women in family and fear of failure were the important difficulties faced by them.

REFERENCES

- Alka Patki, 1988. Role performance and involvement in decision making of rural women in animal husbandry practices. Ph.D. Thesis (Unpub.), Dr. PDKV, Akola.
- Anita Kumari, 2002. Role of rural women in monetary decision making. *J. of Extn. Educ.* XIII (4)2002:3418-3420.
- Bagitkar, R.D. 2000. The role of farm women in decision making on farm aspects. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis (Unpub.), Dr. PDKV, Akola.
- Hossain, M.M. and S.N. Mishra, 2002. Studies on involvement of women in agriculture and allied activities in Kalahandi district of Orissa. *MANAGE Extn. Res. Rev.*:88-95.
- Nikhade, D.M. and N.R. Nimaje, 1988. Involment of rural women in agriculture. Paper presented on role of farm women in agriculture. M.S.E.E. 7-8 Oct 1988, Akola.
- Nita Divekar, 2010. Role of women in farm and family decision making. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis (Unpub.), Dr. PDKV, Akola.
- Patil, V.G. and A.G. Sawant, 1996. Decision making pattern of farm families. *Maha. J. Extn. Educ.* XV.
- Premavathi, R. and R. Netaji Seetharaman, 2002. Problems faced by women in farm and home decision making. *J. of Extn. Educ.* XIII (4) 2002:3451-3452.
- Sarada, K. and B.V. Sudershan Rao. 2002. Constraints faced by tribal women in farm and home activities. *J. of Extn. Educ.* XIII (4) 2002:3454-3455.
- Sethi, R.M. 2003. Women and development a profile of active agricultural producers. *Sociology of gender the challenge of ferminist sociological knowledge*, pp. 226-244.
- Shilpa B. Rupanvar, 2008. Involvement of women in economic management of family farm. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis (Unpub.), Dr. PDKV, Akola.
- Valenzuela, G and K. Prins, 2002. Involvement of women participative process of integrated management of pests on coffee in Nacaragua Menejo Integrado de Plages. 63:56-63.
