

A Study on Participation of Farm Tribal Women in Agriculture

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Abstract: A study on “Participation of Tribal Women in Agriculture in Nilgiris district” was undertaken in one blocks of Thiruchikadi village with 100 respondents to find out the participation of tribal women in different farm operation. The present study aims to analyze the constraints faced by farm tribal women in participation of agriculture operation and developmental programmes for their livelihood security and seek solution to overcome the constraints. They undertake various activities in agriculture such as field preparation, intercultural practices, weeding and harvesting etc. Rural women the most important work force in the economy. Agriculture sector employs 4/5th of all economically active women in the country. In India’s 48 per cent of self-employed farmers are women. Farm women are found to be lagging most development indicators and their occupations largely agriculture based. The result of the study revealed that Today women play a vital role in agricultural management and production activities in addition to their responsibilities at home. It is also observed that there was highly significant relationship between Decision Making Pattern Regarding Agricultural and Allied Operations of tribal farm women in agricultural. This will in turn enable to decide on a strategy which will enable the women to become equal partners in the process of national development.

Key Words: Tribal farm women, Decision making, Agriculture operation, Development programmes.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Tribal population in India, According to the 2011 Census there are 24, 94, 54,252 households of which 2, 14, 67,179 households belongs to ST population. Total population of the country is 1,21,05,69,573, out of these 10, 42, 81,034 are classified as ST with 5, 24, 09,823 males and 5, 18, 71,211 females. The decadal growth rate of the tribal population during 2001-2011 is 23.7% which is higher than India’s total decadal growth (17.6%). The tribal population of India constitute 8.6% of total population of the country and majority of them reside in the rural areas (90%).

Nilgiris district tribal population in 2011 census a population 735,394 with a sex-ratio of 1,042 females for every 1,000 males, much above the national average of 929 females. Based on this a participation of tribal women in agriculture explain below.

Agriculture in India is the backbone of the country and it plays an important role in the economy, is regarded as the largest sector of the country’s economic activity. Above 80 per cent of the Indian population, either directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. Agriculture is a single largest production in India. Agriculture is the prime driving force for food security, rural economy and sustainable socio- economic development of farmers. Agriculture, as a productive sector provides a pathway out of poverty and has an important macro-economic role upon which diverse economies are built. Women participate in all agricultural operations except ploughing and sowing of paddy, contributing between 70 to 80 per cent of the total labour. In spite of tribal regions perform poorly in terms of infrastructure, returns from agriculture and almost all human development indicators (Nisha, 2008).

In this study tribal farm women take the decision making process in eight agriculture operation like crop selection, seed selection, seed treatment, use of fertilizers, plant protection measures, improved method of storage, time of selling farm produce etc. Tribal women represent more than 50 per cent of the population living in the hilly regions and actively participate in the social, cultural and economic activities and are major contributors to labour for agriculture, livestock and domestic etc. Rural women do not benefit as they should from training and extension for the improvement of their skills, working conditions and productivity. Compared to urban women, rural women suffer from relative high illiteracy rate and workload of domestic and agricultural tasks that limit their participation in training sessions and extension. Their primitive way of life, economic and social backwardness, low level of literacy, out dated system of production, absence of value systems, sparse physical infrastructure in backward tribal areas and demographic quality of tribal areas make the development of

tribals and tribal areas are essential. Even after industrialization and the resultant commercialization swamped the tribal economy, women continued to play a significant role. Schemes adapted to the local context including agricultural banks, co-operatives and social funds for development are still being experimented. The new technologies are mainly used by men in medium and large units, while women use traditional practices.

II. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Tribal women work very hard for the livelihood of the family but live a poor life, in spite of their many contributions in the house and on the farm. Role of tribal women is important for the improvement and progress of tribal. They are the pivot of tribal agriculture, performing many household and agricultural jobs. Without them, tribal welfare in agriculture is meaningless. They still continued to share a number of farm operations with men from early ages of invention of agriculture to the present day of modern agriculture (Chauhan, 2011). The farming systems are more complex in resource poor, rain fed areas and socio-economic factors also influences the production systems. Illiteracy, lack of awareness, low level of skills, suppression and lack of appropriate technology, extension and training programmes are the main factors which need to be tackled for mainstreaming of tribal women in agriculture. Hence this study focused on role of tribal women in agriculture, to understand the prevailing status of gender concepts among the tribal farm women in the tribal settings of Ooty, initiate efforts to enhance and sustain gender mainstreaming efforts in their agriculture and allied activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study aims at the following main objectives:

- 1) To know the socio – economic profile of tribal women in the selected villages.
- 2) To study the Role of tribal farm women in decision making towards agricultural operations.
- 3) To study Opinions on schemes and programmes implemented by Government.
- 4) To find the training needs of tribal farm women and to assess the awareness of agriculture.

III. METHODOLOGY

A systematic and careful analysis of information is of primary importance in any research. To obtain reliable results, it is essential, it is essential to have a systematic planning of data collecting and employability of appropriate techniques for the analysis of information. The methodology adopted in the current study on “Participation of Farm Tribal Women in Agriculture” is discussed in this chapter under the following heads. The data was collected through a structured interview schedule from 100 respondents by using the simple random sampling method. The Nilgiris district was selected. From the district one taluk namely Ooty was selected. From the taluk one village namely Thiruchikadi was selected. For this study randomly 100 tribal farm women are selected as sample respondents. To analyze the primary data the researcher has used different statistical tools like percentage method, frequency analysis, one sample t test and Spearman correlation.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

1. The present study is an exploratory one mainly based on primary data. The limitations of primary data are applicable to the current study only.
2. This study cannot be generalized, as it is restricted to one taluk of Nilgiris District.
3. The analysis is limited to the sample size of 100 only as it is period specific.
4. The respondent could not give accurate data on their income and expenditure. And they were unwilling to reveal their socio-economic conditions.

IV. SOCIO ECONOMIC DETAILS

Table No:1 Age of the respondent

Age of the respondent	Frequency	Percent
20-30	34	34.0
30-40	32	32.0
40-50	15	15.0
50-60	19	19.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: computed value

The table 1 shows the Age wise classification of the respondents. Majority 34 percentage of the respondents are under (20-30) Age group, 32 percentage of the respondent are 30-40 age group, 15 percentage of them are 40-50 age and the remaining 19 percentage of the respondent are under 50-60 age group. So within sample respondent majority are in 20-30 age groups.

Table No: 2 Family occupations

Family occupation	Frequency	Percent
Agriculture	94	94.0
Other	6	6.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: computed value

Above the table 2 explain the occupation wise classification of the respondent. Among 100 percentage of the respondent 94 percentage of them are involved in agriculture.

Table No: 3 Education of the respondent

Education	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	9	9.0
Primary	35	35.0
high school	40	40.0
Secondary	9	9.0
Graduate	7	7.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: computed value

This table 3 shows that Education wise classification of the respondent. Majority 40 percentage of respondent are completed high school education, 35 Percentages of respondents are completed Primary level, 9 Percentages of respondents are secondary education and 7 percentage of the respondent are completed graduation level of education. And the remaining 9 percentage of them are illiterate.

Table No: 4 Annual income of respondent

Annual income of respondent	Frequency	Percent
10,000-30,000	85	85.0
30,000-50,000	15	15.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: computed value

The above table 4 reveals 85 percentage of the respondent are earning 10,000-30,000 and the remaining 15 percentage of the respondent are earning 30,000-50,000 annually. It is concluded that main source of income for the majority respondent is agriculture.

V. AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

Table No: 5 The Opinions on Awareness about Agricultural Operation

Awareness about Agricultural Operation	Test Value = 0					
	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Selection of sees	28.463	99	.000	1.27000	1.1815	1.3585
Control of pest	29.081	99	.000	1.23000	1.1461	1.3139
Seed treatment	29.147	99	.000	1.46000	1.3606	1.5594
Identification of pest and diseases	32.496	99	.000	1.60000	1.5023	1.6977
Storage of farm produce	28.286	99	.000	1.29000	1.1995	1.3805
Methods of fertilizer application	28.286	99	.000	1.29000	1.1995	1.3805
Agriculture operation Foliar	31.270	99	.000	1.56000	1.4610	1.6590
Time of fertilizer application	28.226	99	.000	1.30000	1.2086	1.3914
Preparation of pesticides	28.286	99	.000	1.29000	1.1995	1.3805
Name and dosage of pesticides	28.434	99	.000	1.40000	1.3023	1.4977

Source: Computed value

In order to find out the difference between opinions on awareness about agricultural operation, one sample t test analysis is performed. The significant p value for all the statement is .000 which indicate that there is significant difference between all the opinions on awareness about agricultural operation.

Table No: 6 Vegetables cultivation Years of Experience in agriculture operations

Vegetables Cultivation	Years of Experience in agriculture operations				Total
	Below 5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	15 yrs and above	
Yes	2	9	25	36	72
	2.8%	12.5%	34.7%	50.0%	100.0%
	66.7%	50.0%	92.6%	69.2%	72.0%
	2.0%	9.0%	25.0%	36.0%	72.0%
No	1	9	2	16	28
	3.6%	32.1%	7.1%	57.1%	100.0%
	33.3%	50.0%	7.4%	30.8%	28.0%
	1.0%	9.0%	2.0%	16.0%	28.0%
Total	3	18	27	52	100
	3.0%	18.0%	27.0%	52.0%	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	3.0%	18.0%	27.0%	52.0%	100.0%

Source: computed value

Symmetric Measures

		Value	Asymp. Error ^a	Std. Approx. T ^b	Approx. Sig.
Interval by Interval	Pearson's R	.073	.109	.729	.468
Ordinal by Ordinal	Spearman Correlation	.032	.110	.314	.754
N of Valid Cases		100			

Source: computed value

In order to find out the relationship between other vegetable cultivation and year of experience in agriculture, Spearman correlation analysis is performed. The significant p value .468 indicates that there is no significant relationship between other vegetable cultivation and year of experience in agriculture. It is concluded that cultivation of other vegetable is not depends on respondent's year of agricultural experience.

VI. PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Table No: 7 The Opinions on schemes and programmes implemented by the Government

programmes implemented by the government	Test Value = 0					
	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Nation pulse development programme NPDP	28.582	99	.000	1.26000	1.1725	1.3475
Oil seed production programme OPP	29.850	99	.000	1.50000	1.4003	1.5997
Acceleration maize development programme AMDP	28.155	99	.000	1.32000	1.2270	1.4130
Integrated development programme ICDP	28.286	99	.000	1.29000	1.1995	1.3805
Sustainable development of sugarcane based cropping system SUBACS	28.162	99	.000	1.35000	1.2549	1.4451
Crop competition	28.183	99	.000	1.31000	1.2178	1.4022
System of rice intensification SRI	28.143	99	.000	1.33000	1.2362	1.4238
Agriculture technology management agency ATMA	28.365	99	.000	1.28000	1.1905	1.3695

Source: computed value

In order to find out the difference between respondent opinions on schemes and programmes implemented by the government, one sample t test analysis is performed. The significant p value for all the

statement is .000 which indicate that there is significant difference between all the opinions on schemes and programmes implemented by the government

DECISION MAKING PATTERN REGARDING AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED OPERATIONS

Table No: 8 The Opinion on Decision Making Pattern Regarding Agricultural and Allied Operations

	Test Value = 0					
	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	(2-Mean Difference)	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Mode of saving	29.303	99	.000	1.22000	1.1374	1.3026
Agriculture operation	28.889	99	.000	1.24000	1.1548	1.3252
Allied operation	29.147	99	.000	1.46000	1.3606	1.5594
Marketing of agriculture produce	28.288	99	.000	1.38000	1.2832	1.4768
Investment regarding agriculture	28.143	99	.000	1.33000	1.2362	1.4238
Preparation of monthly income	28.183	99	.000	1.31000	1.2178	1.4022

Source: computed value

In order to find out the difference between respondent opinions on decision making pattern regarding agricultural and allied operations, one sample t test analysis is performed. The significant p value for all the statement is .000 which indicate that there is significant difference between all the opinions on decision making pattern regarding agricultural and allied operations.

VII. CONCLUSION

Tribal women constitute half of the work force among tribals in India. Tribal women are discriminated; though they make enormous contribution to the agriculture and allied sectors. They have very little access to the knowledge and skill of modern farm technologies and related resources. Tribal farm women play a vital role in agricultural development including crop production and livestock management, but they remain backward due to traditional values, illiteracy, superstition and many other social and cultural factors. The participatory role of tribal farm women in improving their living conditions by fully exploring natural endowments and alternative uses must find an appropriate place in the strategic approach. Mainstreaming of women in agriculture will help in solving the basic issues revolving around appropriate income generating operations for the technological options, extension and institutional support. This will in turn enable to decide on a strategy which will enable the women to become equal partners in the process of national development. Utilization of appropriate technologies by tribal farm women depends upon the effective sources of information and channels to which they are generally exposed directly or indirectly. To increase the production and self reliance of the tribal farm women, dissemination of information related to agriculture and allied operations is the need of the hour and it will pave way in bringing gender equality. The inference can be drawn from the findings that tribal farm women were taking decision making in agriculture operation and development programmes measures. Because they have no knowledge of about seed treatment in study area.

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