



Role of farm women in decision making process towards socio-economic upliftment in rural Jharkhand: A study of east Singhbhum district

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Abstract

In India, women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including the main crop production, livestock Productions, horticulture, Post-harvest operations agro-social forestry, fisheries, etc. Unless the rural economy of India developed no progress in industrial the economy of the country is possible. About 70 percent of the total working population and 84 percent of all economically active women are involved in agriculture. Women make up 48.4 percent of the total agriculture workforce. It is rightly pointed out that the developing countries like India and most of the Asian and African countries largely depend on the labor of its women population. The participation of farm women in agriculture is increasing in spite of scientific and technological developments. The average time spent a firm women various from village to village according to social customs. In this paper I have discussed about the role of farm women in decision making process towards socio-economic upliftment in rural Jharkhand: a study of east singhbhum district.

Keywords: farm women, decision making process, constitutional provision, socio – economic upliftment

Introduction

India is an agricultural country and thus agriculture is the basis of our national economy on which the future of seven million families directly or indirectly rests. It is considered as the backbone of our country Indian trade is deeply associated with the agriculture sector and their related goods, contributes 10.23 percent in total export of the country. Agriculture is not only responsible for the food supply of 1.36 Billion population but also around 15.70 percent of the country's GDP with tremendous domestic and export marketing potential.

In India, women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including the main crop production, livestock Productions, horticulture, Post-harvest operations agro-social forestry, fisheries, etc. Unless the rural economy of India developed no progress in industrial the economy of the country is possible.

The status and role of farm women and issues related to it have attracted the attention of The academicians, political thinkers, and social Scientists both in developing as well as the developed countries, Partly due to the observance of the International decade of women and partly because of the widely accepted truth that a society built on the inequality of men and women involves wastage of human resources which no country can afford. In Indian Village, farm women work in the initial stage of agriculture to the harvesting of the crop. They also contribute to transporting the Crops to the markets, running up village industries, Discharging household duties, and all allied activities.

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Decision making is the process of consciously choosing courses of action from available alternatives and integration of them for the purpose of achieving the desired goal. It is well known fact that the success of rural development process largely depends on the participation of people at large irrespective of gender. The problem of involving women's participation in the development process is now catching the attention of planners and policy maker because of increasing imbalance generation out of development process.

Although the legal and constitutional provision for the equal status they have been stereotyped in a weak position in Indian society and have a subordinate role to play. Thus, women's participation in decision-making is the prerogative of the males as head of the farm families. It also appeared that any decision taken was strongly influenced by the attitude and opinion of their female partners. Therefore, a proper understanding of the complexity of the decision-making process in rural farm families and ascertaining the role of farm women in the process will help in toning up agricultural, socio-economic upliftment, modernization in the country as well as the transformation of rural family life. Despite this fact, women share most of the family responsibilities and perform a wide range of duties based on research. It can be stated the increasing number of rural women in India are not simply housewives but are in fact farmers. They play various roles in the upliftment of the rural economy of Jharkhand.

Agriculture generally involves five stages *viz.* production, processing, consumption, storage and marketing. In most of the stages farm women are actively involved. They participated in most of the important agricultural operations like field preparation, sowing of seed, inter-cultivation, weeding and plant protection measures, harvesting, compost making application of manures and fertilizers, cleaning of farm products, storing of seed, food grains and processing of farm by product in the second stage consumption women

have an all important role as they cook and serve the food to the family members, looking after children and husband and general house work. They are also actively involved in the third and fourth stage where processing and storage of grains are almost entirely the responsibility of women.

The participation of farm women in agriculture is increasing in spite of scientific and technological developments. The average time spent a firm women various from village to village according to social customs. The share of farm women in agriculture operation has been shown in following table:

Table 1: Share of Farm Women in Agriculture Operation

Activities involvement	Percentage
Land Preparation	32
Seed Cleaning Sowing	80
Inter cultivation activities	86
Harvesting – reaping, winnowing drying, cleaning and storage	84

Since agriculture is the prime engine of economic growth in developing countries particularly in India, the roles performed by both men and women must not be neglected. All obstacles to the full participation of women must be removed to ensure that they find themselves on equal terms with men in all facets of life such as cultural, social, economic, and political. In India agriculture needs to be matched with the feminization of agriculture for the overall development of the rural economy. The appropriate strategy has to be evolved to extend the benefits of the transfer of the technology process to women, which will help in the modernizations of agriculture. The Government has been implementing various programs for women such as soil and water conservation, nursery management, dairy development, social forestry and other income generations, occupations related to agriculture like sericulture, mushroom cultivation, bee-keeping, lac cultivation etc. in order to strengthen the women sector and make them confident and enhance their decision making ability.

Review of Literature

Tiwari M and Tripathi N N (2014) ^[1]. Decision pattern among women performing agricultural activities. *Indian Res J Ext Edu* 14 (3): 31-34

Singh *et al.* (2005) concluded that farm women utilized 44 to 44.5 per cent of their total time in agriculture per day. Farm women were involved maximum (76.1%) in post-harvest activities, followed by 68.7 per cent in post sowing activities. Major agricultural operations carried out by farm women were 76.1 per cent in drying and storage, followed by 68.7 per cent in inter-culture, 68 per cent in harvesting, 56.8 per cent in sowing / planting, 55.3 per cent in gardening grains, 50.6 per cent in threshing, 47.5 per cent in preparatory tillage and 45.7 per cent in transportation of harvested crop to threshing yard.

Mandloi (2006) ^[10] revealed that 20.26 per cent farm women had taken own decisions, while 54.82 per cent of the rural women had consulted their spouse to take decisions regarding all the activities and 14 per cent had consulted all their family members and friends to take decisions and 4.28 per cent of rural women had never participated in decision making process.

Warkade (2010) ^[17] During the research study, it was observed that majority of tribal farm women had always

taken decision regarding selection of crop, quantity of seed, sowing time of seed, weeding, use of manures, harvesting, threshing and grain storage. They were rarely involved in decision making regarding field preparation, selection of variety, irrigation, seed treatment and marketing and use of fertilizers, plant protection measures as it required more scientific knowledge and skill.

Bhattacharjee D (2015) ^[18]. Participation of women in agricultural activities in Gazipur district of Bangladesh. *Indian Res J Ext Edu* 15 (3): 43-46

Nayta (2010) ^[12] found that the socio economic status had highly significant with adoption of ecofriendly management practices.

Khare (2007) ^[9] found that education has shown significant differences in the decision making behaviour for agricultural practices.

Sharma (2008) ^[14] reported that the association between education and participation in agriculture operation was found highly significant in decision making process.

Sharma (2008) ^[14] reported that the association between size of land holding and participation in agriculture operation was found highly significant in decision making process.

Sharma (2008) ^[14] reported that association between economic motivation and participation in agriculture operation was found highly significant role in decision making process.

Dongre (2003) ^[7] concluded that male dominance, lack of contact with extension workers, lack of pertinent knowledge about new innovation performing dual responsibility at home and farm, scattered land holding, negative social attitude, low literacy level are the major constraint.

Sharma A, Singh D and Solanki G S (2014) ^[6]. Role of farm women in agricultural operations and decision making pattern. *Indian Res J Ext Edu* 14 (2): 60-63.

Praveena *et al.* (2005) ^[13] revealed that through rural farm women followed all the considered method for decision making depending on the nature of farm activity, majority of rural farm women belied on joint decision by consulting their spouse. However, the respondent were mostly self-reliant in deciding few aspect like gap filling, storage and dairying. From the findings it could be concluded that the farm women did not prefer to take self-decisions especially in all the market related activities such as selection and procurement of seed material, purchase selling of other agriculture inputs and disposal of farm produce.

Research Gap

Most of the studies mentioned in the review of literature have been done on farm women by Indians and other states. But till now I have not found any research to find out the farm women in the decision making Process towards socio-economic upliftment of rural Jharkhand. To mitigate this considerable research gap and need for further research in this area. This research can prove to be a milestone for the farm women in decision-making process.

Need and Significance of the Study

- The study will be confined to East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and twenty selected villages from Ghatsila and Patamda Blocks. The findings of the study will be applicable to other areas where similar condition exists.
- Researches will be done in the field of decision-making of farm women are very limited. It is hoped that this study will provide guidance in identifying steps that

could be taken to improve farm decision making of farm women, which in turn can accelerate and stabilize planned change in rural society.

- The knowledge of the findings of this research may also serve as a basis for future studies, who are interested in deeper analysis of decision making of farm women. The study will also provide the knowledge regarding the problems reported by farmwomen related to decision making, it will be serve as guideline in modifying future development activities.
- A clear picture of farm women in decision making process to the extension personnel will be go a long way with respect to easy adoption of innovation in agriculture. Further, the findings of the present investigation will then give empirical evidence of the decision making process which can be subsequently utilized by the social scientists for undertaking more detailed investigation into its various ramification.

Objective of the Study

Realizing the importance of ascertaining the nature and extent of intensity of role of farm women in decision making related to Agriculture, operations and looking to the major role that women play in rural area, it has been decided to undertake a study entitled, “Role of farm women in decision making process towards socio – economic upliftment in Rural Jharkhand: A Study of East Singhbhum district” with the following specific objectives:

1. To study the profile of selected farm women.
2. To determine the role of farm women in decision making process related to agriculture and other allied activities.
3. To study the factors responsible to impact farm women’s decision making process.
4. To study the role of farm women decision making process of socio-economic upliftment of rural district of Singhbhum.
5. To know the constraints faced by the farm women in decision making process towards socio – economic upliftment and suggestions to overcome them.

Hypothesis

Relevant hypothesis will be formulated on the basis of the study and will be tested are as follows:

Ho – The Role of farm women in decision making process for socio – economics upliftment of the rural district of the east singhbhum district is not significant.

H1 - The Role of farm women in decision making process for socio – economics upliftment of the rural district of the east singhbhum district is significant.

Research Methodology

Table 2

Data Collection Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary data for the study will be collected through detailed field survey with the help of formally designed questionnaire and face to face interview. ▪ Secondary date for the study will be collected through books magazine, newspaper, internet site, published, research article, government report etc.
Sample Size	285
Research instrument	Questionnaires, Interview.
Hypothesis testing tools	Percentage, Mean, Chi-square, Rank order.

Conclusion

The participation of female in the decision making process is an important segment of each and every household. These decisions vary in importance and affect the farm family in one way or the other way. The success of the various agricultural development activities largely depend on the decisions made by farm-families. Hence it can be said that a proper understanding of complexity of the decision making process in rural families and making confident the role of farm women in it will help in toning up agricultural modernization in the country as well as transformation of family life in rural society will be interpreted.

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