

Original Research Article

<https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2021.1003.201>

Participation and Decision Making Pattern of Women in Farm Related Activities in Rural Areas of Telangana

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Extent of participation, Level of decision making, Farm related activities

Article Info

Accepted:
15 February 2021
Available Online:
10 March 2021

The present study was conducted with the specific objective “To study the participation and decision making pattern of women in farm related activities in rural areas of Telangana”. For this purpose, a total of 150 respondents were selected randomly from 12 villages of Karimnagar, Jagityal and Mancherial districts of Telangana and were interviewed with the help of structured interview schedule. The results revealed that women had high participation in sowing, weeding, application of fertilizers, labour management, grading and the overall participation of women in farm related activities falls under medium category (68.66%) followed by low category (17.33%) whereas women took majority of the farm related decisions with their husband or father or relatives and the overall distribution of rural women in decision making in farm related activities fall under medium category (72.00 %) followed by low category (14.66%).

Introduction

India is an agriculture country and most of its people are directly or indirectly still dependent on agriculture and allied sectors. It is the primary occupation for around fifty eight percent of the India’s population. Women play a major role in agriculture. It provides employment for more than fifty percent of the women in the country. They not only participate in the agricultural activities but are

actively involved in decision making activities. The contribution of women is expected to be about fifty to sixty percent.

Besides taking care of the household, they actively participate in the on-farm and off-farm activities. Chakravarty (1975) revealed that, on an average a farm women spends around eight to nine hours a day on the farm activities particularly when it is the peak period of agricultural season.

Objectives

To study the extent of participation of women in farm related activities

To study the decision making pattern of women in farm related activities

Materials and Methods

Exploratory research design was followed for carrying out the study. The state Telangana comprises of 31 districts.

However, only three districts namely, Karimnagar, Jagityal and Mancherial were selected purposively as they have high sex ration and participation of women in all the activities.

From each district, two mandals were selected purposively. Further, from each mandal, two villages were selected randomly.

Thus, a total of 6 mandals and 12 villages were selected. From each selected village, 12 to 13 respondents were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 150 respondents were selected.

The responses were recorded on a three point continuum scale as full participation, partial participation and no participation in the particular activity then scores were assigned as 2, 1, 0 respectively.

For decision making, self decision, decision with husband or father or relatives and no decision continuum scales were used and then scores were assigned as 2, 1, 0 respectively.

The data collected was processed and tabulated manually. Frequency and percentage were calculated to analyze the data. Mean and standard Deviation was used to categorize the respondents into 'low', 'medium' and 'high' categories.

Results and Discussion

Extent of participation of rural women in farm related activities

The farm related activities were categorized into pre-production, production and post production activities.

Pre-production activities

The data from the table 1 revealed that full participation was observed in purchasing of farm land (42.60%), followed by Construction of farm building (38.60%), Purchase of farm equipment (21.33%) and Repairing of farm building (15.33%). As regard to partial participation, Construction of farm building (33.33%), followed by purchasing of farm land (32.00%), Purchase of farm equipment (28.66%) and Repairing of farm building (25.33%). As regard to no participation, repairing of farm building (59.33%), followed by Purchase of farm equipment (50.00%), Construction of farm building (28.00%) and purchasing of farm land (25.30%).

Production activities

The data from the table 1 revealed that full participation was observed in labour management (76.00%), followed by weeding (73.33%), harvesting (73.33%), sowing (68.00%), application of fertilizers (66.00%), selection of variety (43.33%), selection of crops (38.66%), irrigation (18.00%), application of chemicals (10.00%) and ploughing (03.33%). As regard to partial participation, selection of crops (36.66%), followed by selection of variety (35.33%), irrigation (22.66%), application of chemicals (22.00%), ploughing (18.66%), weeding (15.33%), application of fertilizers (12.00%), sowing (10.00%), harvesting (04.66%) and labour management (02.66%). As regard to no participation, ploughing (78.00%), followed

by application of chemicals (68.00%), irrigation (59.33%), selection of crops (24.66%), sowing (22.00%), Application of fertilizers (22.00%), Harvesting (22.00%), Selection of variety (21.33%), Labour management (21.33 %) and weeding (11.33%).

Post production activities

The data from the table 1 revealed that full participation was observed in grading (61.33%), followed by selling of produce (53.33%), Selection of market (52.66%), Storing (37.33%), Winnowing (34.66%) and processing activities (21.33%). As regard to partial participation, selling of produce (24.00%), followed by selection of market (22.66%), grading (19.33%), storing (07.33%), processing activities (04.00%) and winnowing (02.66%). As regard to no participation, processing activities (74.66%), followed by winnowing (62.66%), storing (55.33%), selection of markets (24.66%), selling of produce (22.66%) and grading (19.33%).

Overall participation of rural women in farm related activities

The data from the table 2 revealed that majority of the rural women had medium extent of participation (68.66%), followed by low extent of participation (17.33%) and high extent of participation (14.00%).

Decision making pattern of rural women in farm related activities

The farm related activities were categorized into pre-production, production and post production activities.

Pre production activities

The data from the table 3 revealed that self decision was observed in purchasing of farm land (20.00%), followed by construction of farm building (19.33%), purchasing of farm equipment (15.33%) and repairing of farm building (14.00%).

As regard to decision with husband/father/relatives, purchasing of farm land (58.66%), followed by construction of farm building (58.00%), purchase of farm equipment (39.33%) and repairing of farm building (34.66%).

As regard to no decision, repairing of farm building (51.33%), followed by purchase of farm building (45.33%), construction of farm building (22.66%) and purchasing of farm land (21.33%).

Crop production activities

The data from the table 3 revealed that self decision was observed in sowing (48.66%), followed by labour management (44.00%), harvesting (42.00%), application of fertilizers (39.33%), selection of variety (18.66%), selection of crops (18.00%), weeding (16.66%), application of chemicals (11.33%), irrigation (10.66%) and ploughing (10.00%).

As regard to decision with husband/father/relatives, weeding (66.66%), followed by selection of variety (64.00%), selection of crops (62.66%), application of fertilizers (36.66%), harvesting (36.66%), labour management (34.66%), sowing (30.00%), application of chemicals (24.00%), irrigation (18.66%) and ploughing (17.33%).

Table.1 Distribution of rural women according to their extent of participation in farm related activities

Sl. No	Type of work	Extent of participation (n = 150)		
		Full participation	Partial participation	No Participation
A. Pre production activities				
1	Purchasing of farm land	64 (42.60 %)	48 (32.00 %)	38 (25.30 %)
2	Construction of farm building	58 (38.60 %)	50 (33.33 %)	42 (28.00 %)
3	Repairing of farm building	23 (15.33 %)	38 (25.33 %)	89 (59.33 %)
4	Purchase of farm equipment	32 (21.33 %)	43 (28.66 %)	75 (50.00 %)
B. Production activities				
1	Ploughing	05 (03.33 %)	28 (18.66 %)	117 (78.00 %)
2	Selection of crops	58 (38.66 %)	55 (36.66 %)	37 (24.66 %)
3	Selection of variety	65 (43.33 %)	53 (35.33 %)	32 (21.33 %)
4	Sowing	102 (68.00 %)	15 (10.00 %)	33 (22.00 %)
5	Irrigation	27 (18.00 %)	34 (22.66 %)	89 (59.33 %)
6	Weeding	110 (73.33%)	23 (15.33 %)	17 (11.33 %)
7	Application of chemicals	15 (10.00 %)	33 (22.00 %)	102 (68.00 %)
8	Application of fertilizers	99 (66.00 %)	18 (12.00 %)	33 (22.00 %)
9	Labour management	114 (76.00 %)	04 (02.66 %)	32 (21.33 %)
10	Harvesting	110 (73.33 %)	07 (04.66 %)	33 (22.00 %)
C. Post production activities				
1	Grading	92 (61.33%)	29 (19.33 %)	29 (19.33 %)
2	Winnowing	52 (34.66%)	04 (02.66 %)	94 (62.66 %)
3	Processing activities	32 (21.33%)	06 (04.00 %)	112 (74.66 %)
4	Storing	56 (37.33%)	11 (07.33 %)	83 (55.33 %)
5	Selection of market	79 (52.66%)	34 (22.66 %)	37 (24.66 %)
6	Selling of produce	80 (53.33%)	36 (24.00 %)	34 (22.66 %)

Table.2 Overall participation of rural women in farm related activities

Sl. No	Category of rural women	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (up to 11)	26	17.33
2	Medium (12 to 31)	103	68.66
3	High (above 31)	21	14.00
	Total	150	100.00
Mean = 21		S.D. =10	

Table.3 Distribution of rural women according to their extent of decision making in farm related activities

Sl. No	Type of work	Extent of decision making		
		Self decision	Decision with husband/Father/ relatives	No decision
A. Pre production activities				
1	Purchasing of farm land	30 (20.00 %)	88 (58.66 %)	32 (21.33 %)
2	Construction of farm building	29 (19.33 %)	87 (58.00 %)	34 (22.66 %)
3	Repairing of farm building	21 (14.00 %)	52 (34.66 %)	77 (51.33 %)
4	Purchase of farm equipment	23 (15.33%)	59 (39.33 %)	68 (45.33 %)
B. Production activities				
1	Ploughing	15 (10.00 %)	26 (17.33 %)	109 (72.66 %)
2	Selection of crops	27 (18.00 %)	94 (62.66 %)	29 (19.33 %)
3	Selection of variety	28 (18.66 %)	96 (64.00 %)	27 (18.00 %)
4	Sowing	73 (48.66 %)	45 (30.00 %)	32 (21.33 %)
5	Irrigation	16 (10.66 %)	28 (18.66%)	106 (70.66 %)
6	Weeding	25 (16.66 %)	100 (66.66 %)	25 (16.66 %)
7	Application of chemicals	17 (11.33 %)	36 (24.00 %)	96 (64.00 %)
8	Application of fertilizers	59 (39.33 %)	55 (36.66 %)	36 (24.00 %)
9	Labour management	66 (44.00 %)	52 (34.66 %)	32 (21.33 %)

10	Harvesting	63 (42.00 %)	55 (36.66 %)	32 (21.33 %)
C. Post production activities				
1	Grading	34 (22.66 %)	77 (51.33 %)	39 (26.00 %)
2	Winnowing	10 (06.66 %)	23 (15.33 %)	117 (78.00 %)
3	Processing activities	10 (06.66 %)	21 (14.00 %)	119 (79.33 %)
4	Storing	10 (06.66 %)	23 (15.33 %)	117 (78.00 %)
5	Selection of market	28 (18.66 %)	80 (53.33 %)	42 (28.00 %)
6	Selling of produce	28 (18.66 %)	81 (54.00 %)	41 (27.33 %)

Table.4 Overall decision making of rural women in farm related activities

Sl. No	Category of rural women	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (up to 6)	22	14.66
2	Medium (7 to 24)	108	72.00
3	High (above 24)	20	13.33
	Total	150	100.00
Mean = 15.30		S.D. =9.30	

As regard to no decision, ploughing (72.66%), followed by irrigation (70.66%), application of chemicals (64.00%), application of fertilizers (24.00%), sowing (21.33%), labour management (21.33%), harvesting (21.33%), selection of crops (19.33%), selection of variety (18.00%) and weeding (16.66%).

Post production activities

The data from the table 3 revealed that self decision was observed in grading (22.66%), followed by selection of market (18.66%), selling of produce (18.66%), winnowing (06.66%), processing activities (06.66%) and storing (06.66%).

As regard to decision with husband/father/relatives, selling of produce

(54.00%), followed by selection of market (53.33%), grading (51.33%), winnowing (15.33%), storing (15.33%) and processing activities (14.00%).

As regard to no decision, processing activities (79.33%), followed by winnowing (78.00%), storing (78.00%), selection of market (28.00%), selling of produce (27.33%) and grading (26.00%).

Overall decision making of rural women in farm related activities

The data from the table 4 revealed that majority of the rural women had medium level of decision making (72.00%), followed by low level of decision making (14.66%) and high level of decision making (13.33%).

It is concluded that majority of the women had full participation in labour management (76.00%), partial participation in selection of crops (36.66%) and no participation in ploughing (78.00%). In case of decision making, majority of the women had self decision in sowing (48.66%), decision with husband/father/relatives in weeding (66.66%) and no decision in processing activities (79.33%). In case of extent of participation and level of decision making, majority of the rural women had medium (68.66%) extent of participation and medium (72.00%) level of decision making in farm related activities.

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How to cite this article:

Vavilala Priyanka, Kalyan Ghadei and Bathini Srishailam. 2021. Participation and Decision Making Pattern of Women in Farm Related Activities in Rural Areas of Telangana. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci*. 10(03): 1604-1610.
doi: <https://doi.org/10.20546/ijcmas.2021.1003.201>