

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 7; SP-Issue 6; June 2024; Page No. 35-38

Received: 17-04-2024
Accepted: 21-05-2024

Indexed Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal

Role of rural women in income generation through animal husbandry

¹Ankita Pandey, ²YK Singh, ³DP Rai and ⁴Laxmi

¹Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Technology Transfer, MGCGVV, Chitrakoot, Satna, Madhya Pradesh, India

²Professor & Head of Department, Department of Technology Transfer, MGCGVV, Chitrakoot, Satna, Madhya Pradesh, India

³Professor & Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Technology Transfer, MGCGVV, Chitrakoot, Satna, Madhya Pradesh, India

⁴Scientist, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, RVSKVV, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, India

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2024.v7.i6Sa.685>

Corresponding Author: Ankita Pandey

Abstract

India is a major contributor in agriculture worldwide. Indian agriculture accounts for 17% of GDP and employs 60% of the workers. Madhya Pradesh (MP) has valuable livestock resources and livestock contributes significantly to the state's GDP. Most of the animal farming activities such as fodder collection, feeding, watering, and health care, management, milking and household-level processing value addition and marketing are performed by women. The data presents the frequency and percentage of participation in a certain activity across three levels, namely low, medium, and high. Out of the total 340 participants, 58 (17.05%) showed a low level of participation, 228 (67.05%) showed a medium level of participation, and 54 (15.90%) showed a high level of participation.

Keywords: Rural women, income generation, animal husbandry, role of women

Introduction

India is a major producer in agriculture worldwide. Indian agriculture accounts for 17% of GDP and employs 60% of the workers (Sundari 2020). Indian agriculture plays a crucial role in the country's economy, and within this sector, farm women have emerged as vital contributors. Farm Women play multifaceted roles, not only as family members assisting in agricultural tasks but also as independent decision-makers and entrepreneurs, heading their households and managing agricultural enterprises. Their contributions extend beyond the labour-intensive work in the fields to include post-harvest handling, value addition, and marketing. Farm women in India demonstrate resilience, resourcefulness, and a deep understanding of the agricultural landscape, making them invaluable assets in the sustainable development and growth of the Indian agricultural sector. Farm women in India actively participate in various agricultural activities, from sowing and harvesting to managing livestock and marketing produce.

India's economy relies heavily on its livestock industry. For small and marginal farmers in particular, the livestock and animal husbandry sectors are crucial to the rural economy. Livestock is the primary source of income in two thirds of rural areas. Furthermore, it employs around 8.8% of the Indian workforce. India has an abundance of cattle. 25.6% of the agricultural GDP is made up of the cattle sector, which also provides 4.11%.

Madhya Pradesh (MP) has valuable livestock resources and livestock contributes significantly to the state's GDP. Rural

women population in MP is nearly about 50% of the total rural population and thus numerically plays a pivotal role in the rural economy. Dewas district is situated in Malwa region of MP state. Dewas had a total population of 289,550 with 150,081 men and 139,469 women. There were 35,437 people in the 0 to 6 year old age range. 215,088 people in Dewas were literate overall, making up 74.3% of the population.

Women share a wide range of responsibilities and undertake a variety of tasks in running the dairy as a profession in rural regions, thus it is important to study their roles in animal husbandry methods and their engagement in decision-making. Additionally, their importance as a crucial player today cannot be understated. Rural women are crucial decision-makers when it comes to animal husbandry techniques. At the time that decisions about animal husbandry procedures were being made, their viewpoints and suggestions were also taken into consideration. Therefore, it was deemed worthwhile to research rural women's contributions to animal husbandry and their participation in decisions on animal husbandry techniques. The research investigated the animal husbandry preferences of women engaged in farming activities. Many developing nations have implemented initiatives aimed at providing assistance to women residing in rural areas.

Dairy farming empowers women as global demand for animal products develops. If gender discrimination and unfairness in livestock, veterinary related areas, research, and extension officials' employment attitudes change,

women-oriented livestock development programs will be more successful and impactful. The empowerment of women is contingent upon various factors such as decision-making abilities, access to information, self-confidence, financial and livestock services.

Materials and Methods

The Dewas district covers six discrete blocks, namely Bagli, Dewas, Kannod, Khategaon, Sonkatch, and Tonkkhurd, and encompasses a total of 495 village Panchayats. Bagli block comprises 117 Panchayats, while Dewas has 96, Kannod has 85, Khategaon has 72, Sonkatch has 66, and Tonkkhurd

has 59 Panchayats. The present study involves the selection of two blocks, namely Dewas and Sonkuchh.

a total of ten villages situated across two blocks were chosen as the focus of the investigation.

Measurement of variables

The existing literature and the advice of specialists in the field of extension were used to guide the choice of dependent and independent variables for the study. The study's variables and their corresponding empirical measurements are presented in Tables.

Table 1: Independent variables and measurement

	S. No.	Independent variables	Measurement	References
A: Socio-Economic variables	1	Age	Actual values	Thakare and Ingle (2007) ^[17]
	2	Education level	Gauge	
	3	Family Size	Gauge	
	4	Family Type	Gauge	
	5	Annual income	Gauge	
	6	Total number of milch animal	Actual values	
B: Communication variables	1	Information source utilization	Structured schedule	--
	2	Mass Media Exposure	Structured schedule	--
	3	Cosmopolitness	Scale	Bhaskaren (1976) & Trivedi (1963) ^[18]
C: Psychological variables	1	Knowledge about animal husbandry practices	Structured schedule	--
	2	Economic motivation	Scale	Supe (1969) ^[15]
	3	Scientific orientation	Scale	Supe Singh (1969) ^[16]

The Dependent Variables and Measurement

S. No	Dependent Variables	Measurement
1	Women's participation in Animal Husbandry Activities	Structured schedule
2	Women's participation in the decision making process in animal husbandry activities.	Structured schedule

Results and Discussion

The study on the "involvement of rural women in decision-making for income-enhancing animal husbandry activities in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh" is an important research topic that sheds light on the gender disparities prevalent in rural areas. The practice of animal husbandry serves as a crucial means of generating revenue for numerous rural households, with women playing a prominent role in these endeavours. However, the participation of people in decisions involving animal husbandry is typically limited, and this inquiry is crucial in understanding the underlying reasons for this phenomena. The research findings have underscored the necessity of advancing gender parity and female empowerment in rural regions to guarantee their comprehensive involvement in animal husbandry-related decision-making procedures. In rural areas, women are often relegated to traditional roles and are expected to conform to patriarchal norms. This restricts their ability to voice their opinions and make decisions related to animal husbandry activities.

Personal characteristics such as age, education, and marital status are analysed, as well as economic factors such as land

ownership, income level, and access to credit. Social factors such as caste, religion, and family structure are also considered. Communicational and psychological factors such as access to information and decision-making ability are also examined. The present study section centres on the degree of involvement exhibited by female farmers in decision-making procedures concerning agricultural pursuits. The study analyses the level of participation of women in decision-making processes related to crop selection, seed selection, fertilization, pest management, and marketing. The study also examines the role of women in decision-making related to livestock management, including animal health, breeding, and marketing. This section of the study analyses the decision-making pattern of farm women. The study examines the factors that influence women's decision-making ability, including family structure, cultural norms, and education level. The study also explores the decision-making process, including who makes the final decision and how decisions are made. Farm women's socio-economic, communicational, and psychological characteristic

Respondents distribution based on socioeconomic characteristics (n=340)

S. No	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	%	Mean	SD
1	Age, (years)	Young (< to 35)	93	27.35	1.65	0.904
		Medium (36 to 55)	192	56.47		
		Old (> to 55)	55	16.17		
2	Education Status	Illiterate	147	43.23	2.84	1.36
		Primary education	123	36.17		
		Middle education	44	12.94		
		Primary	4665 (23.0043)			
		Higher secondary education	18	5.29		
		UG Level	6	1.76		
3	Family Size, (no. of members)	PG Level	2	0.58	9.36	3.88
		Small (Up to 5)	87	25.58		
		Medium (6 to 10)	115	33.82		
4	Family type	Large (above 10)	138	40.58	1.65	0.48
		Nuclear	214	62.94		
5	Annual income	Joint	126	37.06	2.85	1.63
		Low	75	22.06		
		Medium	193	56.76		
6	Total number of milch animals	High	72	21.18	3.56	1.98
		Low (> 5)	95	27.94		
		Medium (5-10)	156	45.88		
		High (> 10)	89	26.17		

Respondents distribution based on communication characteristics (n=340)

S. No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	%	Mean	SD
1	Information source utilization	Low	186	54.7	0.98	0.80
		Medium	123	36.2		
		High	31	9.1		
2	Mass media exposure	Regularly	68	20.0	0.85	0.75
		Frequently	201	59.1		
		Never	71	20.9		
3	Cosmopolitaness	Low	191	56.2	16.54	4.61
		Medium	132	38.9		
		High	17	5.0		

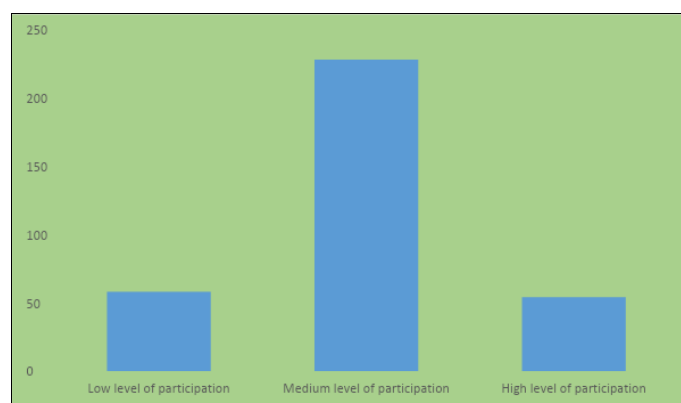
Level of participation of farm women in decision making regarding profit utilization

Studies have demonstrated that cultural and societal conventions, a lack of education, and a lack of knowledge of women's rights frequently have an impact on how involved women are in decision-making. Numerous studies have indicated that the participation of women in decision-making processes can enhance the welfare of the household, specifically with regards to the education, health, and nourishment of offspring. The participation of women in decision-making processes can lead to a rise in investment

in productive assets such as land and livestock, thereby enhancing household income and resilience. The research highlights the necessity of enhancing the participation of female farmers in the decision-making process concerning the allocation of farming-generated revenue.

Overall level of farm women's decision-making involvement with regard to practices of animal husbandry

The data presents the frequency and percentage of participation in a certain activity across three levels, namely low, medium, and high. Out of the total 340 participants, 58 (17.05%) showed a low level of participation, 228 (67.05%) showed a medium level of participation, and 54 (15.90%) showed a high level of participation. The data indicates that a significant proportion of the participants demonstrated a moderate level of engagement, with over two-thirds of the entire sample falling within this range. This suggests that most individuals tend to engage in activities to a moderate extent. The data also shows that a relatively smaller proportion of participants exhibited a low level of participation, indicating that a few individuals tend to be less engaged in activities.



Overall extent of participation

The research adopts a qualitative approach, using case studies and interviews with women farmers and key stakeholders in the animal husbandry sector.

Bottom-up women's empowerment entails individuals or organizations becoming increasingly aware of and able to challenge women's enslavement. Women are the better half of men and the foundation of every civilization, including India. Rural women, who make up 50% of the population, participate in all economic activities and contribute financially to the nation. The income-generating activities of women in farming encompass a range of tasks such as food preservation, processing and drying, marketing of dairy products, agricultural production, and improvement of livestock and poultry, among others. Economic suffrage for women may reduce poverty for all.

References

1. Bhaskaran C. A study of sociometric identification of opinion leaders and their characteristics in a progressive and non-progressive village in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu. [M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis]. Bangalore: University of Agricultural Sciences; c1976.
2. Bellurkar CM, Wakle PK, Gholve MA. A study on decision making pattern and participation of rural women in animal husbandry and dairying enterprise. *Maharashtra Journal of Extension Education*. 2003;22(3):81-85.
3. Bheemappa RA, Natikar KV, Biradar N, Mundinamani SM, Havaladar YN. Entrepreneurial characteristics and decision making behaviour of farm women in livestock production activities. *Karnataka Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. 2014;27(2):173-176.
4. Chauhan NM. Role performance of tribal farm women in agricultural and animal husbandry in Gujarat. *Karnataka Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. 2011;24(5):672-674.
5. Chauhan RK, Sharma RK, Yadav VK. Women's participation in livestock management practices and its impact on livestock productivity in Uttarakhand, India. *Indian Journal of Animal Research*. 2020;54(4):499-504.
6. Gade Y. Adoption of clean milk production practices by dairy farm women in Anand district. [M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis]. Anand: Anand Agricultural University; 2012.
7. Gautam S, Karki AB, Regmi PP. Women's participation in decision making on animal housing in livestock farming in Baglung district, Nepal. *Journal of Agriculture and Natural Resources*. 2020;3(2):162-170.
8. Jain M, Jain P. Role of women farmers in animal husbandry practices: A study of rural Rajasthan. *International Journal of Management, Technology, and Social Sciences (IJMTS)*. 2018;3(2):78-85.
9. Kavitha L, Reddy MS. Personal and socio-economic characteristics of farm women. *Journal of Research ANGRAU*. 2007;35(1):79-83.
10. Khokhar SR. A study on adoption of dairy innovations by dairy farm women in Anand district. [M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis]. Anand: Anand Agricultural University; 2007.
11. Kiran C, Bariya M, Kumbhani S. Role of farm women in decision making pattern towards animal husbandry practices. *Gujarat Journal of Extension Education*. 2021;32(2).
12. Kiran H, Raza SA, Akram W. Women's participation in dairy marketing activities in Pakistan: An empirical study. *Livestock Research for Rural Development*. 2016;28(4).
13. Kumar A. Farm women's knowledge and adoption of dairy practices in Junagadh District of Gujarat. [M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis]. Junagadh: Junagadh Agricultural University; 2008.
14. Kumar A, Kumar A. Women's decision-making autonomy in livestock management: A study of rural Uttar Pradesh, India. *Journal of Rural Studies*. 2019;70:17-25.
15. Supe SV. Factors related to different degrees of rationality in decision making among farmers. [Ph.D. Thesis]. New Delhi: Indian Agricultural Research Institute; c1969.
16. Supe SV, Singh SN. Economic motivation scale, risk preference scale and scientific orientation scale. In: Singh KN, Singh SN, Lokhande MR, editors. *Measurement in extension - research instruments developed at IARI (1963-1972)*. New Delhi: Indian Agricultural Research Institute; c1969.
17. Thakare UG, Ingle PO. Development and standardization of socio-economic status scale. *Indian Journal of Extension Education*. 2007;IV:8-16.
18. Trivedi G. Measurement of socio-economic status in rural farmer families. [Ph.D. Thesis]. New Delhi: Indian Agricultural Research Institute; c1963.