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Jyoti Vishwakarma

Research Scholar, Department of
Extension Education, College of
Agriculture, A.N.D.U.A & T.,
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, India

NR Meena

Assistant Professor, Department
of Extension Education, College
of Agriculture, A.N.D.U.A & T.,
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, India

Involvement of rural women in livestock management and decision making activities in Varanasi district (U.P.)

Jyoti Vishwakarma and NR Meena

Abstract

Rural women play a consequential role in agriculture and allied sectors. Women not only serve as a backbone in household chores but also show their significance in agricultural and livestock management activities. However, the involvement of women in decision making is inadequate and lagging behind. This study assessed the participation of women in livestock activities and decision making process. 120 women who were residents of rural area of Varanasi district were selected using random sampling technique. Collection of Data was done with the help of a structured schedule. Data was analyzed using mean, percentage and Garrett ranking technique. Results indicated participation was highest in making milk products and least in marketing and vaccination in livestock activities. Majority of the decision taken were joint decisions and independent decisions were limited.

Keywords: Rural women, livestock management, decision making activities

Introduction

The growth and prosperity of a nation depends on the position and development of its women, as they not only constitute nearly half of its population but also positively influence the growth and development of remaining half of the population. Without the total intellectual and physical participation of women, it is not possible to popularize alternative systems of land management to shifting cultivation, arrest gene and soil erosion, and promote the care of the soil and the health of economic plants and farm animals (Prasad & Singh, 1999) [6]. Rural women essentially contribute to the agricultural economies in all developing countries. Apart from participation in actual cultivation, women participate in various forms of processing and marketing of agricultural produce (Agarwal, 2003) [1].

Rural women manages various works including production of agricultural crops, nursing of animals, preparation and processing of food, working for wages in different enterprises, collection of water, marketing of products, care for family members along with all household chores. Among livestock activities rural women participate regularly in cleaning of animal sheds, preparing milk products, gathering dung, selling milk and milk products, egg collection, selling eggs and poultry (Mulugeta and Amsalu, 2014) [5].

The participation of female in decision-making process is an important segment of each and every household. Various characteristics of farm women such as education, social participation, extension contact, land holding, annual income, cosmopolitaness, scientific orientation, risk orientation and economic motivation had positive and significant influence on the participation of farm women in decision making process in relation to agriculture activities (Gondaliya and Patel, 2012).

Decision making refers to integration and morality of the senses of farm women involved to select best potential alternative from various alternative option availed in a proper direction in relation to agriculture activities, where women's high involvement in necessary (Gondaliya and Patel, 2012).

Material and Methods

Emphasizing on the significance of farm women in agriculture and allied sector, this study was conducted in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh., For the study, two villages from two blocks each respondents for the purpose of this by using interview schedule. All the respondents were farm women.

Corresponding Author:**Jyoti Vishwakarma**

Research Scholar, Department of
Extension Education, College of
Agriculture, A.N.D.U.A & T.,
Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, India

Block	Village	Women Respondents
Harhua	Chandapur	30
	Daniyalpur	30
Chirai Gaon	Dinapur	30
	Jhalupur	30

The responses for participation of women in livestock management were recorded and converted to quantitative scores with the help of Garrett Ranking Technique. Ranks were assigned for the involvement in the activity from the respondents' point of view using this technique. Garrett formula for conversion of ranks into percent is:

$$\text{Percent Position} = 100 \times (R_{ij} - 0.5) / N_j$$

Where,

R_{ij} = Rank given for i^{th} activity by j^{th} individual

N_j = Number of activity ranked by j^{th} individual

Results and Discussion

1. Participation in Livestock Activities

Table 1.1: Distribution of respondents according to their participation in livestock activities

Sl. No	Activities	Participation			Weighted mean
		Consistently 2	Sometimes 1	Never 0	
1	Cleaning of animals and sheds	71 (59.2%)	40 (33.3%)	9 (7.5%)	1.52
2	Feeding	88 (73.3%)	26 (21.7%)	6 (5.0%)	1.68
3	Watering	81 (67.5%)	33 (27.5%)	6 (5.0%)	1.63
4	Milking	56 (46.7%)	56 (46.7%)	8 (6.6%)	1.40
5	Vaccination	6 (5.0%)	13 (10.8%)	101 (84.2%)	0.21
6	Making Milk Products	96 (80.0%)	16 (13.3%)	8 (6.7%)	1.73
7	Marketing of Milk Products	11 (9.2%)	17 (14.2%)	92 (76.6%)	0.33
8	Marketing of Live Animals	19 (15.8%)	25 (20.8%)	76 (63.4%)	0.53

Table 1 shows that in case of cleaning of animals and sheds, majority of (59.2%) farm women consistently participated in the activity, 33.3 per cent farm women sometimes participated in cleaning of animals and sheds and 7.5 per cent of farm women never participated in cleaning of animals and sheds. Majority of (73.3%) farm women consistently participated in feeding activity, 21.7 per cent farm women sometimes

participated in feeding and 5.0 per cent of farm women never participated in feeding.

In case of watering the animals, maximum number of (67.5%) farm women consistently participated in the activity, 27.5 per cent farm women sometimes participated in watering and 5.0 per cent of farm women never participated in watering.

For the activity of milking the animals, 46.7 percent farm women consistently participated in the activity, 46.5 per cent farm women sometimes participated in milking and 6.6 per cent of farm women never participated in milking.

In case of vaccination, majority of (84.2%) farm women never participated in the activity, 10.8 per cent farm women sometimes participated in vaccination, and 5.0 per cent of farm women consistently participated in vaccination.

For making milk products, maximum number of (80.0%) farm women consistently participated in the activity, 13.3 per cent farm women sometimes participated in making milk products and 6.7 per cent of farm women never participated in making milk products.

Majority of (76.6%) farm women never participated in marketing of milk products, 14.2 per cent farm women sometimes participated in marketing of milk products, and 9.2 per cent of farm women consistently participated in marketing of milk products.

Maximum number of (63.4%) farm women never participated in marketing of live animals, 20.8 per cent farm women sometimes participated in marketing of live animals, and 15.8 per cent of farm women consistently participated in marketing of live animals.

The findings of present study are similar to findings of Zahoor *et al.* (2013) [7] that rural women of the area has maximum participation in activities as watering, milking and cleaning animals and have minimum participation in marketing the lives animals and vaccination of sick animals.

Table 1.2: Percent Positions and corresponding Garrett Table Value

Rank	Percent Position [100(R-0.5)/8]	Garrett Value
1	100(1-0.5)/8	6.25
2	100(2-0.5)/8	18.75
3	100(3-0.5)/8	31.25
4	100(4-0.5)/8	43.75
5	100(5-0.5)/8	56.25
6	100(6-0.5)/8	68.75
7	100(7-0.5)/8	81.25
8	100(8-0.5)/8	93.75

Table 1.2 shows the conversion of ranks into percent position and Garrett value associated with specific percent position values.

Table 1.3: Garrett Ranking of participation of farm women in livestock management

Sl. No.	Factors	Total Score	Mean Score	Garrett Rank
1	Cleaning of animals and sheds	7250	72.50	IV
2	Feeding	7900	79.00	II
3	Watering	7659	76.59	III
4	Milking	6817	68.17	V
5	Vaccination	3801	38.01	VIII
6	Making Milk Products	8034	80.34	I
7	Marketing of Milk Products	4086	40.86	VII
8	Marketing of Live Animals	5104	51.04	VI

Table 1.3 shows that participation of farm women was highest in making milk products (mean score 80.34), followed by feeding (mean score 79.00), watering (mean score 76.59), cleaning of animals and sheds (mean score 72.50), milking

(mean score 68.17), marketing of live animals (mean score 51.04), marketing of milk products (mean score 40.86) and vaccination (mean score 38.01).

2. Participation in Decision Making

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their participation in decision making

Sl. No	Activities	Independent Decision	Joint Decision	No Decision
1	Selection of varieties	6 (5.0%)	80 (66.7%)	34 (28.3%)
2	Type of fertilizers and chemicals	7 (5.8%)	76 (63.4%)	37 (30.8%)
3	Purchase of farm machineries	5 (4.2%)	77 (64.2%)	38 (31.6%)
4	Purchase and sale of livestock	10 (8.3%)	79 (65.9%)	31 (25.8%)
5	Making of value added products	90 (75.0%)	28 (23.3%)	2 (1.7%)
6	Borrowing money for farm activities	7 (5.8%)	81 (67.5%)	32 (26.7%)
7	Giving loan to others	13 (10.8%)	69 (57.5%)	38 (31.7%)
8	Marketing of farm produce	6 (5.0%)	78 (64.5%)	36 (29.8%)

Table 2 indicates that maximum number of farm women (66.7%) took joint decision regarding selection of varieties followed by 28.3 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 5.0 per cent farm women took decision independently.

In case of taking decisions regarding type of fertilizers and chemicals, majority of farm women (63.4%) took joint decision followed by 30.8 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 5.8 per cent farm women took decision independently.

Majority of farm women (64.2%) took joint decision about purchase of farm machineries followed by 31.6 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 4.2 per cent farm women took decision independently.

Maximum number of farm women (65.9%) took joint decision in the case of purchase and sale of livestock followed by 25.8 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 8.3 per cent farm women took decision independently.

Regarding decisions about making of value added products, majority of farm women (75.0%) took decision independently followed by 23.3 per cent farm women who took joint decision and 1.7 per cent farm women did not take any decision.

In case of taking decisions about borrowing money for farm activities, majority of farm women (67.5%) took joint decision followed by 26.7 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 5.8 per cent farm women took decision independently.

Majority of farm women (57.5%) took joint decision about giving loan to others followed by 31.7 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 10.8 per cent farm women took decision independently.

Maximum number of farm women (65.0%) took joint decision in case of marketing of farm produce followed by 30.0 per cent farm women who did not take any decision and 5.0 per cent farm women took decision independently.

The findings of present study are similar to findings of Cherian and Vats (2001)^[2] that majority of the women made joint decisions.

Conclusion

For the purpose of this study, 120 farm women were selected as respondents. Participation of farm women was highest in making milk products, followed by feeding, watering, cleaning of animals and sheds, milking, marketing of live

animals, marketing of milk products and vaccination. Highest participation in making milk products could be due to the factor that cooking is traditionally done by women in our culture. Due to lack of mobility, farm women have less participation in marketing. Thus, they participate in all the activities performed in house, such as feeding, watering, cleaning of animals and sheds and milking of animals.

The data of study revealed that farm women have participated in decision making process in all activities up to some extent. Majority of respondents had taken joint decision in all the activities except making milk products where maximum number of respondents has taken independent decision. Respondents were lagging behind in independent decision making.

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