

Influencing Factors for Involvement of Rural Women in Agriculture and Allied Sectors - Micro Study in Bihar

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Abstract

More than 60% of the population works in agriculture, which is the economic backbone of India. About half of the population is women, and in developing nations like India, their contributions are vital. Prior to improving the status of women, a nation cannot prosper. The majority of households in rural areas of the nation have no other source of income; 70% of these households are dependent on agriculture and sectors that are related to it. In rural India, women play a crucial role. Their effects can be seen throughout the entire agricultural sector, including crop growing, the production of fruits and vegetables, and other associated operations. Caste, education, annual income, housing type, type of land ownership, and interactions with extension workers were shown to be positively significant at the 1% level of agriculture involvement, whereas age was found to be adversely significant at the 5% level. The data showed that the top three restrictions on the farm women's experimentation were found to be a lack of money, a lack of land ownership, and a lack of education.

Keywords - Rural women, agriculture, influencing factors

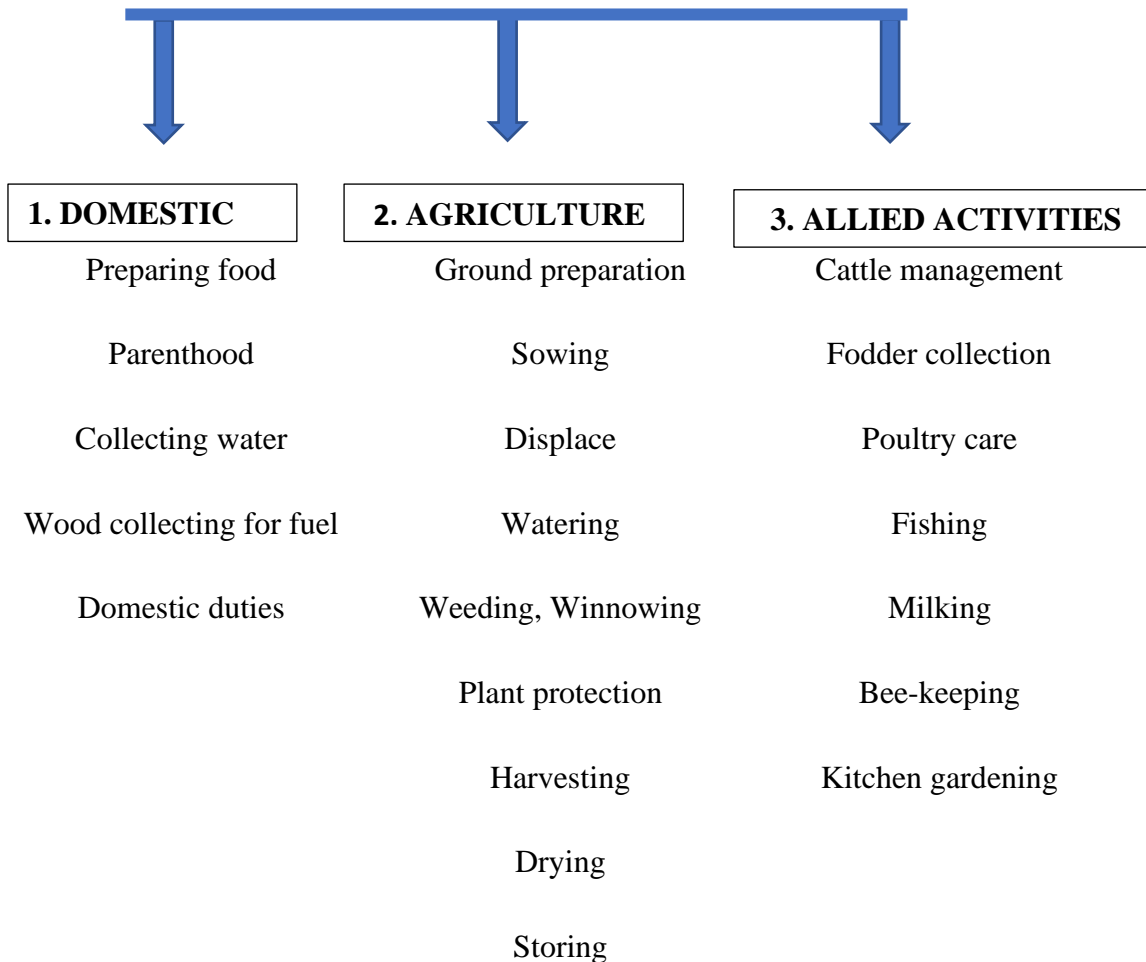
Introduction-

Not only in Bihar but also across the entire nation, agriculture is the foundation of the economy. The state and the entire nation are currently dealing with challenging circumstances that include changing environmental conditions, a lack of human labour, increasing food production goals, greater farmer revenue, timely agricultural operations, and the economic viability of farm mechanization. Livestock is the main source of income, and it is used to both increase agricultural income and meet the food needs of the household. Selling milk and animals helps women in rural regions boost their income. The majority of cattle management duties are carried out by women, like- leaning of animal and sheds, watering of cattle, milking the animals, Fodder collection, making dung cakes, manure collection in the farmyard. As per survey report only 13.31 percent women ever having land own their name as against 87.27 percent of men in Bihar. Share of women agricultural workforce in total agricultural workforce was estimated to be 19.32 per cent as per census 2011.

Women in South Asia preserve rural culture. Their responsibilities include animal husbandry, crop enhancement (threshing, husking, drying, grinding, and storing goods), and post-harvest activities such as

seeding, transplanting, weeding, and harvesting. Men labour for 8.21 hours in rural Nepal, compared to 12.07 hours for women (Picchioni *et al.* 2020).

Role of women in society



Methodology–

The study was carried out in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar. Muzaffarpur district was selected randomly for the study. Out of 38 blocks in Muzaffarpur district, sakra block was selected for the study and Saraiya and Jagdishpur Baghnagri villages was selected for the study. Sixty from Saraiya and 60 from Jagdishpur Baghnagri, total sampling size was 120 selected randomly in research area.

Results and Discussion

The data in table no.1 narrates the relationship between the participation of farm women in agriculture and allied activities like kitchen gardening, poultry, dairy, and others off- farm activities.

Table No. 1. Relationship between the participation of women in agriculture and independent variables –

Sl.no.	Factors	Pearson Correlation(r)
1	Age	-.187*
2	Caste	.442**
3	Religion	.025
4	Marital status	.071
5	Education	.805**
6	Family size	-.001
7	Family type	.110
8	Annual income	.626**
9	Housing type	.567**
10	Household headship	.068
11	Landholding type	.512**
12	Extension contacts	.612**

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Age: Age was negatively and significantly related to the participation of women in agriculture activity in the research area. It signifies that increase in age, their participation in agriculture decreases.

Caste: Caste was significantly (0.01 level) related to the participation of women in agriculture. This depicts that caste is an important factor for getting women involved in agriculture activity. This may also be inferred the village was dominated by Hindus.

Religion-Religion was non-significant with the role of women in agriculture and it maybe inferred that religion doesn't matter for participation.

Marital status- The marital status of the respondents was significantly correlated with the role of women in agriculture. It means whether women are married or unmarried may not have any importance in determining the role /participation of women in agriculture. It all depends on other factors.

Education- It is inferred from the table that education was positively and significantly related with the role of women in agriculture. It means role/participation increases with education. This is commonly perceived as more education is more knowledge in farming activity for income and livelihood.

Family size- Family size was negatively and non-significantly related to the role of women.

Annual income -Income of the farm women was positively and significantly related with enhanced role of women in agriculture. It is also clear that to increase their income, women try to diversify their activities more & more.

Housing type-It is somehow related to income, so it is positively and significantly corelated with role of women.

Household – Household headship was not significantly related to the participation of women in agriculture, which means household headship does not have an impact on women’s participation in agriculture.

Land holding type – According to the finding, land holding type was significantly related to women’s participation in agriculture, which means that the more land holding type, the more participation of women in agriculture.

Extension contacts -Extension contact was positively and significantly co-related with the participation of women in agriculture.

The finding table no.2 explains the relationship between the participation of women in decision -making process and various independent variables.

Table no.2 Relationship between decision making and independent variables

Sl.No.	Factors	Pearson Correlation(r)
1	Age	.091
2	Caste	.446**
3	Religion	.162
4	Marital status	-.011
5	Education	.476**
6	Family size	.033
7	Family type	.071
8	Annual income	.671**
9	Housing type	.496**
10	Household headship	.170
11	Landholding type	.668**
12	Extension contacts	.542**

*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

DISCUSSION FORM

Age -Age of the respondents was non-significantly correlated to the decision-making process of women, which can be assumed that the age of respondents had no influence on their decision-making process.

Caste – Caste of the respondents was positively and significantly correlated with the decision-making process of women, from which it can be inferred that most of the farm women respondents from higher caste participated in the process of decision- making.

Religion -Religion was non significantly related to the process of decision making in agriculture and it may be inferred that religion does not matter for decision- making.

Marital status- The marital status of the respondents was negatively and non-significantly correlated with the process of decision making in the role of agriculture participation. it means marital status may not have any importance in the process of decision -making.

Education -It is inferred from the table that education was positively and significantly related to decision making in agriculture. It means decision- making power increased with more education. Education has a role in farming activity for income and livelihood.

Family size- Family size is positively and non-significantly related to decision- making process of farm women in the participation of agriculture.

Annual income- Income of the farm women was positively and significantly related to enhanced decision making in agriculture. It can be perceived that the women from higher income group participated more in decision making process.

Housing type-It is somehow related to income, positively and significantly correlated with decision making processes,Pucca house symbolised better income.

Household headship- Household headship was not significantly related with to the decision making process of women in agriculture, which means household headship does not have an impact on women's decision making.

Land holding type –According to the findings, land holding type was positively and significantly related to women's decision making in agriculture, which depicts that the land holding type will influence the decision making of women in agriculture. More land, more income, and more good decisions.

Extension contacts- extension contact was positively and significantly correlated to women's agricultural decision-making process.

Conclusion

It was discovered that yearly income, home type, land holding type, and extension participation contacts were positively significant at the 1% level in agricultural involvement, but age was negatively significant at the 5% level.

It was found that caste, education, annual income, housing type, land holding type, and education contacts were positively significant at the 1% level.

Reference:

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