



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695

ISSN (P): 2349-8242

NAAS Rating: 5.03

TPI 2020; 9(6): 549-552

© 2020 TPI

www.thepharmajournal.com

Received: 21-04-2020

Accepted: 22-05-2020

Rashmi Rekha Kalita

Research Scholar,

Department of Extension &
Communication Management,
College of Community Science,
Assam Agricultural University,
Jorhat, Assam, India

Role of rural women in farm and nonfarm activities

Rashmi Rekha Kalita

Abstract

Food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs of the people. Agriculture play is an important role to provide the food of an individual. That means agriculture helps to fulfillment of one of the basic needs of the people. It provides an economy for the economic upliftment of the society or nation. For the agricultural development not only men are involved but also women are equally involved in the agricultural activities. In the past period of time, men were only involved in the farm or agricultural activities. Women were always worked in the inside house. But in the present period of time, women break these traditional rules. Over the years, there is a gradually increasing the key role of women in agricultural development and allied sectors such as their vital contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, processing, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries etc. So in this paper we discussed the role of women in farm and nonfarm activities. The result of the study indicated that majority of the respondents belong to lower middle age group and most of them belong to schedule caste. Majority of the respondents educated up to high school level. Maximum numbers of respondents belong to nuclear family and had up to four members in their family. Data also revealed that majority of the respondents always involved in transplanting followed by harvesting and winnowing. Minimum involvements of the respondents were found in land preparation and nursery rising. In case of involvement of women in non-farm activities revealed that maximum numbers of women were involved in cooking followed by weaving and Care of children/elders.

Keywords: Rural women, farming, development, agriculture and economy

Introduction

Women are the backbone of agricultural workforce because they perform more than 80.00 percent of farm activities (Sundhesha *et al.* 2018). Agriculture is the basic source of subsistence for man over thousands of years. It provides a livelihood to half of the world population even today. Women's work in agriculture has become more visible over the last few decades as women farmers become more involved in agricultural activities. Even cultural anthropological literature suggests that agriculture is invention of women is gradually increases. Rural woman are extensively involved in agricultural activities. The nature and extent of their involvement differs with the variations in agro-production systems. The mode of female participation in agricultural production varies with the land-owning status of farm household. Their roles range from managers to landless labourers (Mohanta.R, 2017). Women are doing almost all the agricultural work starting from sowing of seeds to harvesting and processing the agricultural produce. Despite their dominance of the labour force, women in India still face extreme disadvantage in terms of pay, land rights and representation in local farmer's organizations. Furthermore their lack of empowerment often results in negative externalities such as lower educational attainment for their children and poor familial health.

In the present period of time, women are aware of their needs and also they try to break down the traditional role. They try to stand as independent women in the society. Gradually women participation is increases in the all field. They play as a multiple role not in the inside of the household work but also they work in the outside the house. They play active participation in the development of the society or the nation. So, women empowered are gradually increases.

In case of rural women, maximum numbers of rural women are equally involved in farming. They are work as a helping hand with co-partner and also they work as an economically empowered to the society. They involved in the both farm and nonfarm activities.

The development of any country is largely depends upon the people's involvement in different field mainly in agricultural sector. But our society sometime dominated and low pay to the women depending their work labour. Under the circumstances, this study has been undertaken to explore the role of rural women in farm and nonfarm activities with the following specific objectives.

Corresponding Author:

Rashmi Rekha Kalita

Research Scholar,

Department of Extension &
Communication Management,
College of Community Science,
Assam Agricultural University,
Jorhat, Assam, India

Objectives

1. To study the existing socio-economic status of the rural women.
2. To explore the involvement of rural women in different farm and nonfarm activities.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Majuli district of Assam. A multi stage purposive cum simple random sampling method was followed for the present study. Majuli district consist of two blocks namely Majuli development block and Ujanimajuli development block. For this study both blocks were selected. From each block six villages were selected randomly. Thus 12 villages were selected for carrying out the study. From each selected village 10 rural women were selected randomly. Altogether 120 numbers of rural women were selected for the present research study. Structured interview schedule was selected as a research tool and data was collected personally by the researcher.

Socio-economic status of rural women was measured by the use of socio-economic scale developed by (Trivedi, 1963) with slight modification. On the basis of score obtained by the rural women they were categorized into the three categories such as low rank with score range below $(X - Sd)$, medium rank with $(X - Sd)$ to $(X + Sd)$ and high rank with above $(X + Sd)$. Statistical method was used to calculating the score frequency and percentage.

Result and Discussion

Socio-Economic Status of the Rural Women

From the Table1, it is revealed that 54.17 per cent of the respondents belonged to middle age group (32-45 years) and

76.67 per cent respondents were married. Most of the respondents (46.67%) belonged to Schedule Caste (SC). 48.33 per cent respondents had farming as their main occupation and majority (78.00%) of them were marginal land holding farmers. Most of the respondents (91.66%) belonged to nuclear families and very few per cent of the respondents belong to joint families. As far as family size is concerned 69.17 per cent of the respondents had small family followed by medium and large family size. In case of education, majority of the respondents (45.83%) had formal education up to high school level followed by middle school level and higher secondary level. The table revealed that majority (40.83%) of the respondents had no membership of any organization. Followed by 29.17 per cent were member of one organization and almost similar (30%) were member of more than one organization. More than half (51.67) percentage of the respondents lived in mixed type of house followed by katcha and pucca type of house. Material possession referred to the household equipment possessed by the families of the rural women used to perform various household activities. A large numbers of respondents (70.83%) had medium level of material possession and very few had low and high level of material possession. Rural women's exposure to mass media revealed that majority (47.50%) of the respondents were regularly watching television, reading newspaper and magazines and listen agricultural programme on radio. For getting knowledge and motivation for adoption of new idea maximum per cent (51.67%) of the respondents had sometimes contact with village level extension worker, KVK personnel and Non-Government Organization (NGO). The findings of the study are also in tune with the findings of Gogoi (2017) [9] and Thungon (2015) [18].

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic status of the rural women

S. N.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency(f)	Percentage (%)
1.	Age	Young (18-31)	20	16.67
		Lower Middle (32-45)	65	54.17
		Upper Middle(46-59)	35	29.16
2.	Marital status	Unmarried	15	12.50
		Married	92	76.67
		Widow	13	10.83
3.	Caste	ST/SC	56	46.67
		OBC	35	29.16
		General	29	24.17
4.	Occupation of the head of the family	Farming	58	48.33
		Daily wage earner	25	20.83
		Business	27	22.50
		Service	10	8.34
5.	Family type	Nuclear	110	91.66
		Joint	10	8.34
6.	Family size	Small(up to 4 members)	83	69.17
		Medium (5-8 members)	28	23.33
		Large (above 8 members)	9	7.50
7.	Education	Middle school level	38	31.67
		High school level	55	45.83
		Higher secondary level	27	22.50
8.	Organizational membership	No membership	49	40.83
		Member of one organization	35	29.17
		Member of more than one organization	36	30
9.	Type of house	Katcha	28	23.33
		Mixed	62	51.67
		Pucca	30	25.00
10.	Material possession	Low	13	11.39
		Medium	92	76.11
		High	15	12.50
11.	Mass media exposure	Regularly	57	47.50

		Sometimes	47	39.16
		Never	16	13.33
12.	Extension contact	Always	23	19.17
		Sometimes	62	51.67
		Never	35	29.66

The Involvement of Rural Women in Farm and Non-farm Activities

It is evident from the table 2, cent percent of the rural women always involved in farm activities such as transplanting, harvesting and winnowing followed by weeding (79.16%), care and maintenance of cattle (79.16%), care and maintenance of poultry (53.33%), cleaning of cattle shed (48.33%), cleaning of poultry shed (45.83%), marketing of farm produce (35.83%), storage of grain (20.83%), land preparation (4.17%) and nursery raising (3.33%) respectively.

Table further revealed that a large percentage of rural women never involved in farm activities such as applying insecticides (89.17%) followed by land preparation (87.50%), irrigation or water management (79.17%), applying manure and fertilizer (41.67%), cleaning of poultry shed, Cleaning of cattle shed and weeding are in 16.67 per cent respectively.

It can be further seen from the table that rural women were always actively participated in different non-farm activities such as Care of children/elders (100%) followed by Cooking (91.67%), weaving (79.17%), Maintenance of the house (66.67%), Collection of fuel wood (16.67%), Food processing (8.33%) and Preservation of fruits and vegetables both are in 8.33 per cent respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to the involvement of rural women in farm and non-farm activities, N=120

S. N.	Items of Operation	Always (%)	Sometimes (%)	Never (%)
Farm Activities				
1	Land preparation	4.17	8.33	87.50
2	Applying manure and fertilizer	-	58.33	41.67
3	Nursery raising	3.33	62.50	35.00
4	Transplanting	100	-	-
5	Applying insecticides	-	10.83	89.17
6	Weeding	79.16	4.17	16.67
7	Irrigation or water management	-	20.83	79.17
8	Harvesting	100	-	-
9	Winnowing	100	-	-
10	Storage of grain	20.83	25.00	54.17
11	Care and maintenance of poultry	53.33	25.00	21.67
12	Cleaning of poultry shed	45.83	37.50	16.67
13	Care and maintenance of cattle	79.17	20.83	-
14	Cleaning of cattle shed	48.33	35.00	16.67
15	Marketing of farm produce	35.83	52.50	11.67
Non-farm activities				
1.	Food processing	8.33	65.00	26.67
2.	Cooking	91.67	8.33	-
3.	Fetching of water	8.33	51.67	40.00
4.	Care of children/elders	100	-	-
5.	Maintenance of the house	66.67	29.16	4.17
6.	Weaving	79.17	16.66	4.17
7.	Preservation of fruits and vegetables	8.33	62.50	29.17
8.	Collection of fuel wood	16.67	43.33	40.00

Conclusion

Agriculture is the major contribution to provide livelihood to the society or nation. Based on this view, this study was entitled "Role of Rural Women in Farm and Nonfarm activities" because rural women are the major contributors in agriculture and its allied fields. It is evident that their work ranges from crop production, livestock production to cottage industry. From household work such as family maintenance activities to transporting water, fuel and fodder. Despite such a huge involvement in the society, but they were faced lot of problems in the society. Women's are not equally empowered till now like as man. Women's involvement in multiple home-based economic activities leads to under remuneration for their work. The nature and sphere of women's productivity in the labor market is largely determined by socio-cultural and economic factors. It can be concluded that the rural women are exploited by the family for their personal good and enrichment. In this regard Women who act as invisible labourers have to be given equal importance in rights, wages and decision making. Priority must be given to women in accessing credit on soft terms from banks. More facilities should be provided to poor rural women for land, agricultural and livestock extension services. Government must formulate policies to enhance their skills and their work should be counted in economic indicators. All these actions will bring some changes in the status of women in the society.

Reference

- Anonymous. Annual Report on Data Base on rural women. All India Coordinated Research Project in Home Science (AICRP), Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam (India), 2001.
- Arunachalam R. Involvement of women in farm activities. Indian farm. 2006; 56(4):4-6.
- Anríquez, G. Demystifying the Agricultural Feminization Myth and the Gender Burden. Background paper prepared for The State of Food and Agriculture, 2010.
- Borkakoty J. A study on the involvement of women in agricultural and allied operations: A case study in Golaghat district, Assam, India. International Journal of Basic Social Science. 2013; 2(2):139-144.
- Chowdhury N, Rashid MHA, Ahmed S, Sultana A. Participation of rural women in farm and nonfarm activities: an economic analysis in Bangladesh, Progress Agriculture. 2009; 20(1-2):245-251.
- Ekatpure MS, Kale TM, Bodake DH, Antwal NP. Study of the participation of farm women in production of vermicompost, Maharashtra. Hind Agricultural Research and Training Institute. 2011; 6(1):14-16.
- Farid KS, Mozumdar L, Kabir MS, Goswami UK. Nature and Extent of Rural Women's Participation in Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Activities, Agricultural Science Digest. 2009; 25:4.
- Gwivaha AF. Factors that impact agricultural extension training programs for smallholder women farmers in Njombe District, Tanzania (Master of Science thesis). Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, 2015.
- Gogoi P. Capacity building of rural women in home stead

- garden for sustainable Horticultural Development. PhD. Thesis, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam, 2017.
10. Jangid KM, Khan MI, Singh S. Constraints faced by the organic and conventional farmers in adoption of organic farming practices, Jaipur. *Indian Research Journal of Extension Education*. 2012; 2:28-32.
 11. Kaur J, Kalra KR. Reactions and problems of the farmers regarding organic farming in Punjab. *Agriculture: Towards a New Paradigm of Sustainability*, 2010, 192-199.
 12. Kar S, Bandyopadhyay AK, Lahiri B. Participation of rural women in agriculture and allied activities in some selected villages of Midnapore district of West Bengal. *Journal of Interacademia*. 2002; 400-405.
 13. Md. Elias Hossain, Shefa Zebun, Md. Khairul Islam. Participation of Rrual Women in farm and Non-farm Activities in Bangladesh: A Logistic Regression Analysis. *Journal of Economics and Development Studies*, 2013, 02-10.
 14. Ritu J. Women involvement in farm and home activities: a role analysis. Department of Family Resource Management C.S.A. University of Agriculture and Technology. Kanpur, India, 2004
 15. Saikia P, Das DM, Deka BM. Status of farm women of Assam as clientele of the agricultural extension services. *International Journal of Home Science Extension and Communication Management*. 2017; 4(1):15-22.
 16. Kada R, Kada Y. *The Changing Role of Women in Japanese Agriculture: The Impact of New Rice Technology Women's Employment, Women in Rice Farming*, IRRI, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines, 1985.
 17. Suman M. Role of women in household activities and sustainable development. National Conference on Extension Education for sustainable development at Mumbai, 1998, 118.
 18. Thungon DY. Involvement of farm women of west Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in cultivation of vegetable crops. PhD. Thesis, Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam, 2015.
 19. Trivedi G. Measurement and analysis of socioeconomic status of rural families, Ph.D. Thesis, Division of Agricultural Extension, I.A.R.I., New Delhi, India, 1963.