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Participation of Self Help Group (SHG) members in agriculture and allied activities

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Abstract

The present study conducted in two talukas viz. Parbhani and Selu were selected Purposively from Parbhani District and Three villages from each taluka were selected purposively, from each village ten respondents were selected. The study "Participation of Self-help group members in agriculture and allied activities" conducted namely Wadgao, Pimpalgao, Pedgao, Rawalgao, Dhanegao, Rawalgao, Kundi. The constituting total sample size is 120 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview method with the help of structured interview schedule. The data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted. Distribution of respondents according to on the basis of performance of women SHG in agriculture and allied activities. The Ex-Post-Facto research design was used for the research study.

Keywords: Self Help Group (SHG) members, participation, agriculture and allied activities

Introduction

Women in India are the backbone of the society and important resource in agriculture and rural economy. They make essential contributions to the agricultural development, allied household activities and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. These activities include producing agricultural crop, cleaning animals, preparing food, working in rural enterprises, engaging in trade and marketing, caring family members and maintaining their homes. In India according to 2001 census, female population is 48.27 per cent of total population, out of which 72.72 per cent come from rural areas [2]. Although, the legal and constitutional provisions for equal status, they have been traditionally put in a weak position in Indian society and have a subordinate role to play. In spite of this fact, women share most of the family responsibilities and perform wide range of duties on farm and home [9]. India is a developing country. Nearly, 70% of population in India depend as well as involved in farming and other allied activity and 75% of the women in developing countries are occupied in farming [5]. It creates employment opportunity to women in turn that brings many households resource under women control leading to greater earnings in the family. The Self Help Group (SHG) acts as a strong cohesive force for bringing about socioeconomic development of weaker section of the community. Self Help Group (SHG) means the use of one's own efforts and resources to achieve things. The basic objectives of SHG is to develop the saving capacity among the poorest sections of the society which in turn reduces dependence on financial institutions and develop self reliance, develop self-confidence, social and economic empowerment among woman members [3]. SHG is homogeneous affinity groups with common objective of enhancing their economic conditions. Theorists view SHG as the homogeneous group of poor village people formed with at least 5 members. In reality, the SHG groups comprise of 12-20 members of nearly same economic conditions and aspirations. This is not based on strict rules, even though rules are framed for the smooth conduct of SHG meetings and the routine money regular. The credit is provided for both consumption and other productive purposes.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in Marathwada region of Maharashtra State during the year 2019-20. The Maharashtra state is divided into 6 districts with two regions. Among this Marathwada region was selected for present study. The present investigation was carried out in Marathwada region comprise of out of 8 districts. Out of 8 districts for the present study one district is selected randomly, i.e. Parbhani. In Parbhani district comprise of 9 talukas, out of which two talukas selected purposively i.e. Parbhani and Selu. In selected talukas three villages were purposively selected, thus total six villages were selected for the present investigation. From each selected village, ten (10) Self Help Group members were selected purposively.

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That members who are involved in agriculture and allied activities was selected as a respondent. Thus, 120 (Total $10 \times 12 = 120$) total respondents for the present study. The constraint in the present study was operationalized as any condition or factor, which might hinder or restrict the use of it. The data were collected by using a well-structured interview schedule technique. The data collected were coded, compiled and analyzed using frequencies, percentages and rank.

Results and discussion

Activity wise participation of SHG members were worked out and presented in Table 1, 2 and 3. SHG women members were participated in various agricultural activities. The mean percent scores and ranks of various agricultural activities by

SHG women presented in Table 1.

The data reveals that majority of respondents were participated in various agricultural activities having mean percent scores 86.67, 85.83, 82.08, 52.50, 49.16, 37.50 and 25.83 in winnowing, weeding and intercultural activities, seed sowing, spreading of FYM in field, application of insecticides, irrigation and purchasing of farm inputs respectively stood rank I. Similarly maximum number of respondents had participated in agricultural practices such as storage practice having (MPS 85.00), application of manures and fertilizers (MPS 74.16), identification of crop pests (MPS 47.5), preparation of irrigation channel (36.25), preparation of bunds (MPS 33.75), application of Weedicides (MPS 29.16) and labour management (MPS 22.92). These activities were having rank II.

Table 1: Participation of SHG members showing Mean Percent Scores and Ranks in various agricultural activities.

Sr. No.	Agricultural activities	MPS	Rank	Overall MPS	Overall Rank
A)	Tillage operation				
	Land ploughing	12.09	IV		
	Land levelling	15.83	III	28.54	IV
	Preparation of Bunds	33.75	II		
	Spreading of FYM in field	52.5	I		
B)	Sowing Operations				
	Selection of seed	60.42	IV		
	Seed Treatment	66.67	III	70.83	I
	Seed sowing	82.08	I		
	App. of manure & fertilizer	74.16	II		
C)	Irrigation and Water management				
	Preparation of irrigation channel	36.25	II	35.69	V
	Irrigation	37.5	I		
	Construction of drainage channel	33.33	III		
D)	Intercultural Operations				
	Weeding and intercultural activities	85.83	I	57.49	III
	Application of Weedicides	29.16	II		
E)	Plant Protection measurers				
	Identification of crop disease	42.08	IV		
	Estimation of losses due to crop disease	29.58	VI		
	Application of fungicides	44.58	III		
	Identification of crop pest	47.5	II	40.62	IV
	Estimation of losses due to crop	30.83	V		
	Pest Application of insecticides	49.16	I		
F)	Harvest and Post-harvest operations				
	Harvesting of crop	82.50	III		
	Transportation of harvested crop	70.42	V		
	Threshing	80.00	IV	70.47	II
	Winnowing	86.67	I		
	Grading	63.33	VI		
	Grading of produce Storage	85.00	II		
	Decision on quantity of produce to be sold	51.67	VII		
	Rate fixation of produce	44.17	VIII		
G)	Farm management				
	Labour management	22.92	II		
	Purchasing of farm inputs	25.83	I	20.28	VII
	Farm inventory and maintenance	12.08	III		

Maximum respondents who obtained rank III were participated in activities like harvesting of crop, seed treatment, application of fungicides, construction of drainage channel, land revealing and farm inventory and maintenance having mean percent scores (82.50), (66.67), (44.58), (33.33), (15.83) and (12.08) respectively. The respondents who scored rank IV were involved in threshing (MPS 80.00), selection of seed (MPS 60.42), identification of crop diseases (MPS 42.08) and land ploughing (MPS 12.09). Respondents who

were participated in various agricultural activities shown overall ranks – (I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII) in sowing operations (overall MPS 70.83), harvest and post-harvest operations (overall MPS 70.47), intercultural operations (overall MPS 57.49), plant protection measures (overall MPS 40.62), irrigation and water management (overall MPS 35.69), tillage operations (overall MPS 28.54) and farm management (overall MPS 20.28) respectively [6].

Table 2: Participation of SHG members showing Mean Percent Scores and Ranks in various agricultural activities.

Sr. No.	Allied activities	MPS	Rank	Overall MPS	Overall Rank
A)	Preparation of NADEP and Vermicompost	63.75		63.75	I
B)	Dairy management				
	Feeding	54.16	I		
	Milking	53.33	II	44.08	II
	Cleaning of animals	48.33	III		
	Sanitation of cattle shed	47.08	IV		
	Sale of milk	17.5	V		
C)	Poultry farming				
	Feeding	37.92	I		
	Cleaning of poultry	32.92	III	28.86	IV
	Sanitation of poultry house	34.58	II		
	Sale of eggs and broilers	10.00	IV		
D)	Preparation of dehydrated product (Papad)	32.50		32.5	III
E)	Miscellaneous activities				
	Masala Making	8.33	II		
	Flour making	16.66	I	11.10	V
	Dalia making	8.33	II		

(MPS = Mean Percent Score)

SHG women members were participated in various allied activities. Their activities wise participation are ranked in Table 2. The data reveals that maximum respondents were participated in various allied activities such as preparation of NADEP and vermicompost, feeding of animal, feeding of poultry^[8], preparation of processed products and flour making activity having rank I and recorded mean percent score 63.75, 44.08, 32.50, 28.86 and 11.10 respectively^[4]. Allied activities like milking (MPS 53.33), sanitation of poultry house (MPS 34.58), masala making and Dalia making (MPS 8.33) showed II rank in participation by the respondents. SHG women members who were participated in

activities such as cleaning of animal (MPS 48.33), cleaning of poultry (MPS 32.92) and showed rank III. Participation of respondents were found in sale of eggs and broilers (MPS 10.00) and Sanitation of cattle shed (MPS 47.08) showed rank IV. As far as overall ranks obtained by the respondents who were participated in various allied activities and achieved rank I in preparation of NADEP and Vermicompost activity (overall MPS 63.75), followed by dairy management (overall MPS 44.08), while preparation of processed products (overall MPS 32.50) and poultry forming (overall MPS 28.86) stood on rank II, III and IV respectively.

Table 3: Participation of SHG members in overall activities related to agricultural and allied activities.

A)	Agricultural activities	Overall MPS
1.	Tillage Operations	28.54
2.	Sowing Operations	70.83
3.	Irrigation and water management	35.69
4.	intercultural Operations	57.49
5.	Plant protection measures	40.62
6.	Harvest and Farm management	70.47
7.	Farm management	20.28
	Average	46.27
B)	Allied activities	
1.	Preparation of NADEP and Vermi-compost	63.75
2.	Dairy management	44.08
3.	Poultry farming	28.86
4.	Preparation of processed products	32.50
5.	Miscellaneous activities	11.10
	Average	36.05

The result of the participation of SHG members in overall activities are presented in the Table 3. It is noteworthy to say that the average overall Mean Percent Score of both activities. i.e., agricultural and allied activities have been recorded less than 50percent. The average overall MPS for agricultural activities 46.27 and allied activities 36.05 was recorded. It indicates that respondents were participated more in agricultural activities rather than allied activities. Women participation in the agricultural activities such as sowing operations (overall MPS 70.83), followed by harvest and post-harvest operations (overall MPS 70.47) and intercultural operations (overall MPS 57.49) were found higher than the average overall mean percent score^[7] which is (46.27).

Participation of women in the activities like plant protection measures (overall MPS 40.62), irrigation and water management (overall MPS 35.69), tillage operation (overall MPS 28.54) and farm management (overall MPS 20.28) were found less than the average overall MPS. As far as allied activities of women respondents were concerned, the average (overall MPS 36.05) was recorded. Respondents participation in preparation of NADEP and Vermi-compost (overall MPS 63.75), dairy management (overall MPS 44.08) and preparation of processed products (overall MPS 32.50) was found higher than the average value (average overall MPS 31.88). Participation of women respondents in poultry farming (overall MPS 28.86) and miscellaneous activities

(overall MPS 11.10) were found less than the average (overall MPS 36.05). Thus, it may be concluded that the respondents had higher participation in sowing operations, harvest and post harvest operations, intercultural activities, preparation of NADEP and Vermicompost and dairy management^[1].

Table 4: Distribution of SHG members according to their participation in agricultural and allied activities.

Sr. No.	Category	Score	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Low	30	25.00
2.	Medium	68	56.67
3.	High	22	18.33
	Total	120	100.00

The data from Table4 revealed that about 56.67 per cent of the respondents had medium level of participation followed by 25.00 per cent respondents with low level of participation; while 18.33 percent respondents had higher level of participation.

Conclusion

The data reveals that majority of respondents were participated in various agricultural activities having mean percent scores 86.67, 85.83, 82.08, 52.50, 49.16, 37.50 and 25.83 in winnowing, weeding and intercultural activities, seed sowing, spreading of FYM in field, application of insecticides, irrigation and purchasing of farm inputs respectively. The data reveals that maximum respondents were participated in various allied activities such as preparation of NADEP and vermicompost, feeding of animal, feeding of poultry, preparation of processed products and flour making activity having rank I and recorded mean percent score 63.75, 44.08, 32.50, 28.86 and 11.10 respectively. It is noteworthy to say that the average overall Mean Percent Score of both activities. i.e., agricultural and allied activities have been recorded less than 50 percent. The average overall MPS for agricultural activities 46.27 and allied activities 36.05 was recorded. It indicates that respondents were participated more in agricultural activities rather than allied activities. It was observed that less than half of the farm women 56.67 per cent had medium participation in agriculture and allied activities, followed by low 25.00 per cent participation in agriculture and allied activities.

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