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Determinants of farm women about participation in agricultural activities decision making process

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Abstract
The study was conducted in two talukas namely, Arni and Digras of Yavatmal district of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state during the year 2021-22 with sample of 120 farm women as respondents those engaged in agricultural activities. Findings of study stated that majority of the farm women belonged to middle age group (59.17%), having education up to 8th to 10th standard (30.83%), medium family size (68.33%) and nuclear families (60.00%). Most of the farm women were having small land holding (37.50%), medium annual income i.e Rs. 66,000 to Rs. 3,35,000 (68.33%). medium cosmopoliteness (50.83%), medium extension contact (49.17%) and medium social participation (60.00%). In case of psychological characteristics, most of farm women exhibit medium scientific orientation (59.17%), medium risk orientation (69.17%) and medium economic motivation (64.17%). It was observed that, independent variables like education, land holding, annual income, social participation, extension contact, cosmopoliteness, scientific orientation, risk orientation and economic motivation had positive and highly significant correlation with extent of participation in decision making pattern.

Keywords: Farm women, profile, correlation, decision making, agricultural activities

Introduction
Indian farm women contributing much in agriculture sector and involve in almost all farm activities from sowing to the harvesting and marketing of farm produce. Women shape and create the future of every nation. The international community and national governments can achieve their goals for agricultural development, economic growth, and food security by building on the contributions made by women and taking steps to remove their barriers.
"Just a bird could not fly with its one wing only, a nation could not march forward if women are left behind" – Swami Vivekananda. Agriculture is the largest unorganized industry and one in which a huge number of women actively participate; the majority of women conduct a variety of jobs to support their family. Participation of women in farming, as well as the type and degree of that involvement, which differs mostly from region to region. Farming is a field where women predominate. Making choices due to the dominance of men on farms in India, the bulk of decisions on the purchase and sale of land, machinery, and other agricultural tools, as well as the enhancement of harvest and livestock management, are made by men. Rural women are involved in practically every aspect of agriculture, but there has been a noticeable shift in women's decision-making abilities. All significant decisions are still made by the head of the family or the male family members. She actively participates in making decisions. As a result of farm women actively participating in decision-making, our nation's economy will grow quickly. Family decisions have a direct impact on the nation's agricultural development. Women's education levels will rise, creating more career options for them and raising household income overall.

Objectives
The present study was planned with following objectives
- To know the profile of farm women
- To find out the relationship between profile of farm women and their extent of participation in decision making process.

Materials and Methods
The present study was undertaken in Yavatmal district of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra state during the year 2021-22. Two talukas namely, Arni and Digras from Yavatmal district were

selected and from each taluka six villages were selected randomly for the study. From each selected village, ten farmwomen those who were actually engaged in agricultural operations were selected purposively for study, in this way total 120 respondents were considered for the study. Data was collected by personally interviewing the respondent farm women in informal atmosphere either at home or farm. The data analysis was done using appropriate statistical tool i.e. Frequency, Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation and correlation coefficient.

Results and Discussion

The socio-economic characteristics of farmwomen were analysed and presented in Table 1. The table 1 indicated that, more than half (59.17%) of the farm women belonged to middle age group, followed by young age group (30.00%) and old age group

Table 1: Profile of farm women. (n=120)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Farm women	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	**Age**		
	Young (Up to 28 years)	25	30.00
	Middle (29 to 49 years)	71	59.17
	Old (50 years & above)	24	28.80
2	**Education**		
	Illiterate	05	04.17
	Primary education (1st to 4th)	09	07.50
	Middle school level (5th to 7th)	29	24.17
	High school level (8th to 10th)	37	30.83
	High secondary education (11th to 12th)	29	24.17
	Graduate and above	11	09.17
3	**Size of family**		
	Small (up to 3 members)	23	19.17
	Medium (4 to 9 members)	82	68.33
	Large (above 10 members)	15	12.50
4	**Type of family**		
	Nuclear family	72	60.00
	Joint family	48	40.00
5	**Social participation**		
	Low (up to 3)	26	21.67
	Medium (4 to 10)	72	60.00
	High (above 10)	22	18.33
6	**Extension contact**		
	Low (up to 4)	41	34.17
	Medium (5 to 8)	59	49.17
	High (above 8)	20	16.67
7	**Land holding**		
	Marginal land holding (up to 1.00 ha)	32	26.67
	Small land holding (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	45	37.50
	Semi-medium holding (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	30	25.00
	Medium land holding (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	11	09.17
	Large land holding (above 10.00 ha)	02	01.67
8	**Annual income**		
	Low (up to Rs. 65,000)	20	16.67
	Medium (Rs. 66,000 to Rs. 335000)	82	68.33
	High (above Rs. 335000)	18	15.00
9	**Cosmopoliteness**		
	Low (up to 5)	40	33.33
	Medium (6 to 8)	59	49.17
	High (above 8)	21	17.50
10	**Scientific orientation**		
	Low (up to 22)	33	27.50
	Medium (23 to 25)	71	59.17
	High (above 25)	16	13.33
11	**Risk orientation**		
	Low (up to 31)	17	14.17
	Medium (32 to 38)	90	75.00
	High (above 38)	13	10.83
12	**Economic orientation**		
	Low (up to 23)	21	17.50
	Medium (24 to 27)	77	64.17
	High (above 27)	22	18.33

(28.80%) belong to the old group. The present findings are line with finding of Gondaliya (2012) [5], Patel *et al*. (2017) [11] and Shaikh (2019) [12]. With respect to educational qualification, majorities 30.83 per cent of respondents had high school education, followed by middle school (24.17%) and higher secondary education (24.17%), (09.17%) of respondents had graduate and above (07.50%) had primary education, while (04.17%) of respondents were illiterate. The present findings are in line with the findings of Vaghasiya (2018) [16] and Vishwakarma (2018) [17].

According to the analysis of the results majority of farm women (68.33%) had medium size of family which consisting 5 to 10 members followed by 19.17 per cent of respondents had small family size consisting up to 4 members, only 12.50 per cent of respondents were having large family size consisting 10 and above members in the family. This finding is line with the findings of Chandravadia (2013) [2], Walke (2018) [18], Shaikh (2019) [12]. It was depicted that majority of the farm women (60.00%) belonged to nuclear family, while 40.00 per cent belonged to joint family. Similar findings were reported by Vaghasiya (2018) [16]. With regard to social participation, majority of farm women (60.00%) had medium social participation followed by low social participation (21.67%) and high level of social participation (18.33%), respectively. The finding is in confirming with findings of Vaghasiya (2018) [16] and Shaikh (2019) [12]. In case of extension contact, 49.17 per cent of the farm women were found to have medium level of extension contact, followed by 34.17 per cent and 16.67 per cent of them had low and high level of extension contact, respectively. The findings are similar to finding of Supriya (2016) [14] and Goswami (2021) [6]. With regard to land holding, majority of the respondents (37.50%) had small land holding followed by marginal land holding (26.67%) and semi-medium size of land holding (25.00%) while, only 09.17 per cent belonged to medium size of land holding and very few (01.67%) belonged to large land holding, respectively. This finding is concurrence with the findings of Gandroli (2013) [4] and Birle (2021) [1].

It was illustrated that out of total respondents 68.33 per cent of the respondents were in medium income group, 16.67 per cent of respondents were in low income group, whereas 15.00 per cent of the respondents were in high income group. The findings is in line with Birle (2021) [1]. It was found that, majority of farm women (49.17%) had medium level of cosmopoliteness, followed by low (33.33%) and high level (17.50%) of cosmopoliteness, respectively. Similar results were obtained by Kumari (2018) [10] and Islam *et al*. (2022) [8]. It was also indicate that most of the respondents (59.17%) had medium scientific orientation, followed by low (27.50%) scientific orientation and high (13.33%) scientific orientation. Similar results were reported by Kumari (2018) [10] and Khan *et al*. (2021) [9]. It was revealed that three fourth of the respondents (75.00%) were having medium level of risk orientation, followed by low (14.17%) and high (10.83%) risk orientation. Same results were obtained by Chandravadia (2013) [2], Kumari (2018) [10] and Khan *et al*. (2021) [9]. With respect to economic motivation, majority of the respondents (64.17%) were having medium economic motivation, followed by high (18.33%) and low (17.50%) economic motivation, respectively. Findings were in line with the findings of Gondaliya (2012) [5], Thorat (2014) [15] and Khan *et al*. (2021) [9].

Relationship between profile of farm women and their extent of participation in decision making in relation to agricultural activities.

The data pertaining to relationship between profile of farm women and their extent of participation in decision making in relation to agricultural activities is presented below.

Table 2: Correlation co-efficient between profile of farm women and their extent of participation in decision making in relation to agricultural activities

Sr. No	Independent variable	Coefficient correlation
1	Age	-0.078 NS
2	Education	0.319 **
3	Size of family	-0.105 NS
4	Type of family	-0.103NS
5	Social participation	0.401 **
6	Extension contact	0.337 **
7	Family land holding	0.295 **
8	Family annual income	0.459 **
9	Cosmopoliteness	0.301 **
10	Scientific Orientation	0.313 **
11	Risk orientation	0.271 **
12	Economic motivation	0.308 **

*Significant at 0.05 level of significance
** Significant at 0.01 level of significance
NS- Non-Significant

Age and extent of participation in decision making:

The data from Table 2 clearly indicated that age of the farm women had established negative and non-significant correlation with extent of participation in decision making process.) Findings were in line with the findings of Supriya (2016) [14] and Vaghasiya (2018) [16].

Education and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 clearly showed that education of had positive and highly significant relationship with extent of participation in decision making process. Similar findings were reported by Patel *et al*. (2017) [11] and Vaghasiya (2018) [16].

Size of family and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that size of family had negative and non-significant relationship with extent of participation in decision making process. The findings are in line with the findings of Gondaliya (2012) [5].

Type of family and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that type of family had negative and non-significant relationship with extent of participation in decision making process. The findings supported by Gandroli (2013) [4] and Vaghasiya (2018) [16].

Social participation and extent of participation in decision making process

The data presented in Table 2 indicates social participation of the farm women had positive and highly significant relationship with extent of participation in decision making process. Similar findings were reported by Gondaliya (2012) [5], Walke (2018) [18], Vaghasiya (2018) [16] and Shaikh (2019) [12].

Extension contact and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 clearly indicates that the relationship between extension contact of the farm women and their extent of participation in decision making process was found to be positive and highly significant. This finding is similar to the findings reported by Gondaliya (2012) [5], Dudi and Meena (2017) [7], Walke (2018) [18]

Land holding and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that land holding of the farm women had positive and highly significant relationship with extent of participation in decision making process. Similar findings reported by Chouhan (2016) [3] and Birle (2021) [1].

Annual income and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 clearly indicate that annual income of the farm women had positive and highly significant relationship with their extent of participation in decision making process. This finding has been supported by Gondaliya (2012) [5], Thorat (2014) [15], Walke (2018) [18] and Shaikh (2019) [12].

Cosmopoliteness and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that cosmopoliteness of the farm women and their extent of participation in decision making process was found to be positive and highly significant. This finding is in line with the findings of Gondaliya (2012) [5], Singh (2015) [13], and Kumari (2018) [10].

Scientific orientation and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that scientific orientation had positive and highly significant correlation with their extent of participation in decision making process. Similar results observed by Gondaliya (2012) [5] and Kumari (2018) [10].

Risk orientation and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that risk orientation of the farm women had positive and highly significant co-relation with their extent of participation in decision making process. This finding is in line with the findings of Chandravadia (2013) [2], Thorat (2014) [15] and Kumari (2018) [10].

Economic motivation and extent of participation in decision making

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that economic motivation of the farm women had positive and highly significant relationship with their extent of participation in decision making process. Similar trends were observed by Gondaliya (2012) [5], Thorat (2014) [15] and Dudi and Meena (2017) [7].

Conclusion

The result of the study revealed that farm women have major contribution in decision making in agricultural activities. To epitomized the result the independent variables *viz*. education, social participation, extension contact, land holding, annual income, cosmopoliteness, scientific orientation, risk orientation, economic motivation had positive and significant correlation with extent of participation in decision making process by farm women in relation to agricultural activities. While age, family size and family type has negative and non-significant correlation with extent of participation in decision making process by farm women in relation to agricultural activities.

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