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Adoption of improved farm tools to reduce drudgery of farm women in Narsinghpur district (M.P.)

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Abstract

The study was carried out in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh with the objective to find out the extent of adoption of improved farm tools to reduce drudgery. The data was collected from the help of well-structured interview schedule, which was prepared on the basis of objectives of study. In this study the findings revealed that out of total 115 farm women, 50.43% had low level of adoption of improved farm tools followed by medium 44.35% and high 5.22% level of adoption of improved tools to reduce drudgery. This is in line with the findings of Ahlawat (2018).

Keywords: Improved farm tools, drudgery, farm women

1. Introduction

A huge proportion of rural women involve in agricultural and allied sector, they perform different activities viz. crop production, irrigation, manuring, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, livestock activities, fisheries, etc. The farmwomen lead hard lives and perform gruelling works in farm and homestead activities.

Drudgery is a term used to represent the dissatisfactory experiences that constrain work performance in any activity. It is generally conceived as physical and mental strain, agony, monotony and hardship experienced by human beings, while all these resulting in decline in living and working condition affecting men and women alike. The farm women put in hard physical labour beyond their capacity. A continuous over work affects adversely their mental and physical well-being. The traditional tools are designed according to the male worker's physique. Hence the tools/equipment's designed for men are not fully suitable for women. The traditional tools used by women involves operating in bending or squatting posture which cause drudgery and serious health issues such as back pain, knee pain etc. The farm women are forced to use these tools due to unawareness and non-adoption of women friendly tools

So, the need of the day is to empower the farmwomen through technology to have high efficiency in their work and reduce drudgery through women friendly farm tools and implements.

2. Materials and Methods

The study was carried out in Narsinghpur district of M.P. Narsinghpur district comprised of six blocks. Out of which Narsinghpur block was selected purposively. Narsinghpur block comprised of 209 villages, out of which 6 villages were, selected randomly viz Magardha, Khurpa, Bhainsa, Ranipipariya, Ghatpipariya and Khamariya. Out of the selected six villages, total number of farm women was list out and 10 percent respondents were selected through applying proportionate random sampling method. Thus, the total sample size obtained was 115 respondents. The data was collected through personal interview method, with the help of pre-structured interview schedule. The stastical methods via, frequency, percentage, Pearson's correlation coefficient etc. were used for analysis of data.

3. Results and Discussion

The study inferred that majority of the farm women 50.43% belonged to middle age group (34-45 year), 51.30% belonged to OBC category, 48.69%) were found to be illiterate, 61.74% belonged to joint family, 57.39% had mixed type house, 48.69%) had small land holding, 75.65% had low annual income, 57.39% had membership in one organization, 79.13% belonged to low level of extension contact, 85.22% had their residence more than one kilometer away from work place, 55.65% had average working hours (6 to 7 hours), 52.17% belonged to medium level of knowledge group.

Table 1: Profile of the farm women

Sr. No.	Profile of farm women	Categories	Respondents (N=115)	
			Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (Upto 33 years)	45	39.13
		Middle (34 to 45 years)	58	50.43
		Old (Above 45 years)	12	10.44
2	Caste	Schedule Caste	22	19.13
		Schedule Tribe	10	8.70
		Other Backward Caste	59	51.30
3	Education	General	24	20.87
		Illiterate	56	48.69
		Can read	11	9.56
		Can read and write	8	6.95
		Primary school level	25	21.73
		Middle school level	3	2.60
4	Type of family	High school and higher secondary school level	8	6.95
		Graduate and above	4	3.52
		Single/Nuclear	44	38.26
5	Type of house	Joint	71	61.74
		Kutcha	12	10.43
6	Land holding	Mixed	66	57.39
		Pucca	37	32.18
		Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha)	33	28.69
7	Annual Income	Small (1.01 to 2 ha)	56	48.69
		Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	22	19.13
		Large (Above 4 ha)	4	3.49
		Low (Upto Rs 1,30,000)	87	75.65
8	Social Participation	Medium (Rs 1,30,001 to 2,40,000)	21	18.26
		High (above Rs 2,40,000)	7	6.09
		No participation	45	39.13
9	Extension Contact	Member of one organization	66	57.39
		Member of more than one organization	4	3.48
		Office holder	0	0
10	Distance of working place from residence	Distinctive features	0	0
		Low	91	79.13
		Medium	17	14.78
11	Working Hours	High	7	6.09
		Up to 1 Kilometer	17	14.78
12	level of knowledge	Above 1 Kilometer	98	85.22
		Less (Up to 5 hour)	46	40.00
		Average (6 to 7 hour)	64	55.65
12	level of knowledge	More (Above 7 hour)	5	4.35
		Low	50	43.47
		Medium	60	52.17
		High	5	4.36

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their extent of adoption

Sr. No.	Adoption of technology	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	58	50.43
2	Medium	51	44.35
3	High	6	5.22

It is observed that majority of the respondents (50.43%) had low followed by medium (44.35%) and high (5.22%) extent of adoption of improved farm tools respectively.

Thus, majority of respondents had low level adoption of improved farm tools.

Table 3: Relationship between profile characteristics of farm women with extent of adoption of improved farm tools by farm women to reduce drudgery

Sr. No.	Profile	'r' Value
1	Age	0.024 ^{NS}
2	Caste	0.124 ^{NS}
3	Education	0.17 ^{NS}
4	Type of family	0.114 ^{NS}
5	Type of house	0.034 ^{NS}
6	Land holding	0.282 ^{**}
7	Family annual income	0.233 [*]
8	Social participation	0.22 [*]
9	Extension contact	0.119 [*]
10	Distance of working place from residence	0.132 ^{NS}
11	Working hour	0.147 ^{NS}
12	Knowledge of improved farm tools to reduce drudgery	0.312 ^{**}

The value of coefficient of correlation furnished in Table no 3 clearly shows that the extent of adoption of improved farm tools was positively and significantly associated at 1 percent level of significance with land holding, knowledge of improved farm tools of farm women. It can therefore be generalized that higher the land holding and higher the level of knowledge of improved farm tools higher is the adoption of improved farm tools to reduce drudgery.

Similarly, family annual income, social participation and extension contact of the farm women was positively and significantly associated at 5 percent level of significance with extent of adoption of improved farm tools.

Further, coefficient of correlation indicated that the variable age, caste, education, type of house, type of family, distance of working place from residence and working hours had positive and non-significant relationship with extent of adoption of improved tools to reduce drudgery. It means that these variables have no significant role on the extent of adoption of improved tools.

4. Conclusion

The result indicated that maximum number of respondents (50.43%) had low level of adoption of improved farm tools. Most of the agricultural activities performed by women involve lot of physical strain which adversely affect their work efficiency and causes fatigue. Women should be educated about the benefit of farm tools and trained in use and maintenance. This study provide scope for promotion of technology in gender perspective towards the challenges of farm women help in reducing occupational health problems of farm women in agriculture.

5. Competing Interests

Authors have declared that no competing interest exists.

6. Authors' Contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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