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Factors affecting empowerment of rural women in agri-based enterprises

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Abstract

The present study “Factors affecting empowerment of rural women in agri-based enterprises” was conducted in all the five districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra namely Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg and in each district 50 trained rural women were selected. Thus, total 250 trained rural women were selected from all five districts of konkan region. Out of total rural women 68.00 percent belonged to middle age group, with ‘secondary’ level of education (34.00 percent), ‘medium’ family size (71.60 percent). Majority of rural women belonged to ‘nuclear’ family type (54.40 percent), ‘marginal’ land holding (75.20 percent), ‘medium’ annual income of family (57.60 percent), ‘medium’ annual income from agri-based enterprises of rural women (64.40 percent), ‘medium’ level of source of information (68.80 percent), ‘medium’ level of social participation (73.20 percent), ‘medium’ economic motivation (46.00 percent), ‘medium’ risk orientation (42.00 percent), received ‘two to three’ training (50.40 percent) and (63.60 percent) of rural women attended one day training programme. Further it was reported that, education, land holding, annual income, source of information, social participation, economic motivation, risk orientation and training received had positive and significant relationship with their empowerment of rural women while family size had non-significant and age, family type had negatively non-significant with empowerment of rural women.

Keywords: Agri-based enterprises, rural women, empowerment, education, training

Introduction

Women have been instrumental in agricultural development and rural prosperity.

Rural women play a vital role not only in crop planning and cultivation but also in high-value activities like horticulture, primary food processing, livestock rearing, fisheries and cottage industries. Agricultural sector contributing about 15.5 percent of GDP in India is a female intensive activity. Women pursue multiple farm operations for producing the agricultural crops, rearing animals and also work for wages in agricultural or other agri-based enterprises. Women are involved in all aspects of agriculture, from crop and seed selection to harvest and post-harvest management, marketing, and processing.

Agriculture including various sub-sectors employs 80.00 percent of all economically active women; they comprise 33.00 percent of the agricultural labour force and 48.00 percent of self-employed farmers (Kushwah, *et al.* 2018) [3]. The contribution of female workers and farmers has been much larger in agriculture and allied activities than the men. This signifies that more and more rural women are participating in the management and operation of agricultural lands but the absolute number continues to remain very low. Therefore, rural women require entrepreneurial development to boost their personal capacities and increase their decision-making status in the household and society as a whole. Hence, efforts in the form of training, access to resources, and policy support are crucial in enabling and sustaining entrepreneurship development among rural women.

This study focuses mainly on profile of rural women involved in agri-based enterprises and its impact on the welfare of family.

Objectives

1. To study the profile of rural women involved in agri-based enterprises
2. To find out the relationship between profile of rural women with their empowerment in agri-based enterprise.

Methodology

Five districts of konkan were selected for the present study. The survey was carried out in five districts namely Sindhudurg, Ratnagiri, Raigad, Thane and Palghar of the Konkan region to know the actual status of engaged of rural women in agri-based enterprises. List of rural women which are engaged in agri- based enterprises was obtained from Krishi Vigyan Kendra, MAVIM (Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal), Panchayat Samiti and Department of Agricultural in each district. 50 trained rural women from each district were selected randomly. Thus total 250 trained rural women were selected from all five districts of konkan region. The data were collected by personal interview of

trained rural women. For the interpretation and drawing inferences, the statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation were used in the present study.

Results and Discussion

Some of the important profile characteristics of the rural women like age, education, family size, family type, land holding, annual income, source of information, social participation, economic motivation, risk orientation and training received were selected and studied. The findings were tabulated, analyzed and presented below.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their profile characteristics

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (upto 34)	37	14.80
		Middle (35 to 51)	170	68.00
		Old (52 and above)	43	17.20
2.	Education	Illiterate	15	06.00
		Pre-Primary (1 st to 4 th std)	19	07.60
		Primary (5 th to 7 th std)	41	16.40
		Secondary (8 th to 10 th std)	85	34.00
		Higher Secondary (11 th std to 12 th std)	59	23.60
		Graduation & above (13 th and above)	31	12.40
3.	Family size	Small (upto 3)	40	16.00
		Medium (4 to 6)	179	71.60
		Large (7 and above)	31	12.40
4.	Family type	Nuclear	136	54.40
		Joint	114	45.60
5.	Land holding	Marginal	188	75.20
		Small	43	17.20
		Semi-medium	10	04.00
		Medium	6	02.40
		Large	3	01.20
6.	Annual income	Low (upto 97580 /-)	67	26.80
		Medium (97581 /- to 333907 /-)	144	57.60
		High (333908 /- and above)	39	15.60
7.	Source of information	Low	34	13.60
		Medium	172	68.80
		High	44	17.60
8.	Social participation	Low	16	06.40
		Medium	183	73.20
		High	51	20.40
9.	Economic motivation	Low	41	16.40
		Medium	115	46.00
		High	94	37.60
10.	Risk orientation	Low	79	31.60
		Medium	105	42.00
		High	66	26.40
11.	Training Received	One	115	46.00
		Two to Three	126	50.40
		Four and above	9	03.60

Table 1 data reveals that more than three fifth (68.00 percent) of the rural women belonged to 'middle' age group, followed by 17.20 percent were in 'old' age group and 14.80 percent of them were in 'young' age group. More than one third (34.00 percent) of the rural women had 'secondary' level of education, followed by 23.60 percent and 16.40 percent of them had 'higher secondary' and 'primary' level of education, respectively. Whereas, 12.40 percent of the respondents were in 'graduation and above' group, 7.60 percent and 6.00 percent of the respondents had 'pre-primary' and 'illiterate' level of education, respectively. Majority (71.60 percent) of the rural women belonged to 'medium' family size group,

while 16.00 percent and 12.40 percent of the rural women belonged to 'small' and 'large' family size group, respectively. More than half (54.40 percent) of the rural women belonged to 'nuclear' family and 45.60 percent belonged to 'joint' family type.

Majority of rural women (75.20 percent) had 'marginal' land holding upto 1 ha, followed by 17.20 percent had 'small' land holding between 1.01 to 2.00 hectares. While 4.00 percent, 2.40 percent and 1.20 percent were found in 'semi-medium' (2.01 to 4.00 ha), 'medium' (4.01 to 10.00 ha) and 'large' (above 10.00 ha) land holding categories, respectively. More than half (57.60 percent) of the rural women had 'medium'

family annual income ranging from Rs. 97581/- to 333907/-, followed by 26.80 percent had 'low' family annual income (upto Rs. 97580/-). Remaining 15.60 percent of respondents had 'high' family annual income (Rs. 333908/- and above). Also majority (68.80 percent) of rural women were in 'medium' category of sources of information, followed by 17.60 percent and 13.60 percent of them had 'high' and 'low' sources of information respectively.

Nearly three fourth (73.20 percent) of the rural women belonged to 'medium' social participation category, while 20.40 percent of rural women had 'high' and 06.40 percent of rural women belonged to 'low' social participation category. Maximum number (46.00 percent) of the rural women had 'medium' economic motivation, followed by 37.60 percent of rural women had 'high' economic motivation and remaining 16.40 percent of rural women had 'low' economic motivation. Whereas maximum number of rural women (42.00 percent) had 'medium' risk orientation, followed by 31.60 percent of the rural women had 'low' risk orientation and 26.40 percent of the rural women had 'high' risk orientation in agri-based enterprises. Half (50.40 percent) of the rural women received 'two to three' training, followed by 46.00 percent of the rural women had received 'one' training and only 3.60 percent of

the rural women received 'four and above' trainings.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income from agri-based enterprises

Sl. No.	Annual income (Rs.)	Respondents (N=250)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (upto 24307 /-)	52	20.80
2.	Medium (24308 /- to 74924 /-)	161	64.40
3.	High (74925 /- and above)	37	14.80
Total		250	100.00
Mean= 49616 /- 1/2 S.D.= 25309			

It could be seen from table 2 and diagrammatically depicted in Fig. 1 that more than three fifth (64.40 percent) of the rural women had 'medium' (Rs. 24308 /- to 74924 /-) annual income, while 20.80 percent had 'low' (up to Rs. 24307 /-) and 14.80 percent of respondents had 'high' (Rs. 74925/- and above) annual income from agri-based enterprises. The average annual income from agri-based enterprises of respondent was Rs. 49616/-.

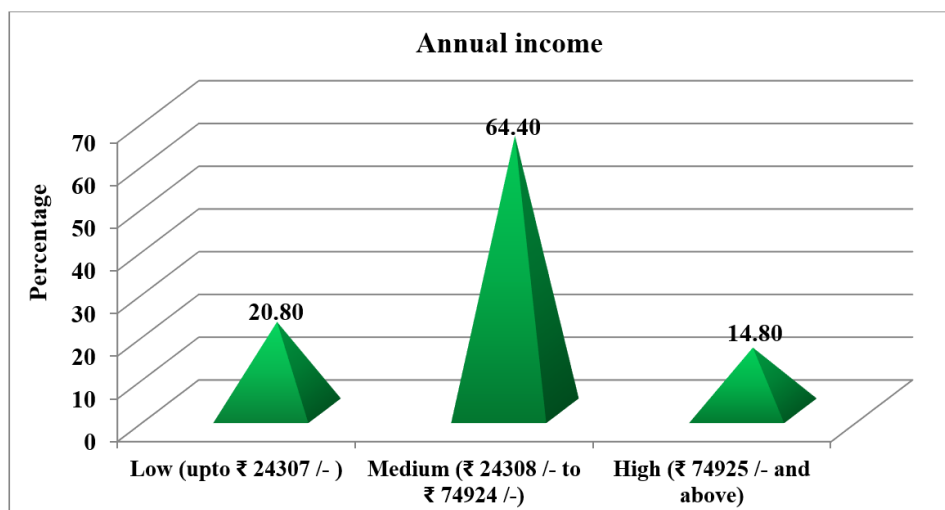


Fig 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income from agri based enterprises

It could be said that agri-based enterprises has started helping the rural women to increase their annual income to support the family economic condition. It also provided the opportunities to rural women to become a more empower.

Table 3: Relationship of selected independent variables with empowerment of rural women (N=250)

Sl. No.	Independent Variables	Variables code	'r' value
1.	Age	X ₁	-0.052NS
2.	Education	X ₂	0.626**
3.	Family size	X ₃	0.011NS
4.	Family type	X ₄	-0.020NS
5.	Land holding	X ₅	0.412**
6.	Annual income	X ₆	0.447**
7.	Source of information	X ₇	0.461**
8.	Social participation	X ₈	0.365**
9.	Economic motivation	X ₉	0.535**
10.	Risk orientation	X ₁₀	0.625**
11.	Training received	X ₁₁	0.672**

** = Significant at 0.01 level (0.162)

NS = Non-Significant

It seems from table 3 that independent variables, their corresponding variable codes and the 'r' values associated with each variable. The 'r' value represents the correlation coefficient, indicating the strength and direction of the relationship between the independent variable and empowerment of rural women.

1. Age (X₁): -0.052NS

There was a very weak negative correlation (negative 'r' value) between age and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was not statistically significant (NS).

2. Education (X₂): 0.626

There was a strong positive correlation between education and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level which indicates that higher levels of education were associated with a higher value of empowerment of rural women.

3. Family size (X₃): 0.011NS

There was a very weak positive correlation between family

size and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was not statistically significant.

4. Family type (X_4): -0.020NS

There was a very weak negative correlation between family type and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was not statistically significant.

4. Land holding (X_5): 0.412

There was a moderate positive correlation between land holding and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level, suggested that higher land holding was associated with a higher value of empowerment of rural women.

5. Annual income (X_6): 0.447

There was a moderate positive correlation between annual income and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level, indicated that higher annual income was associated with an increase in empowerment of rural women.

6. Source of information (X_7): 0.461

There was a moderate positive correlation between the source of information and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level, suggested that a specific source of information played a role in influencing the empowerment of rural women.

7. Social participation (X_8): 0.365

There was a moderate positive correlation between social participation and empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level, indicated that higher levels of social participation were linked to an increase in empowerment of rural women.

8. Economic motivation (X_9): 0.535

There was a strong positive correlation between economic motivation and the empowerment of rural women. The correlation is statistically significant at the 0.01 level, suggested that higher economic motivation was associated with a higher value of the empowerment of rural women.

9. Risk orientation (X_{10}): 0.625

There was a strong positive correlation between risk orientation and the empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level, indicated that a higher level of risk orientation was associated with a higher value of the empowerment of rural women.

10. Training received (X_{11}): 0.672

There was a strong positive correlation between training received and the empowerment of rural women. The correlation was statistically significant at the 0.01 level, suggested that a training received had significant and influential relationship with the empowerment rural women.

Conclusion

Rural women are major stakeholders in growth of agricultural sector for the new India. Acknowledging and mainstreaming of rural women via ensured access to resources, technology, education, health facilities, ownership rights and skill development will improve agriculture productivity and help in

building an empowered nation. Education is one of the most important means of empowering women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence. Therefore, it is vital to generate awareness among women in rural areas and promoting government schemes in rural areas for developing women entrepreneurs and encouraging them towards attainment of empowerment opportunities. There should be no gender discrimination and women have full opportunities of self-decision making and participating in social, political and economic life of the country with a sense of equality.

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