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A study on profile characteristics of farm women in Chitradurga district of Karnataka state

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Abstract

In recent years, women's empowerment has been considered a central issue in determining women's status. However, women have been identified as key agents of sustainable development. Women's equality and empowerment are central to a more holistic approach towards establishing sustainable development patterns and processes. The study was conducted in the Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The ex-post facto research design was used for the study, covering 60 farm women in each taluk and forming 180 respondents together. Appropriate statistical tests were used to analyze and interpret the data. About 46.11 percent of the respondents belong to the medium economic motivation category, followed by the high (32.78%) and low (21.11%) economic motivation categories. Less than half of the respondents (48.89%) in the Chitradurga district had medium self-reliance. 42.22 percent of the respondents had medium self-confidence, whereas 30.56 percent of them had low self-confidence, followed by high self-confidence (27.22%).

Keywords: Characteristics of farm women, economic, scheduled tribes

Introduction

In India, farm women constitute an important workforce in agriculture and allied sectors and are vital to the well-being of farm households. The success of farming depends upon the decisions taken by the farmers. As close partners to their husbands, women have a greater role in decision-making. Women as wives and mothers have a considerable part in decision-making in farm, household and animal husbandry activities. In recent years, women's empowerment has been considered the central issue in determining the status of women. However, women have been identified as key agents of sustainable development. Women's equality and empowerment are central to a more holistic approach towards establishing sustainable development patterns and processes. Women's empowerment involves many things, such as economic opportunity, property rights, political representation, social equality, personal rights, etc. Therefore, a study has been designed to understand the profile characteristics of farm women.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in three taluks of the Chitradurga district of Karnataka viz., Chitradurga, Challakere and Hosadurga, relatively developed, more backward and most backward taluks, respectively. Two villages from each hobli were selected randomly. It accounted for six villages from each taluk, forming 18 villages from three taluks. In the selected village, 10 farm women were interviewed, covering 60 farm women in each taluk and forming 180 respondents. In the present investigation, an Ex-post-facto research design was used. Nineteen independent variables were considered in the present study, and these were classified as personal, situational, psychological and extension variables. Data was collected from the pretested interview schedule and analyzed with appropriate statistical tools.

Results

The study revealed that, among the 180 respondents, nearly three-fourths of them (72.78%) belonged to the middle age group, followed by young age (21.11%) and old age (6.11%). The scheduled tribes (42.78%) were more, followed by other backward classes (22.22%) and general categories (21.11%) (Table 1). In Chitradurga district, 80 percent of the respondents were married, followed by 10.56 percent widows and 9.44 percent unmarried. The 43.33 percent of farm women possessed marginal landholding followed by big landholding (30.56%)

and small landholdings 26.11%), respectively. In the Chitradurga district, 53.33 percent of the respondents had nuclear families, and the remaining 46.67 percent had joint families. 56.11 percent of the respondents belong to the large family type, followed by the small (43.89%) family type. 59.44 percent of the respondents belong to a medium level of irrigation potential followed by low (25.00%) and high (15.56%) levels of irrigation potential. About 82.22 percent of the respondents belonged to the high-income category, followed by 17.78 percent to the low-income category. About two-fifths (40.00%) of the respondents belong to the high family dependency category, followed by the low (36.11%) and medium (23.89%) family dependency categories. More than half (56.11%) of the respondents belong to high farming experience category, followed by medium (25.00%) and low (18.89%) farming experience category. 41.11 percent of the respondents had medium competition orientation, followed by low (37.22%) and high (21.67%) competition orientation categories. About 46.11 percent of the respondents belong to the medium economic motivation category, followed by the high (32.78%) and low (21.11%) economic motivation categories. 48.33 percent of the respondents had medium risk orientation, followed by high (27.78%) and low (23.89%) risk orientation category. 42.22 percent of the respondents had medium self-confidence, whereas 30.56 percent had low self-confidence, followed by high self-confidence (27.22%). Less than half of the respondents (48.89%) in the Chitradurga district had medium self-reliance. Meanwhile, 26.67 percent of the respondents had low self-reliance, and 24.44 percent had high self-reliance. Most (62.22%) of the respondents belong to the medium extension participation category. 21.11 percent of them belong to the low extension participation category, followed by the high (16.67%) extension participation category. More than half of the respondents (53.89%) in the Chitradurga district belong to a medium category, followed by low (30.00%) and high (16.11%) participation in training. More than two-fifths (46.11%) of the respondents in the Chitradurga district had medium mass media participation, whereas 36.67 percent had low mass media participation, and 17.22 percent had high mass media participation. Less than half of the respondents (48.89%) had medium contact with an extension agency, followed by high (35.00%) and low (16.11%) extension contact. The result confirmed the findings of Sharma and Dayanand (2005)^[4], and Vanitha Chetan (2002)^[6].

The profile characteristics of farm women in different taluks of Chitradurga district indicate that the majority (75%) of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk were in middle age category, followed by young (20%) and old age group (5%). Meanwhile, in Challakere Taluk, 66.66 percent of respondents belong to the middle age group, followed by the young age group (21.66%) and old age group (11.66%) (Table 2). Whereas in Hosadurga taluk, more than three-fourths of the respondents (76.66%) belonged to the middle age group, followed by young age (21.66%) and old age (1.66%). More than two-fifth (43.33%) of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk belonged to a scheduled tribe, followed by general category (21.67%), scheduled caste (18.33%) and other backward castes (16.66%) respectively. At the same time, half of the respondents (50%) in Challakere taluk belonged to the scheduled tribe. In Hosadurga taluk, the schedule tribe (35%) followed by the general category (31.67%) of the respondents were more. Regarding marital status, only 3.44 percent were widows, while 8.33 percent of

farm women were unmarried, and a high majority (88.33%) of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk were married.

Nearly three-fourths of the respondents (73.33%) of Challakere taluk were married. Similarly, more than three-fourths of the respondents (78.33%) were married in Hosadurga taluk (Table 2). More than two-fifths of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk (48.33%) possessed big land holdings. In contrast, the number of respondents holding marginal land holdings was 33.34 percent, and the remaining 18.33 percent belonged to the small land holding category. The land holdings in Challakere taluk were mostly small (41.66%), followed by marginal land holdings (36.66%). Meanwhile, in Hosadurga Taluk, most landholdings were marginal (60%).

The majority of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk (58.33%) belong to nuclear families, followed by joint families (41.67%). A similar trend was observed in Challakere taluk, with 63.33 percent of nuclear families and 36.67 percent of joint families. In Hosadurga, 61.66 percent of the respondents lived in joint families, followed by 38.33 percent having nuclear families (Table 2).

Most of the respondents (55%) of Chitradurga taluk belonged to small families, and 45 percent of respondents lived in large families. Meanwhile, the reverse trend is observed in both Challakere and Hosadurga Taluk, 58.33 percent and 61.66 percent of the respondents, respectively, belonging to large family types.

A close observation of data reveals that more than half of the respondents (55%) of Chitradurga taluk belong to the medium irrigation potential category, followed by the high (26.67%) and low (18.33%) irrigation potential category. A similar trend was observed in both Challakere (66.66%) and Hosadurga (56.66%) taluks, with a greater number of respondents belonging to medium levels of irrigation potential.

About 82.22 percent of the respondents in Chitradurga belonged to the high-income category, followed by 17.78 percent to the low-income category. An overwhelming percentage of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk (91.67%), Challakere taluk (80.00%) and Hosadurga taluk (75.00%) belong to the high annual income category.

About two-fifths (40%) of the respondents belong to the high family dependency category, followed by the low (36.11%) and medium (23.89%) family dependency categories. More than two-fifths of the respondents (45%) of Chitradurga taluk belonged to the high family dependency ratio category, followed by low (36.66%) and medium (18.34%) categories, respectively. Meanwhile, in Challakere Taluk, 38.33 percent of the respondents belong to the low family dependency ratio category. 38.34 percent of the respondents belong to the high family dependency ratio category in Hosadurga taluk.

The results in Table 2 indicated that more than half (56.11%) of the respondents belong to the high farming experience category, followed by the medium (25%) and low (18.89%) farming experience categories. Most of the respondents (78.34%) of Chitradurga Taluk had much farming experience. Fifteen percent of the respondents had low farming experience, and the remaining 6.66 percent had medium farming experience. More than two-fifths (41.67%) of the respondents in Challakere Taluk had a lot of farming experience. Meanwhile, in Hosadurga Taluk, 48.34 percent of the respondents belong to the high farming experience category.

Overall, 41.11 percent of the respondents had medium competition orientation, followed by low (37.22%) and high (21.67%) competition orientation categories. Meanwhile, in Chitradurga Taluk, 38.33, 33.34, and 28.33 percent of the respondents belonged to low, medium, and high categories of competition orientation, respectively. More than two-fifths of the respondents in Challakere taluk had medium competition orientation. In Hosadurga taluk, more than half (51.67%) of the respondents had a medium competition orientation.

46.11 percent of the respondents belong to the medium economic motivation category, followed by the high (32.78%) and low (21.11%) economic motivation categories. Only 11.66 percent of the respondents of Chitradurga taluk had low economic motivation. Meanwhile, 40 percent of respondents had a medium level of economic motivation, and the majority (48.34%) had a high level of economic motivation. Half of the respondents (50%) in Challakere taluk and 48.33 percent of the respondents in Hosadurga taluk belong to the medium economic motivation category.

Among the respondents, nearly 48.33 percent had medium risk orientation, followed by high (27.78%) and low (23.89%) risk orientation categories. In Chitradurga taluk, 40 percent of respondents had high and medium levels of risk orientation, whereas a low level of risk orientation was observed by 20 percent of the respondents. In Challakere taluk, 41.67 percent of the respondents had medium risk orientation. However, in Hosadurga taluk, most respondents had a medium-risk orientation.

42.22 percent of the respondents had medium self-confidence, whereas 30.56 percent had low self-confidence, followed by high self-confidence (27.22%). Nearly equal percentages of respondents of Chitradurga taluk had medium (38.33%) and high (36.67%) levels of self-confidence, and 25 percent of respondents had low levels of self-confidence. More than two-fifths (46.66%) of the respondents in Challakere taluk had a medium level of self-confidence. However, in Hosadurga taluk, 41.66 percent of the respondents had medium self-confidence.

Less than half of the respondents (48.89%) in the Chitradurga district had medium self-reliance. Meanwhile, 26.67 percent and 24.45 percent of the respondents had low and high self-reliance, respectively. More than two-fifths of the respondents (46.66%) of Chitradurga taluk had a medium level of self-

reliance. However, high and low levels of self-reliance were observed in 33.34 percent and 20 percent of respondents, respectively. In Challakere taluk, 40.92 percent of the respondents had high self-reliance. However, in Hosadurga taluk, more than half (56.67%) of the respondents had medium self-reliance.

Most (62.22%) of the respondents belong to the medium extension participation category. However, 21.11 percent and 16.67 percent belong to the low and high extension participation category, respectively. The data reveals that 56.66 percent, 60 percent and 70 percent of Chitradurga, Challakere and Hosadurga taluk respondents belong to the medium extension participation.

More than half of the respondents (53.89%) in the Chitradurga district belong to a medium category, followed by low (30%) and high (16.11%) participation in training. The data revealed that respondents in Challakere (56.66%), followed by Hosadurga (55%) and Chitradurga taluk (50%), had medium-level participation in training.

In the Chitradurga district, more than two-fifths (46.11%) of the respondents had medium mass media participation, whereas 36.67 percent and 17.22 percent had low and high mass media participation, respectively. Regarding mass media participation, 41.66 percent of farm women of Chitradurga taluk had low mass media participation as opposed to 38.34 percent and 20 percent of farm women having medium and high levels of mass media participation, respectively. Most (60%) of the respondents in Challakere taluk and 48.33 percent in Hosadurga taluk had medium mass media participation.

Less than half of the respondents (48.89%) had medium contact with an extension agency, followed by high (35%) and low (16.11%) extension contact. An almost equal percentage of the respondents of Chitradurga Taluk had medium (46.67%) and high (40%) levels of extension contact, and 13.33 percent had low levels of extension contact. In Challakere taluk, 40 percent of the respondents had medium extension contact. In Hosadurga taluk, most (60%) of the respondents had medium extension contact.

The findings are in accordance with the findings of Tamil Selvi and Vasantha Kumar (2008)^[5], Bharathamma (2005)^[1], Narmatha *et al.* (2002)^[3].

Table 1: Profile characteristics of farm women in Chitradurga district

Sl. No	Particulars	Categories	Chitradurga district	
			No	%
1	Age	Young (<30 Years)	38	21.11
		Middle (30-50 Years)	131	72.78
		Old (>50 Years)	11	6.11
2	Caste	SC	25	13.89
		ST	77	42.78
		OBC	40	22.22
		GM	38	21.11
3	Marital Status	Married	144	80.00
		Unmarried	17	9.44
		Widow	19	10.56
4	Size of land holding	Marginal (<2.5 acres)	78	43.33
		Small (2.5 -5.0acres)	47	26.11
		Big (>5.0 acres)	55	30.56
5	Family Type	Nuclear	96	53.33
		Joint	84	46.67
6	Family size	Small (upto 4 members)	79	43.89
		Large (>4 members)	101	56.11

7	Irrigation Potential	Low (<0.36)	45	25.00
		Medium (0.36-0.97)	107	59.44
		High (>0.97)	28	15.56
8	Annual Income	Low (upto Rs 11500/-)	32	17.78
		High (> Rs 11500/-)	148	82.22
9	Family dependency ratio	Low (<4.30)	65	36.11
		Medium (4.30-6.49)	43	23.89
		High (>6.49)	72	40.00
10	Farming Experience	Low (<9.41)	34	18.89
		Medium (9.41-14.19)	45	25.00
		High (>14.19)	101	56.11
11	Competition Orientation	Low (<0.51)	67	37.22
		Medium (0.51 - 0.64)	74	41.11
		High (>0.64)	39	21.67
12	Economic Motivation	Low (<2.74)	38	21.11
		Medium (2.74-3.50)	83	46.11
		High (>3.50)	59	32.78
13	Risk Orientation	Low (<2.68)	43	23.89
		Medium (2.68 - 3.44)	87	48.33
		High (>3.44)	50	27.78
14	Self Confidence	Low (<2.63)	55	30.56
		Medium (2.63 - 3.99)	76	42.22
		High (>3.99)	49	27.22
15	Self reliance	Low (<50.40)	48	26.67
		Medium (50.40- 66.07)	88	48.89
		High (>66.07)	44	24.44
16	Extension Participation	Low (<2.44)	38	21.11
		Medium (2.44 - 6.50)	112	62.22
		High (>6.50)	30	16.67
17	Participation in Trainings	Low (<3.09)	54	30.00
		Medium (3.09-7.06)	97	53.89
		High (>7.06)	29	16.11
18	Mass media Participation	Low (<4.59)	66	36.67
		Medium (4.59 - 9.46)	83	46.11
		High (>9.46)	31	17.22
19	Contact with Extension agency	Low (<1.19)	29	16.11
		Medium (1.19 - 6.87)	88	48.89
		High (>6.87)	63	35.00

Table 2: Profile characteristics of farm women in different taluks of Chitradurga district.

(n=180)

Sl. No	Particulars	Categories	Chitradurga taluk		Challakere taluk		Hosadurga taluk	
			Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (<30 Years)	12	20.00	13	21.66	13	21.66
		Middle (30-50 Years)	45	75.00	40	66.66	46	76.66
		Old (>50 Years)	3	5.00	7	11.67	1	1.68
2	Caste	SC	11	18.33	9	15.00	5	8.33
		ST	26	43.33	30	50.00	21	35.00
		OBC	10	16.66	15	25.00	15	25.00
		GM	13	21.67	6	10.00	19	31.67
3	Marital Status	Married	53	88.33	44	73.33	47	78.33
		Unmarried	5	8.33	6	10.00	6	10.00
		Widow	2	3.34	10	16.67	7	11.67
4	Size of land holding	Marginal (<2.5 acres)	20	33.34	22	36.66	36	60.00
		Small (2.5 - 5.0acres)	11	18.33	25	41.66	11	18.33
		Big (>5.0 acres)	29	48.33	13	21.68	13	21.67
5	Family Type	Nuclear	35	58.33	38	63.33	23	38.33
		Joint	25	41.67	22	36.67	37	61.67
6	Family size	Small (upto 4 members)	33	55.00	25	41.66	21	35.00
		Large (>4 members)	27	45.00	35	58.34	39	65.00
7	Irrigation Potential	Low (<0.36)	11	18.33	14	23.33	20	33.33
		Medium (0.36-0.97)	33	55.00	40	66.67	34	56.67
		High (>0.97)	16	26.67	6	10.00	6	10.00
8	Annual Income	Low (upto Rs 11500/-)	5	8.33	12	20.00	15	25.00
		High (> Rs 11500/-)	55	91.67	48	80.00	45	75.00
9	Family dependency ratio	Low (<4.30)	22	36.66	23	38.33	20	33.33
		Medium (4.30-6.49)	11	18.34	15	25.00	17	28.33
		High (>6.49)	27	45.00	22	36.64	23	38.34

10	Farming Experience	Low (<9.41)	9	15.00	12	20.00	13	21.66
		Medium (9.41-14.19)	4	6.66	23	38.33	18	30.00
		High (>14.19)	47	78.34	25	41.67	29	48.34
11	Competition Orientation	Low (<0.51)	17	28.33	27	45.00	23	38.33
		Medium (0.51 - 0.64)	23	38.33	20	33.34	31	51.67
		High (>0.64)	20	33.34	13	21.66	6	10.00
12	Economic Motivation	Low (<2.74)	7	11.66	14	23.33	17	28.33
		Medium (2.74-3.50)	24	40.00	30	50.00	29	48.33
		High (>3.50)	29	48.34	16	26.67	14	23.34
13	Risk Orientation	Low (<2.68)	12	20.00	14	23.33	17	28.33
		Medium (2.68 - 3.44)	24	40.00	25	41.67	38	63.33
		High (>3.44)	24	40.00	21	35.00	5	8.34
14	Self Confidence	Low (<2.63)	15	25.00	19	31.67	21	35.00
		Medium (2.63 - 3.99)	23	38.33	28	46.66	25	41.66
		High (>3.99)	22	36.67	13	21.67	14	23.34
15	Self reliance	Low (<50.40)	12	20.00	16	33.33	20	33.33
		Medium (50.40 - 66.07)	28	46.66	26	29.55	34	56.67
		High (>66.07)	20	33.34	18	40.92	6	10.00
16	Extension Participation	Low (<2.44)	12	20.00	14	23.33	12	20.00
		Medium (2.44 - 6.50)	34	56.66	36	60.00	42	70.00
		High (>6.50)	14	23.34	10	16.67	6	10.00
17	Participation in Trainings	Low (<3.09)	18	30.00	16	26.66	20	33.33
		Medium (3.09-7.06)	30	50.00	34	56.66	33	55.00
		High (>7.06)	12	20.00	10	16.67	7	11.67
18	Mass media Participation	Low (<4.59)	25	41.66	12	20.00	29	48.33
		Medium (4.59 - 9.46)	23	38.34	36	60.00	24	40.00
		High (>9.46)	12	20.00	12	20.00	7	11.67
19	Contact with Extension agency	Low (<1.19)	8	13.33	11	18.93	10	16.66
		Medium (1.19 - 6.87)	28	46.67	24	40.00	36	60.00
		High (>6.87)	24	40.00	25	41.67	14	23.34

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