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Correlation analysis of the profile of rural women and off-farm activities involvement in Balod district of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract

Rural women can undertake both the production and processing-oriented enterprise. The off-farm activities have become an important component of livelihood strategies among rural households in most developing countries. The present study was conducted in the Balod district. There are 5 blocks in the Balod district, out of which three blocks i.e. Balod, Gurur and Doundi-Lohara, was selected purposively. From each selected block, 3 villages (Total 3X3=9) namely were selected. 15 rural women from each village were selected randomly, Thus the total (15X9) 135 rural women from nine villages were selected randomly for the study. The data were collected by personal interview with the help of pre-tested interview schedule and collected data were processed and statistically analyzed by using statistical techniques like frequency, correlation and regression analysis was used. The extent of involvement in off-farm activities of rural women i.e. Business, Jobs, Fabric sewing, Social work, Domestic work, Food stuff, and Handicrafts. It is observed that (100%) of respondents were involved in domestic work, followed by 39.25 percent in job, 10.37 percent in social work, 08.88 percent in fabric sewing, 08.14 percent in business, 2.96 percent in foodstuff and only 2.22 percent respondents were involved in handicrafts.

Keywords: Rural women, off-farm, social work, domestic work, agriculture

Introduction

Rural women can undertake both the production and processing-oriented enterprise. They can be involved in microenterprise development related to agriculture and allied agricultural activities, like cultivating organic vegetables, mushroom growing, bee keeping, dehydration of fruits and vegetables, food preservation, catering, stitching, weaving, embroidery, bakery etc. It not only enhances national productivity, generates employment but also help to develop better nutritional status of self and family, self-confidence, economic independence, awareness, personal and social capabilities, and decision-making capacity in family and community (Singh, 2009) [1]. Extension specialists aim to provide farmers and rural women with the latest technologies, research, new findings, training, awareness, and information that enable them to be a better decision maker, choose and learn about the allied field of income thereby increasing their income, reducing poverty and malnutrition. Rural women play a major role in the entire farm and off-farm sectors but they face a number of constraints in approaching agricultural extension sources and newest technologies and information sources. The present study aimed at status and role performance of rural women in off-farm activities. Women are the most potent segment of the population of a country. The women of today are the hopes of tomorrow. They are the back-bone of the country. The socioeconomic development and prosperity of rural areas depends to a considerable extent, on the type of women living in rural areas, because the rural women have abilities to orient themselves to go along the main stream of the development process. They reflect the national potentiality and represent the life blood of a nation. Development of women determines the development of community and country as a whole. So, the future of the country lies in their hands, what they will become, what role they will play in a democratic society and what they will do, will be dependent to a greater extent on the period between their childhood to adulthood.

One of the most effective ways of developing and channeling the potentials of women towards creative purpose is through the women's clubs. They help young people to develop themselves physically, mentally, socially and economically and prepare them to meet effectively the future challenges of life. Young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and more than 75 million women worldwide are looking for work, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO). Most the educated women find agriculture as an unattractive preposition; especially the way it is practiced traditionally by their parents. The society largely looks down upon farming, as also families of prospective brides do not prefer farming women.

Women is often understood to be the period of transition from childhood to adulthood, encompassing processes of sexual maturation and growing social and economic autonomy from parents and cares. There is no universally accepted definition of women, since the age ranges anywhere from 8 to 40 years. On the occasion of the International Women's Year in 1985, the United Nations General Assembly for the first-time defined women as people between the ages of 15 and 24 years for its work on women (with under 15 years being classed as children). For global programming purposes, FAO defines the priority age range for rural women development from 10 to 25 years.

As agricultural activities are seasonal in nature, the rural women will be engaged themselves in these activities during seasonal period or during off/lean periods. So, rural women will have to be given proper training and orientation about self-employment programs to take up self-employment. Thereby, adding additional income to their family and improving their standard of living. In this context it is worthwhile to know the extent of participation of rural women in the farm activities, their knowledge level towards improved agriculture, which in turn would help the planner and administrators to develop/modify training, recreational programs, and developmental strategies for rural women. This is due to several reasons, such as lack of nationwide women's pr program slack of an appropriate network fowom'n'sen organizations, lack of training and guidance, and lack of inter-departmental or sartorial coordination.

Hence, there is need to study aspirations, attitude, personal, psychological and socio-economic characteristics of rural women for their progress and development, which in turn ensures the development of a country. Today unemployment is a major problem among the rural women and now they are trying to come out of this problem by migrating from rural areas to urban areas, as employment opportunities are more in urban areas. Hence occupational aspirations of rural women have been taken as one of the objectives of the present study. As school dropouts are very much high in rural areas among women, educational aspirations of rural women are also taken as an important objective of this study. This study on rural women will be useful for the policy makers for better planning and implementation of the schemes in rural areas.

2. Methodology

The present study was conducted in Balod district. There are 5 blocks in Balod district, out of which three blocks i.e. Balod, Gurur and Doundi-Lohara, was selected purposively for this study because maximum number of rural womens. From each selected block, 3 villages (Total 3X3=9) namely Tarri, Bharda and Bortara from Gurur block, Korguda, Gurami and Jatadah from Doundi-Lohara block and Tarod,

Persahi and Baghmara from Balod block were selected. 15 rural women from each village were selected randomly, Thus the total (15X9) 135 rural women from nine villages were selected randomly for the study. In this way a total of 135 rural womens were considered as respondents for collection of data in this study. The data were collected by personal interviews with the help of pre-tested interview schedule and collected data were processed and statistically analyzed by using statistical techniques like frequency, correlation and regression analysis was used.

Table 1: Detailed about the selected study area and number of respondents

District	Block	Villages	Respondents
Balod	Balod	Tarod	15
		Persahi	15
		Baghmara	15
	Gurur	Tarri	15
		Bharda	15
		Bortara	15
	Doundi-Lohara	Korguda	15
		Gurami	15
		Jatadah	15
		Total	135

3. Results and Discussion

The facts and findings derived after analyzing the information have been presented under the following main heads.

3.1 Extent of involvement in off-farm activities

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their activity-wise involvement in off-farm activities (n=135)

Activities	Frequency*	Percentage
Off-farm activities		
Business	11	08.14
Job	53	39.25
Fabric sewing	12	08.88
Social work	14	10.37
Domestic work	135	100
Foodstuff	04	02.96
Handicrafts	03	02.22
Wage work		
Agricultural labour	19	14.07
Brickyard	03	02.22
MNREGA activities	18	13.33
Other works (med, cooking, etc.)	05	03.70
Minor forest product		
Tamarind collection	01	0.74

*Data are based on multiple responses

Table 2 reveals that the extent of involvement in off-farm activities of rural women i.e. Business, Jobs, Fabric sewing, Social work, Domestic work, Food stuff, and Handicrafts. It is observed that (100%) of respondents were involved in domestic work, followed by 39.25 percent in job, 10.37 percent in social work, 08.88 percent in fabric sewing, 08.14 percent in business, 2.96 percent in foodstuff and only 2.22 percent respondents were involved in handicrafts. In case of maximum involvement of the respondents was found in Agricultural labour (14.07%) followed by the MNREGA activities (13.33%), other works (med, cooking, etc.) (03.70%), and only 2.22% of the respondents aspired to do work in a brickyard.

Bhanu (2006) ^[4] found that 50 percent of the respondents

were regularly participated in social and cultural programs, while more than 60 percent of the respondents have participated in various rural developmental activities like road repairs (60.34%), construction of school building (63.34%), tank or well repair (61.57%), construction of community buildings (60.83%) and making drainages (60%). However, majority of the respondents opined that, almost all the rural developmental activities were implemented in their villages. Auto *et al.* (2010) [3] reported that 79 percent of the rural women's were involved in farming activities producing various crops for subsistence and sale. About 30 percent were involved in livestock farming, while 13.9 percent engaged in poultry keeping. All these are forms of agricultural activities on which women embark to earn a living.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their extent of involvement in off-farm activities (n=135)

Extent of involvement in off-farm activities	Frequency	Percentage
Low (up to 8 score)	134	99.26
Medium (9 to 16 score)	01	0.74
High (above 16 score)	00	0.00

The data concerning the extent of involvement in off-farm activities are compiled in Table 3. Majority of the respondents (99.26%) had low level of extent of involvement, followed by only 0.74 percent of the respondents had medium level of extent of involvement and no one of the respondents had high level of extent of involvement in different off-farm activities. Meena and Punjabi (2012) [9] and Sawant *et al.* (2013) [10] also found almost similar findings.

3.2 Correlation coefficient analysis of independent variables with the Extent of involvement in off-farm activities

Correlation between the selected characteristics of the respondents with the Extent of involvement in off-farm activities was worked out and the values of correlation are presented in Table 4. It was found that out of the selected 13 characteristics, the four variables *viz.* occupation, decision making, level of aspiration, and source of information were found to be a significant correlation with the involvement of rural women in off-farm activities.

The other variables *viz.* age, education, size of family, social participation, time devotion, size of land holding, annual income, credit acquisition, and scientific orientation had no statistically significant correlation with the extent of involvement of rural women in off-farm activities.

Table 4: Correlation analysis of independent variables with the extent of involvement in off-farm activities

Independent variables	Correlation "r" value
Age	-0.103
Education	-0.152
Size of family	-0.052
Social participation	-0.047
Time devotion	0.063
Size of land holding	0.021
Occupation	0.312**
Annual income	-0.030
Credit acquisition	0.026
Scientific orientation	-0.057
Decision making	0.850**
Level of aspiration	0.454**
Source of information	0.228**

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability (t value =0.219)

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability (t value =0.168)

Meena and Punjabi (2012) [9] reported that backyard poultry is considered as good off-farm source of income. But, only 2.82 percent farmers had adopted this supplementary enterprise. Thus, perception of farmer's towards adoption of backyard poultry enterprises was observed very poor in the study area. Sawant *et al.* (2013) [10] revealed that more than one-third of the woman members of Gram Panchayat motivated people for participation in 34.48 percent watershed development program, 34.48 percent nalabunding/land leveling program and 32.76 percent development of irrigation facilities, 25.86 percent of the woman members of Gram Panchayat helped in planning the 'farmers' tour', followed by 20.69 percent development of irrigation facilities and 20.69 percent organizing farmers group discuss.

3.3 Multiple regression analysis of independent variables with the extent of involvement in off-farm activities

The results of multiple regression analysis are presented in Table 5. The results of multiple regression analysis revealed that, out of 13 independent variables, four variables *viz.* annual income, level of aspiration, decision making and source of information was found to be significant contributions towards with the involvement of different off-farm activities.

The variables age, education, size of family, social participation, time devotion, size of land holding, occupation, credit acquisition and scientific orientation had no significant contribution with the involvement of tribal youth in different off-farm activities.

Table 5: Multiple regression analysis of independent variables with the extent of involvement in off-farm activities

Independent variables	"t" value	Regression coefficient "b" value
Age	-0.970	-0.111
Education	1.315	0.069
Size of family	1.216	0.136
Social participation	-1.687	-0.261
Time devotion	0.547	0.031
Size of land holding	0.722	0.057
Occupation	0.636	0.043
Annual income	2.066	0.124*
Credit acquisition	0.339	0.031
Scientific orientation	-0.572	-0.024
Decision making	16.337	0.762**
Level of aspiration	2.971	0.072**
Source of information	3.531	0.111**

** Significant at 0.01 level of probability (t value =2.613) R²=0.802

*Significant at 0.05 level of probability (t value =1.978)

4. Conclusions

Most of the respondents 99.26 percent had the low extent of involvement in off-farm activities. Correlation between the selected characteristics of the respondents with the Extent of involvement in off-farm activities was worked out and the values of correlation It was found from the data that out of the selected 13 characteristics, the four variables *viz.* occupation, source of information, decision-making and level of aspiration was found to be positively significant correlation with the

involvement of rural women in off-farm activities.

The other variables *viz.* age, education, size of family, social participation, time devotion, size of land holding, annual income, credit acquisition, and scientific orientation had no statistically significant correlation with the extent of involvement of rural women in off-farm activities. The results of multiple regression analysis reveal that, out of 13 independent variables, four variables *viz.*, source of information, annual income, decision making and level of aspiration highly significant contributions towards with the involvement of different off-farm activities.

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