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Role of Decision Making Process of Farm Women Regarding Vegetable Operation

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ABSTRACT

Decision making is the process of consciously choosing courses of action from available alternatives and integration of them for the purpose of achieving the desired goal. Farm women are participated in most of the important agricultural operations like field preparation, sowing of seed, planting of seedlings inter-cultivation, weeding and plant protection measures, picking & harvesting, compost making application of manures and fertilizers, cleaning of farm products. In vegetable cultivation, decision making always remained associated with the farm women utilization relating to various aspects in the study area, yet their involvement in this process has not been recognized. It was evident from vegetable cultivation, the joint decisions by male and female partners of the household are important. The present study was conducted in Panagar block of Jabalpur district. A list of vegetables growing villages was prepared with the help of extension official out of these only 5 villages were selected randomly due to major vegetable growing area. A representative sample of 110 vegetable growers was drawn from the selected villages. During the research study, it was observed that majority of farm women had always taken decision regarding selection of crop, quantity of seed, sowing time of seed, weeding, use of manures, harvesting, picking and seed storage. They were rarely involved in decision making regarding nursery management, field preparation, selection of variety, irrigation, seed treatment and marketing and use of fertilizers, plant protection measures as it required more scientific knowledge and skill.

Key words : Decision making, farm women, vegetable operation

INTRODUCTION

Farm women make essential contribution to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector. Decision making is the process of consciously choosing courses of action from available alternatives and integration of them for the purpose of achieving the desired goal. It is well known fact that the success of rural development process largely depends on the participation of people at large irrespective of sex. The problem of involving women's participation in the development process is now catching the attention of planners and policy maker because of increasing imbalance generation out of development process.

Agriculture generally involves five stages *viz.* production, processing, consumption, storage and marketing. In most of the stages farm women are actively involved. They participated in most of the important agricultural operations like field preparation, sowing of seed, planting of seedlings inter-cultivation, weeding and plant protection measures, picking & harvesting, compost making application of manures and fertilizers, cleaning of farm products, processing of product in the second stage consumption women have an all important role as they cook and serve the food to the family members, looking after children and husband and general house work. They are also actively involved in the third and fourth stage where processing and storage are almost entirely the responsibility of women. In vegetable cultivation, decision making always remained associated with the farm women utilization relating to various aspects in the study area, yet their involvement in this process has not been recognized. It was evident from vegetable cultivation, the joint decisions by male and female partners of the household are important.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Panagar block of Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. There are 210 villages. A list of vegetables growing villages was prepared with the help of extension official out of these only 5 villages were selected randomly due to major

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vegetable growing area. A representative sample of 110 vegetable growers was drawn from the selected villages of the block and data were collected with the help of an pretested interview schedule. The collected data was classified and tabulation and interpretation were made with the help of statistical tools like per centage, average, and chi-square tests were applied.

Table 1. Socio-economic attributes of selected farm women

Profile	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age (21 to 35 year)	40	36.36
	Middle age (36 to 55 year)	50	45.46
	Old age (Above 55 year)	20	18.18
Level of Education	Illiterate	04	3.64
	Can read and write	34	30.92
	Primary school	20	18.18
	Middle school	20	18.18
	Higher secondary	28	25.45
	College	4	3.63
Caste	SC / ST	12	10.91
	OBC	74	67.27
	General	24	21.82
Family Type	Nuclear family	78	70.91
	Joint family	32	29.09
Type of house	Kaccha	23	20.91
	Pakka	45	40.91
	Mixed	42	38.18
Size of land holding	Marginal	02	1.81
	Small	11	10.00
	Medium	59	59.64
	Large	38	34.55
Occupation	Vegetable production	38	34.55
	Vegetable + labour	53	48.18
	Caste business	19	17.27
Annual income	Low	37	33.64
	Medium	53	48.18
	Large	20	18.18
Material possession	Low	47	42.73
	Medium	57	51.82
	High	06	5.45
Social participation	Low	24	21.82
	Medium	57	51.82
	High	29	26.36
Information seeking behavior	Low	50	45.45
	Medium	41	37.27
	High	19	17.27
Economic Motivation	Low	23	20.90
	Medium	56	50.90
	High	31	28.20
Market Orientation	Low	38	34.55
	Medium	40	36.36
	High	32	29.09

Data in table 1A indicates that majority of the 45.46 Per cent respondents belonged to 36-55 years age group while 36.36 Per cent are in 21-35 years young age and 18.18 Per cent belonged Abova 55 years age group. Thus, it can be inferred from the data that higher percentages of farm women (45.46 %) were of middle age group is 36 to 55 years.

The data presented in Table 1 indicates the distribution of respondents according to their level of education. It is clear from the data that 3.64 Per cent were illiterate while 30.92 Per cent were both can only read and can write only, 18.18 Per cent were educated primary, 18.18 Per cent were educated middle and 25.45 per cent were educated higher secondary school and 3.63 per cent were educated college level respectively. Therefore, it can be concluded from the above data that maximum beneficiaries (30.92 %) can read and write only.

The data in Table 1 indicates that, 10.91 Per cent respondents belonged to SC/ST categories while 67.27 Per cent OBC category and 21.82 Per cent belonged to general category respectively. Therefore, it can be concluded from the above data that majority of the respondents had 67.27 Per cent were Other Back word Caste (OBC) Category.

It was observed from the data in table 1 that 70.91 per cent of the respondents belonged to joint family and remaining 29.09 per cent were of nuclear family. Thus it can be concluded from the above data that majority of the respondent 70.91 per cent were belonging to nuclear family.

Table 1 indicates that out of the total 20.91 per cent respondents belonged to kaccha type of house respectively 40.91 per cent pakka house type and 38.18 per cent belonged to mixed type of house. Thus, it can be inferred from the data that higher percentages of farm women (40.91 %) were having pakka type of house.

The data of Table 1 shows that 1.81 per cent of the respondents belong to marginal land holding, 10.00 per cent small land holding, 59.64 per cent medium size of land holding and only 34.55 per cent large size of land holding. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents 59.64 per cent were medium size of land holding.

It is clear from the data Table 1 indicates that out of the total 110 respondents, 34.55 per cent respondents belonged to vegetable production, 48.18 per cent vegetable+ labour and 17.27 per cent belonged to caste business.Thus, it can be inferred from the data that higher percentages of farm women (48.18 %) were of vegetable +labour.

The data of Table 1 shows that out of total 110 farm women. 48.18 per cent of the respondents were medium income group, 33.64 per cent of the respondents were from Low Income group and 18.18 per cent respondents were from high level income group. Thus, it can be

concluded that higher percentage of respondents (48.18%) were from medium annual income group.

The data presented in Table 1 shows that 42.73 per cent respondents belonged to low material possession category, 51.82 per cent belonged to medium category and 5.45 per cent belonged to high material possession category. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents 51.82 percentage had medium category.

The data presented in Table 1 indicates the distribution of respondents according to their social participation. It is clear that out of the total 110 respondents, 21.82 per cent had low social participation, 51.82 per cent had medium social participation and 26.36 per cent had high social participation. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the respondents 51.82 percent had medium category.

The data presented in Table 1 shows that out of 110 farm women 45.45 per cent respondents had low level of information seeking behavior, 37.27 per cent had medium and 17.27 per cent had high level of information seeking behavior. Thus, it can be concluded that maximum respondents (45.45%) belonged to low level of information seeking behavior.

The data presented in Table 1 shows that out of 110 farm women. 50.90 per cent respondents were from Medium level of economic motivation, 28.20 per cent respondents were from high level and 20.90 per cent respondents were from low level economic motivation. Thus, it can be concluded that higher percentage 50.90 per cent of respondents were from medium level of economic motivation.

The data of Table 1 shows that out of the total 110 respondents, 34.55 per cent had low level of market orientation 36.36, per cent had medium level and 29.09 had high level of market orientation. Thus, it can be concluded that higher per cent 36.36 per cent of respondent had low level of market orientation.

Over all profile of the farm women shows that majority of farm women were from middle age group, can read and write, nuclear family type, pakka house type, vegetables + labor occupation and medium size of land holding. Majority of the farm women had low information seeking behavior. Most of the farm women possessed medium mass media exposure and were from medium size of land holding, medium annual income and with medium material possession, social participation, economic motivation, and market orientation.

Table 2: Distribution of farm women according to their extent of decision making

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Low (Up to 16)	40	36.36
Medium (17 to 22)	50	45.46
High (Above 22)	20	18.18
Total	**110**	**100.00**

The data presented in table 2 indicates the distribution of `respondents according to their role in decision making. It is clear from the data that out of the total 110 respondents, 45 per cent had medium role in decision making, 36.36 per cent had low and 18.18 per cent had high role in decision making. Thus, it can be concluded that majority 45.46 per cent respondent had medium role in decision making process related to vegetable operation.

Table 3: Distribution of farm women according to their extent of decision making process related to vegetable operations

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Nursery management	47	42.72	XI
Land preparation	23	20.90	XIV
Selection of seed	61	55.45	VII
Seed treatment	91	82.72	IV
Sowing time of seed	97	88.88	III
Gap filling	87	79.09	V
Plant protection measures	69	62.72	VI
Irrigation	38	34.54	XIII
Weeding	108	98.18	II
Use of manure	45	40.90	XII
Use of fertilizer	55	50.00	X
Picking	110	100.00	I
Transportation	56	50.90	VIII
Marketing	36	32.72	XIII

Table 3 pertains to the role of farm women in decision making process related to different vegetable operations.

It is evident from the above table that 100 per cent women were participating in the picking practices, as compared to other activities in the farm operations, followed by weeding 98.18 per cent , sowing time of seed 88.88 per cent seed treatment 82.72 per cent, gap filling 79.09 per cent, plant protection measure 62.72 per cent, selection of seed 55.45 per cent, transportation 50.90 per cent, use of fertilizer 50.00 per cent, nursery management 42.72 per cent, use of manure 40.90 per cent, marketing 32.72 per cent and land preparation 20.90 per cent.

Table 4: Association between Attributes of farm women and their extent of decision making process

Attributes	Calculated value of χ^2
Age	0.533
Level of education	9.767*
Size of land holding	8.417*
Annual income	10.702*
Material possession	11.215*
Social participation	11.889*
Information seeking behavior	10.146*
Economic Motivation	15.049*
Market Orientation	9.731*

x^2cal value at 0.05 per cent level of probability
* Significant

Age had non-significant association and influenced the role in decision making process related to vegetable operations, whereas level of education, size of land holding, annual income, material possession, information seeking behavior, economic motivation, and market orientation had significant association with extent of decision making process of vegetable operations of the farm women.

CONCLUSION

The study about the role of farm women in decision making process related to vegetable operation concluded that majority of the farm women had moderate participation in decision making process, related to vegetable operations. During the research study, it was observed that majority of farm women had always taken decision regarding selection of crop, quantity of seed, sowing time of seed, weeding, gap filling, harvesting, picking and seed storage. The areas farm women were rarely involved in decision making are nursery management, field preparation, selection of variety, irrigation, seed treatment, marketing and use of fertilizer and manures, plant protection measures as it required more scientific knowledge and skill.

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