

## RISK PREFERENCE OF TRIBAL FARM WOMEN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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### ABSTRACT

*Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other agricultural and animal husbandry activities. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out Risk Preference of tribal farm women and its relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry. The result of the study revealed that slightly more than three fourth (77.00 per cent) respondents had medium level of risk preference. Whereas 12.00 per cent had high and 10.50 per cent of them had low level of risk preference. It is also observed that there is a positive and highly significant relationship between the risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations whereas there is non-significant relationship between the risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities.*

**Keywords:** risk preference, tribal farmwomen

### INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest industry in India contributing to the source of livelihood for over 70 per cent of population. Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. In some of the activities, she is relatively more efficient than man. Dahod is one of the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas of Gujarat State, where various administrative measures have been adopted through large number of tribal development and welfare programmes under Tribal Area Sub Plan (TASP). Since, independence huge fund have been diverted by the Central and State Government through different agencies with a view to uplift their living standard and bringing them into the main stream of nation. Even after lapses of more than 50 years of independence the progress of tribal farmwoman is not yet up to the level of expectation in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry as she is continued to be in a state of neglect. A victim of man made system, she is hardly considered equal to man in wage and

social status. Keeping in view the above said facts and information about the tribal farmwoman's situation and her multiple roles in agriculture and animal husbandry a study on "Risk Preference of tribal farm women and its relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry" was undertaken.

### OBJECTIVE

To know the risk preference of tribal farm women and its relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Dahod district of Gujarat. Out of seven talukas of the district, five talukas namely (1) Dahod (2) Zalod (3) Limkheda (4) Garbada and (5) Dhanpur were selected purposively for this study. Out of total villages of each selected taluka, two villages were randomly selected comprising total ten villages from five selected talukas of ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were

selected for the present study. The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. Risk preference was measured with the help of risk preference scale developed by Supe (1969). The data was analysed with percentage and coefficient of correlation.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Farming in general is characterised by many uncontrollable variables such as rainfall, pest and diseases and price fluctuations, etc. Thus, there is a risk in farming. Therefore, it was felt appropriate to study the risk taking ability of the tribal farmwomen. Data in this regards are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their level of risk preference**

n = 200

Sr. No.	Risk preference	Number	Per cent
1	Low (< 15.49 score)	22	11.00
2	Medium (15.49 to 22.17 score)	154	77.00
3	High (above > 22.17 score)	24	12.00

Mean = 18.83

S.D. = 3.34

It is evident from the data reported in Table 1 that slightly more than three fourth (77.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of risk preference. Whereas 12.00 per cent had high and 11.00 per cent of them had low level of risk preference, respectively. Thus, it appears that majority of the tribal farmwomen had medium to high risk preference ability.

In general, it is observed that agriculture in tribal area is characterised by many uncontrollable variables, for example, uneven rain fall, disease, risk of wild animal and forest conflagration or wild fire, this can be oriented them to adopt any risky ideas for their survival. This might be the probable reason for observing medium to high level of risk preference in majority of the tribal farmwomen. Similar findings have been reported by Gamit (1993), Sarkar and Bandyopadhyay (1996), Patel (1998) and Diwan (2000).

**Relationship between risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations**

The calculated correlation co-efficient value of  $r = 0.52799$  was significant at 0.01 level. It can be concluded that, there is a positive and highly significant relationship between the risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal

farmwomen in agricultural operations. It indicates that extent of contribution increases significantly with increase in risk preference of tribal farmwomen. It was obvious that highly risk preferred tribal farmwomen were oriented towards maximization of profits from agriculture. Therefore, they have favourable perception towards progressive change and this might have led them towards more contribution in agricultural operations. This finding is in concurrence with findings reported by Jullana et al. (1991), Padhi (1993), Patel (1998) and Diwan (2000).

**Relationship between risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities**

The calculated correlation co-efficient value ( $r = -0.05005$ ) was non-significant at 0.05 level. It can be concluded that, there is non-significant relationship between the risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities. This might be due to the fact that there is not much risk in adopting animal husbandry practices. This finding is in concurrence with findings reported by Patel (1983).

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded from the study that slightly more than three fourth (77.00 per cent) respondents had medium level of risk preference. Whereas 12.00 per cent had high and 10.50 per cent of them had low level of risk preference. It is also observed that there is a positive and highly significant relationship between the risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations whereas there is non-significant relationship between the risk preference and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities.

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