

Participation of Tribal Farm Women in Indigenous Resource Management Activities

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to know the level of participation of tribal farm women in indigenous resource management activities as well as to learn the factors affecting their participation in such activities in 12 tribal villages of Vadodara district. The participation of tribal farm women was medium to low in indigenous resource management activities. Their level of participation was significantly correlated with increase in their level of education, social participation, size of family, socio economic status, extension contact, housing facility, farm power, material possession, indebt, cosmopolitanism, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation and knowledge of indigenous resource management activities.

Introduction

A tribal farm woman contributes more in economic terms than usually recognized. One of the important area in which they contribute a lot is Indigenous Resource Management. An indigenous resource management is defined as the art or manner by which the available local resources are directed in a better way to improve the income. The knowledge on different aspects of indigenous resource management is passing on from generation to generation. Information on women's activity and their participation in various agricultural and allied operations can give a clear picture of the role of tribal farm women in management of indigenous resources. The present study was, therefore, undertaken with an object to learn the level of participation of tribal farm women in indigenous resource management activities as well as to know the factors affecting their participation in such activities.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in the 12 villages of tribal dominated three talukas of Vadodara district of Gujarat state. A sample of 240 tribal farm women was selected, at random, for the study. The data were collected with the help of a specially designed interview schedule. For the measurement of various variables, suitable scales developed by various social scientists were used. Mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation were used to analyze the data.

Results and Discussion

(A) Level of Participation of Tribal Farm Women in Indigenous Resource Management Activities:

It is obvious from the Table 1 that 38.75 per cent of the tribal farm women had medium level of participation in indigenous

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Table 1: Distribution of Respondents According to their Level of Participation in Indigenous Resource Management Activities (N=240)

Sr. No.	Level of participation in indigenous resource management activities	Number	Per cent
1.	Low (up to 39 score)	85	35.42
2.	Medium (40 to 59 score)	93	38.75
3.	High (above 60 score)	62	25.83
TOTAL		240	100.00

Mean = 49.429

S.D. = 19.744

resource management activities, followed by 35.42 per cent with low and one fourth with high level of participation. The probable reason might be that whatever resources were available for indigenous resource management in forest area might not have fulfilled expected level of productivity for generating their family income. In such a situation they might have been temporarily migrated during slack season. Thus, because of such type of seasonal migration, their high level of participation was not observed in indigenous resource management activities.

(B) Factors Affecting Indigenous Resource Management Activities of Tribal Farm Women:

The data observed in Table 2 unveil that amongst personal variables of tribal farm women, age did not play any role whereas level of education played significant role on the level of their participation in indigenous resource management activities.

So far as the social variables are concerned, all namely social participation, size of family, type of family, socio-economic status and extension contact have significant correlation with the level of participation of tribal farm women in indigenous resource

management activities. The participation of tribal farm women of big and joint families was observed more than the tribal farm women of small and nuclear families in indigenous resource management activities. Probable reason for this might be that due to more number of family members on big and joint family, tribal farm women might have got more chance to participate in indigenous resource management activities.

It could be inferred from the Table 2 that economic variables like housing pattern, farm power, material possession and indebtedness had positive, while occupation had negative relationship with participation of tribal farm women in indigenous resource management activities.

As far as psychological variables were concerned, all the variables namely cosmopolitanisms, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation and knowledge had played significant role in the participation of tribal farm women in indigenous resource management activities.

The cosmopolite ness has been considered as a great accelerator in gaining useful information and knowledge on current advances due to high level of contact with outer society. This might have led the tribal

Table 2: Relationship between Independent Variables and Participation in Indigenous Resource Management Activities

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient ('r' value)
I	PERSONAL	
1.	Age	- 0.11011 NS
2.	Education	0.52973 *
II	SOCIAL	
3.	Social participation	0.12719 *
4.	Size of Family	0.44714 *
5.	Type of family	0.26200 *
6.	Socio-economic status	0.21582 *
7.	Extension contact	0.14819 *
III	ECONOMIC	
8.	Occupation	- 0.24554 *
9.	Housing pattern	0.30569 *
10.	Farm power	0.15653 *
11.	Material possession	0.18051 *
12.	Herd size	0.06178 NS
13.	Land holding	0.05605 NS
14.	Indebtedness	0.21489 *
15.	Income contribution by indigenous resource management	- 0.07969 NS
16.	Annual income	- 0.04947 NS
IV	SITUATIONAL	
17.	Farming experience	0.02368 NS
18.	Migration habit	- 0.05511 NS
V	PSYCHOLOGICAL	
19.	Cosmopolite localiteness	0.42041 *
20.	Economic motivation	0.46750 *
21.	Risk preference	0.41355 *
22.	Scientific orientation	0.31394 *
23.	Knowledge of indigenous resource management	0.12690 *

*Significant at 0.05 per cent level of probability

NS=NON-SIGNIFICANT

farm women towards better participation in any income generating activities. It was obvious that highly risk oriented tribal farm women were oriented towards maximization of profit from indigenous resource management activities. Consequently, they have favorable perception towards progressive change and this might have led them towards high degree of participation in indigenous resource management activities. The result also says that tribal farm women with high degree of scientific orientation and knowledge about indigenous

resource management activities were likely to have high interest to utilize same for generating income which must have led them towards high participation in indigenous resource management activities.

Conclusion

It is obvious from the results of this study that the overall participation of tribal farm women was medium to low in indigenous resource management activities. Further, the level of participation of tribal farm women in indigenous resource

management was significantly correlated with increase in their level of education, social participation, size of family, socio economic status, extension contact, housing facility, farm power, material possession, indebt, cosmopolitanism, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation and knowledge of indigenous resource management activities.

For influencing better participation in indigenous resource management activities, planners, technology transfer experts and extension agencies should concentrate on those characteristics of tribal farm women that have high correlation with their participation in indigenous resource management activities.
