Role Performance of Tribal Farm Women in Livelihood Dealings

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A b s t r a c t

Role performance defined as the way women actually plays their role in a livelihood management. Farmwomen play vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. No operation in field is beyond them. They are best in sowing, transplanting, weeding, manuring, harvesting, winnowing, threshing, storing, marketing and rearing livestock etc. Besides they are the manager to the household activities. They take important decision in home and outside the home. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them. Therefore, it was felt necessary to carry out the investigation entitled "Role performance of tribal farm women in livelihood management". The study was conducted with following objectives; To study the profile of the tribal farmwomen, to study the participation of the tribal farm women in agriculture, animal husbandry and household activities, to study the tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making for home management, farm management and animal husbandry practices, to study the role performance of tribal farm women in crop and animal husbandry practices, to study the relationship between selected independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in crop and animal husbandry practices and to study the constraints faced by tribal farm women in livelihood management and seek their suggestions to overcome the constraints and extension strategy.

The results clearly indicates that the majority of the respondents (83.33 per cent) were in middle to young age groups, had secondary level of education, (92.50 percent) of the respondents were married, (55.83 per cent) had 3 to 5 number of children,(60.83 per cent) belonged to the joint family, (81.66 per cent) of the respondents belonged medium to big family size, more than half (54.16 per cent) of the respondents had medium herd size, two-fifth (37.50 per cent) of the respondents possessed skilled occupation, (92.50 per cent) had medium to big size of land holding,(58.32 per cent) respondents had medium to low annual income, (80.83 per cent) of the respondents sometimes to regularly used source of information, (85.00 per cent) involved in social activities, (80.00 per cent) of respondents had moderate level of scientific orientation, (93.33 per cent) of the respondents earned their livelihood from two to three enterprises, (76.66 per cent) had medium participation in agricultural activities, (72.50 per cent) had in medium participation in animal husbandry activities, (90.83 per cent) of the respondents had medium to high participation in household activities, More than half of (52.50 per cent) the respondents had medium level of decision making in home management. Majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents were medium level of decision making in farm management. Majority (64.16 per cent) of the respondents were medium level of decision making in animal husbandry practices. Majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance in crop practices. Majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance in animal husbandry practices.

Introduction

Farmwomen are the backbone of Indian agriculture. Growing food has been an interminable saga of her life. Like other rural women tribal women also play an important role in agriculture. Even cultural anthropological literature suggests that agriculture is invention of women. Farming in India is mainly a family occupation. Most of the family members are acutely engaged in farming. At present when the farm technology is changing at faster speed a farmer has to adopt this in order to become a competitive and efficient farmer. The change in farming has increased manifold. The farming capabilities for taking timely and judicious decisions by the farm families have a direct bearing on the agricultural development in country. It is well known fact that decision is the heart of management. Much of success of farm families depends upon how well the family members develop skills in decision making. Farmwomen play vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. No operation in field is beyond them. They are best in sowing, transplanting, weeding, manuring, harvesting, winnowing, threshing, storing, marketing and rearing livestock etc. Besides they are the manager to the household activities. They take important decision in home and outside the home. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them.

Research methodology

The study was conducted in tribal dominated Tapi District of South Gujarat. For this study total 6 blocks (talukas) of Tapi district were selected. The selected talukas were Vyara, Dolvan, Valod, Songadh, Uchchhal and Nizer. From each taluka two villages were selected and from each village ten respondents were selected randomly. Hence, from each taluka total twenty respondents were selected for present study. The simple random sampling method was used to select 120 respondents for the study. The name of taluka and villages are presented in table1. Ex-post-facto research design was used in the present investigation. Different scales developed by different scientists were used. Keeping in view the various objectives of the study, the interview schedule was prepared to collect the required information, for that several questions and statements were prepared. After finalizing the research design and interview schedule, the data were collected by using the personal interview method. To achieve the defined objectives, a field survey method was adopted. Respondents were interviewed at their home and their farms. The good rapport was thus established with the respondents to secure full co-operation for gathering reliable and valid information. To make a fruitful research, the casual observations, their verbal expressions and their symbolic opinions were also recorded. The statistical tools such as Frequency, Percentage, Rank, Mean, Standard deviation and Correlation of coefficient were used for interpretation of the data.

Results and Discussion

1.1 Participation of the tribal farmwomen in agriculture, animal husbandry and household activities.

1.1.1 Participation of the tribal farmwomen in agriculture activities.

Table 1:Distribution of the respondents according to their participation in agriculture activities.

(n=120)

Sr.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low participation	15	12.50
2.	Medium participation	**92**	**76.66**
3.	High participation	13	10.84
Total		**120**	**100**

(Mean= 35.77) **(S.D. = 8.13)**

The data presented in table 1 revealed that majority of the respondents (76.66 per cent) had medium participation followed by 12.50 and 10.84 per cent of them were low and high participation in agriculture activities, respectively. In general, the data clears that majority of the respondents (76.66 per cent) had medium participation in agricultural activities. This might be due to that whole family was involved in different agricultural activities and it was distributed among the family members. Another probable reason for that may be they are engaged in more than one livelihood activities along with agriculture. The finding is in consideration with the findings reported by Bihari *et al.* (2012), Kalash *et al.* (2012) and Sharma *et al.* (2014).

1.1.2 Participation of the tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities.

The data presented in table 2 concluded that majority of the respondents (72.50 per cent) had medium participation followed by 14.16 and 13.34 per cent of them were low and high participation in animal husbandry, respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their participation in animal husbandry activities.

(n=120)

Sr.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low participation	17	14.16
2.	Medium participation	**87**	**72.50**
3.	High participation	16	13.34
Total		**120**	**100**

(Mean= 35.6) **(S.D.= 3.83)**

In broad-spectrum, the data clears that majority of the respondents (72.50 per cent) were in medium participation in animal husbandry activities. This might be due to that whole family was involved in different animal husbandry activities and it was distributed among the family members. The finding is in concurrence with the findings reported by Jain and Singh and Waris (2002) and Pandya et al. (2014).

1.1.3 Participation of the tribal farmwomen in household activities.

Participation of farm women in household activities was decided on the basis of actually performing different practices by them. These were categories into three groups' *viz.*, i) low participation (up to 43 score), ii) medium participation (44 to 55 score) and iii) high participation (above 55 score). The data collected about their participation are presented in table 3.

Table 3:Distribution of the respondents according to their participation in household activities

(n=120)

Sr.	Categories of participation	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low participation	11	09.17
2.	Medium participation	**66**	**55.00**
3.	High participation	43	35.83
Total		**120**	**100**

(Mean= 49.53) **(S.D.= 6.13)**

The data presented in table 3 observed that more than half (55.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium participation followed by 35.83 and 09.17 per cent of them had high and low participation in household activities, respectively. In general majority (90.83 per cent) of the respondents had medium to high participation in household activities. Thus, it indicates that the respondents were actively engaged in household activities. This might be due to household activities in tribal areas are women dominated activities. The finding is in consideration with the findings reported by Patel *et al.* (2000), Mulugeta and Amsalu (2014) and Kumari *et al.* (2014).

2. Role performance of tribal farm women in crop practices

Role performance of farm women in crop practices was decided on the basis of actually performing different role by them. These were categories into three groups' *viz.*, i) poor role performance (up to 21 score), ii) moderate role performance (22 to 36 score) and iii) good role performance (above 36 score). The data collected about their role performance are presented in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their role performance in crop practices

(n=120)

Sr.	Categories of role performance	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Poor role performance	05	4.17
2.	Moderate role performance	**89**	**74.16**
3.	Good role performance	26	21.67
Total		**120**	**100**

(Mean= 29.62) **(S.D.= 7.23)**

The data presented in table 4 concluded that majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance followed by 21.67 and 4.17 per cent of them were good and poor role performance in crop practices, respectively. In general, the data clears that majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were in moderate role performance in crop practices. Thus, it indicates that the farm women done the all practices of crop.The finding are in concurrence with the findings reported by Shah (1997).

3. Role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices

Role performance of farm women in animal husbandry practices was decided on the basis of actually performing different role by them. These were categories into three groups' *viz.*, i) poor role performance (up to 21 score), ii) moderate role performance (22 to 29 score) and iii) good role performance (above 29 score). The data collected about their role performance are presented in table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their role performance in animal husbandry practices. (n=120)

Sr.	Categories of role performance	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Poor role performance	24	20.00
2.	Moderate role performance	**79**	**65.84**
3.	Good role performance	17	14.16
Total		**120**	**100**

(Mean= 25.6) (S.D.= 3.41)

The data presented in table 5 concluded that majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance followed by 20.00 and 14.16 per cent of them were poor and good role performance in animal husbandry practices, respectively. In general, the data clears that majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were in moderate role performance in animal husbandry practices. Thus, it indicates that the farm women done the all practices of animal husbandry. The finding is in concurrence with the findings reported by Prakash *et al.* (2011).

4. Relationship between selected independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in crop and animal husbandry practices.

4 Relationship between selected independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in crop practices.

The information about relationship between independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in crop practices is in table 6 .

Table 6: Distribution of the respondents according to their relationship between selected independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in crop practices.

(n=120)

Independent variable	Role performance in crop practices
Age	-0.14^{ns}
Education	0.3896**
Marital status	0.0069^{ns}
Number of children	0.3197**
Type of family	0.0512^{ns}
Size of family	-0.0299^{ns}
Herd size	0.3874**
Occupation	0.108^{ns}
Land holding	0.3577**
Annual income	-0.0498^{ns}
Source of information	0.396**
Social participation	-0.0026^{ns}
Scientific orientation	0.3671**
Livelihood option	0.0720^{ns}

(*Significant at 0.05 level, ** Significant at 0.01 level, NS-Non significant)

The data manifested in table 25 revealed that the education (0.3896**) of respondents, number of children (0.3197**), herd size (0.3874**), land holding (0.3577**), source of information (0.396**) and scientific orientation (0.3671**) found highly significant relationship with role performance of respondent in crop practices.

However, marital status (0.0069^{ns}), type of family (0.0512^{ns}), occupation (0.108^{ns}) and livelihood option (0.0720^{ns}) were found positive and non significantly relationship with role performance of respondent in crop practices. On the other hand age (-0.14^{ns}), size of family (-0.0299^{ns}), annual income (-0.0498^{ns}) and social participation (-0.0026^{ns}) were found negatively non significantly relationship with role performance of respondent in crop practices. The above finding are in line with

the findings of **Patki *et al.* (2000), Rathi (2005), Diwan (2007),** Chauhan (2011)[a] and Sharma *et al.* (2014).

5. Relationship between selected independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices.

Table 7: Distribution of the respondents according to their relationship between selected independent variables with role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices. (n=120)

Independent variable	Role performance in animal husbandry practices
Age	0.07^{ns}
Education	0.3285^{**}
Marital status	-0.1014^{ns}
Number of children	0.1987^{*}
Type of family	0.0042^{ns}
Size of family	-0.1439^{ns}
Herd size	0.2076^{*}
Occupation	0.02^{ns}
Land holding	0.2959^{**}
Annual income	-0.0255^{ns}
Source of information	0.198^{*}
Social participation	-0.0387^{ns}
Scientific orientation	0.1972^{*}
Livelihood option	0.2084^{*}

(*Significant at 0.05 level, ** Significant at 0.01 level, NS-Non significant)

On the other hand age (0.07ns), type of family (0.0042ns) and occupation (0.02ns) was found positive and non significantly while marital status (-0.1014ns), size of family (-0.1439ns), annual income (-0.0255ns) and social participation (-0.0387ns) was found negative and non significantly relationship with role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices. This finding is in conformity with those of Saiyad and patel (2004), Saiyad (2000), Kujur (2008) and Chauhan (2012)[b]. The information about relationship between independent variables with role performance of tribal farm

women in animal husbandry practices is in table 7. The data manifested in table 7 revealed that the education of respondents (0.3285**) and land holding (0.2959**) found highly significant relationship with role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices. However, number of children (0.1987*), herd size (0.2076*), source of information (0.198*), scientific orientation (0.1972*) and livelihood option (0.2084*) were found positive and significantly relationship with role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices.

6. Summary and Conclusion

The collected data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviation, and correlation coefficient (*r)*.

6.1 MAJOR FINDINGS

6.1.1 Majority of the respondents (83.33 per cent) were in middle to young age groups. Majority of the respondents (67.50 per cent) had secondary level of education. Majority (92.50 percent) of the respondents were married. Majority of the respondents (55.83 per cent) had 3 to 5 number of children. Majority of the respondents (60.83 per cent) belonged to the joint family. Majority (81.66 per cent) of the respondents belonged medium to big size of family. More than half (54.16 per cent) of the respondents had medium herd size. Two-fifth (37.50 per cent) of the respondents possessed skilled occupation. Majority of respondents (92.50 per cent) had medium to big size of land holding. Majority of (58.32 per cent) respondents had medium to low annual income. Majority (80.83 per cent) of the respondents sometimes to regularly used source of information. Majority of the respondents (85.00 per cent) involved in social activities. Majority (80.00 per cent) of respondents had moderate level of scientific orientation. Majority (93.33 per cent) of the respondents earned their livelihood from two to three enterprises. Majority of the respondents (76.66 per cent) had medium participation in agriculture activities. Majority of the respondents (72.50 per cent) had in medium participation in animal husbandry activities. Majority (90.83 per cent) of the respondents had medium to high participation in household activities. More than half of (52.50 per cent) the respondents had medium decision making in home management. Majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents were medium decision making in farm management. Majority (64.16 per cent) of the respondents were medium decision making in animal husbandry practices. Majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents had moderate role performance in crop practices. Majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were in moderate role performance in animal husbandry practices. Education (0.3896**) of respondents, number of children (0.3197**), herd size (0.3874**), land holding (0.3577**), source of information (0.396**) and scientific orientation (0.3671**) had positive and highly significant relationship with role performance of tribal farm women in crop practices. Education (0.3285**) and land holding (0.2959**) found positive and highly significant relationship while number of children (0.1987*), herd size (0.2076*), source of information (0.198*), scientific orientation (0.1972*) and livelihood option (0.2084*) were found positive and significantly relationship with role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

Following implications can be made in the light of findings of the present study.

7.1 The findings of this study reported that majority of the respondents were in middle age groups, had secondary level of education, married, had 3 to 5 number of children, belonged to the joint family, belonged medium to big family size, had medium herd size, possessed skilled occupation, had medium to big size of land holding, had medium to low annual income, sometimes to regularly used source of information, involved in social activities, had moderate level of scientific orientation and earned their livelihood from two to three enterprises. Hence, considering the influence of variables of respondents, infers that the above said variables to be kept in mind while selecting the respondents and for conducting activities to disseminate the information about role performance of tribal farm women.

7.2 Majority of the respondents had 3 to 5 and above 5 number of children's so it may affect on livelihood of family. There for extension expert should provide awareness regarding family planning.

7.3 This study revealed that only few tribal women had college level of education there for very less chance of empowerment. Hence intensive efforts should be made among tribal women for increased level of education and increase their role in livelihood management.

7.4 During the study it was seen that many agricultural, animal husbandry related and house hold activities were performed by the tribal women, but when questions comes to take decisions regarding all these matter, their roles were seen meager. As tribal farmwomen are the key units of the family of the tribals' community and they have skill in taking good decisions regarding all economic activities of the family, their participation in decision talking process needs to be encouraged by those people who are involved in the development of tribals.

7.5 Special measures need to be taken to increase the enrolments of girls in schools and to impart non-formal education for the dropouts, so that they would be able to keep accounts and made wage distribution to labours. There is also a need to strengthen informal tribal education programme as means to the develop agriculture and livestock profitably by providing modern tools and techniques for sustainable development.

7.6 High construction cost of cattle shed was reported as major constraint faced by the repondents hence government should come forward to make proper efforts and subsidy which helps to reduce of cattle shed cost by enabling them financially strong. Proper strategies should be made to solve their problems in animal husbandry.

7.7 Keeping in mind, same extension strategy should be used while extending the project in other or nearby area as well as the respondents should be used as success story to motivate others.

8. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Future research to support the present investigation may be conducted on the following line.

8.1 Similar investigation may be conducted in other talukas of the district, so that the results of the study can be strengthened.

8.2 Similar studies may be conducted periodically with large sample to determine the role of tribal farmwomen in agriculture.

8.3 Similar studies may be conducted on the role of trained and untrained tribal farm women in agriculture and animal husbandry.

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