

The extent of participation of Gond farm women in agricultural activities in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh

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Abstract: The present study was carried out in Seoni block of Seoni district in Madhya Pradesh. A simple random sampling procedure was followed in order to obtain the appropriate sample of Gond farm women. Gond women are playing a significant role in agricultural and allied sectors undertaking on-farm activities, but their contribution has not been recognized and they are considered as 'invisible farmers'. Gond women are associated directly or indirectly with agriculture. Hence farm women must be recognized as an important unit contributing to the economic growth of the country. Women have to perform the dual role of housewife and wage earner. In tribal rural areas, Gond women are engaged in farm operation such as cultivation, weeding, harvesting, sowing, fertilizer application, assistants to male cultivators and agricultural labourers.

Key Words: Participation, Gond women, Agriculture.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The Gondi people have their own identity which is very unique in nature and still in 20th century the identity has not been changed. It is really true sight of their life that still today their living quality not has been fairly good, many of them are still leaving below poverty line what so ever world is changing fast and we are globally equipped with all necessities. Rural women particularly in tribal area are extensively involved in agricultural activities. The problem of poverty cannot be tackled without providing opportunities of productive employment to women. There are certain constraints confronting by Gond farm women while they are working on farm. Their participation in agricultural operations was higher than men. Weeding and transplanting are usually done by females. Gondi women and men help each other in numerous areas of life and without the participation of women life is not complete like household works and agriculture operation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Perumal, G. (2005) analysed that participation of farm women in farm and home activities the majority of farm women were engaged in farm operations viz. seed treatment, sowing, manuring, inter-cultivation, harvest and post-harvest technology. It was estimated that the average hours per day in farm and home was almost same for farm women from small and big farm families.

Chauhan and Thakor, (2006) found that highest mean score of participation of tribal farmwomen was obtained in case of cutting and bringing a fodder.

Chandravadia Kiran et.al. (2011) reported that women in the selected area were saddled with a triple burden of home, agriculture and animal husbandry related tasks. Seasonal change and fluctuating economic conditions also had an impact on women participation in agriculture.

3. MATERIALS AND METHOD:

The study was carried out in Seoni district of Madhya Pradesh. The Seoni district comprises of 8 blocks i.e. Seoni, Chhapara, Keolari, Lakhnadon,, Ghansor, Barghat, Dhanora and Kurai out of which one block i.e. Seoni was selected purposively for the study because this block having maximum Gond farm women population as compared to other blocks of the district. Seoni block covering 253 villages, out of which 08 villages were selected randomly for study purpose. The selected villages were Khamariya, Singhodi, Bhaliwada, Jamuntola, Aamakola, Patrai, Chui, Matiyatola. For the selection of respondents, a list of Gond farm women from each selected village was prepared and from the list, 18 per cent Gond farm women were selected from all 08 villages by random sampling method. Thus, 120 Gond farm women constituted the total sample size (n) of the study. Only 12 independent variables have been taken for study and one dependent variable Extent of participation in agriculture activities. The scoring was assigned in the order of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. On the basis of total score obtained the categorization was made as low, medium and high.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Gond farm women in India as well as in Madhya Pradesh, play a vital role in farming enterprise. They are actively participating in all range of activities related to agricultural activities. Rural Gond women remain busy from

dawn to dusk in various agricultural activities including pre-harvest, post-harvest process. Their participation is well dispersed but less perceived, because of insufficient data to show their active involvement in various agricultural activities. Keeping in view these facts, the present study had been designed to explore the extent of their participation in various agricultural activities.

Table no. 01: Distribution of Gond farm women according to their extent of participation in agricultural activities.

S. No.	Activities	always		Sometimes		Never	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Nursery bed preparation	44	36.66	46	38.33	30	25.00
2	Selection of seed variety	42	35.00	45	37.50	33	27.50
3	Transplanting	54	45.00	45	37.50	21	17.50
4	Preparation tillage	49	40.83	39	32.50	32	26.67
5	Ploughing	34	28.33	42	35.50	44	36.67
6	Harrowing	37	30.83	41	34.17	42	35.00
7	Thrashing process	50	41.67	49	40.83	21	17.50
8	Sowing	53	44.17	46	38.33	21	17.50
9	Fertilizer and FYM application	51	42.50	44	36.67	25	20.83
10	Irrigation	40	33.33	46	38.33	34	28.33
11	Weeding	70	58.33	44	36.67	06	05.00
12	Plant protection measure	51	42.50	46	38.33	23	19.16
13	Harvesting	58	48.33	40	33.33	22	18.33
14	Processing	59	49.17	45	37.5	16	13.33
15	Storage	55	45.83	44	36.67	21	17.50
16	Marketing	24	20.00	31	25.83	65	54.16
17	Soil/seed treatment	37	30.83	43	35.83	40	33.33

Note:-F = frequency, P = percentage, S. No. = serial number.

As the table 01, revealed the farm activities in which Gond farm women participated at high level were weeding (58.33%) followed by processing (49.17%), Harvesting (48.33%), Storage (45.83%), Transplanting (45.00%), Sowing (44.17%), Fertilizer and FYM application and Plant protection measure (42.50%), Thrashing process (41.67%), Preparation tillage (40.83%) respectively. The activities in which Gond farm women participated at medium level was Nursery bed preparation and Irrigation (38.33%), followed by Selection of seed variety (37.50%), Soil/seed treatment (35.83) respectively. The farm activities in which Gond farm women participated at low level were marketing (54.16%), ploughing (36.67%), harrowing (35.00%) respectively. Similar findings were also reported **Malik et.al. (1999), Yadav et.al. (2005).**

Table no. 02: Distribution of Gond farm women according to their Level of extent of participation in agricultural activities.

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	33	27.50
2	Medium	42	35.00
3	High	45	37.50
	Total	120	100.00

S. No. = serial number

The data presented in table no. 02 showed that higher percentage of the Gond farm women 37.50 per cent found to overall high participation group followed by medium participation group 35.00 per cent and low participation group 27.50 per cent respectively.

level of participation

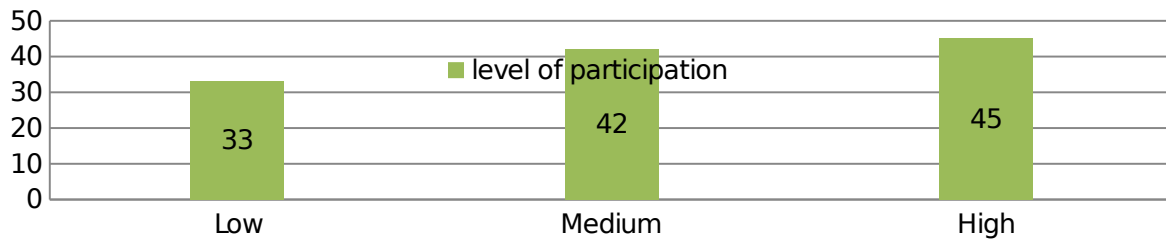


Figure. 1 level of participation

Overall socio economic status:-

Table 03:- Distribution of Gond farm women accord to their overall socio economic status.

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	42	35.00
2.	Medium	53	44.17
3.	High	25	20.83
	Total	120	100.00

Table no. 04: Relationship between independent variable and dependent variable.

Relationship between independent variable of respondents and participation of Gond farm women regarding agriculture activities (n=120)		
S. No.	Independent variable	Chi square (χ^2)
1.	Age	9.16 NS
2.	Education	6.28 NS
3.	Family type	1.45 NS
4.	Annual Income	10.03 S
5.	Social participation	09.87 S
6.	Economic motivation	11.26 S
7.	Aspiration level	10.11 S

NS= not significant, S = significant, S. No. = Serial number

In this finding the association for age, education and family type was not significant; it means there is no association occurred. The association for annual income, social participation, economic motivation and aspiration level was significant means there is association. Similar findings were also reported by **Sharma (2008) and Singh et.al. (2008)**.

5. CONCLUSION:

There was higher participation of the Gond farm women. They were participated mostly in weeding, processing, harvesting, transplanting, storage etc. the lowest participation of Gond farm women in marketing, harrowing and ploughing. Thus, it can be concluded that in study area, most of the Gond farm women were found to overall medium participation group. Similar finding was reported by **Das (1996), Chauhan and Thakor (2006)**. In Indian context farming is a family occupation. The female population constitutes nearly half of the total population. It is a well recognized fact that more than 60 % of agricultural operations have been traditionally handled by women.

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