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PARTICIPATION AND TIME UTILIZATION PATTERN OF RURAL WOMEN

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ABSTRACT:

The present investigation was carried out to analyze the participation and time utilization of rural women in agricultural activities of district Faizabad (Kumarganj), Uttar Pradesh during the year 2010-11 with covering a total of 150 respondents. Pre-tested interview schedule was used for collection of the information from Rural Women. During the study period, three villages were selected in one block and 50 respondents were selected from each village. The result of the study revealed that out of total respondents, 46.67 percent of respondents belonged to 31-40 years of age group and 40 percent of respondents were illiterate. In agricultural activity, the maximum percent of rural women participated in land preparation (62%) and maximum time spent by them mainly in irrigation process (5 hrs). The study revealed that the participation and time utilization of rural women in Agricultural activities could be improved by the adoption of improved by imparting education, mass media participation and contact with extension agencies.

KEY WORDS: Rural women, Agricultural activity, Faizabad.

INTRODUCTION:

Empowerment in the context of women's development is a way of defining, challenging and overcoming barriers in a woman's life through which she increases her ability to shape her life and environment. It is an active, multidimensional process which should enable women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life. Since time immemorial, women have played and continue to play a key role in conservation of basic life support system, such as, land, water, flora and fauna. Rural women play a crucial role

in agricultural development and allied fields, including crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, fisheries, etc. Without total intellectual and physical participation of women, it is not possible to achieve the goals of rural upliftment (Goel, 2011; Psr, 2012 and Jat *et al.*, 2011).

The participation of women in agricultural activities was marginal during early days but now their role in agricultural activities is on the steady increase. The international development community has recognized that agriculture is an engine of growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the poor (FAO, 2011). Women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. The agriculture is the major stay of our economy where, women are active partners in farming and undertake management along with men. Hence, an attempt has been made to elucidate the constraints faced by the rural women and also their participation in agricultural activities.

METHODOLOGY:

The study was conducted in was conducted in district Faizabad (Uttar Pradesh) during the year 2010-11. One block *i.e.* Milkipur was selected as area for this study. From this block three village *viz.* Akma, Biruli and Kumarganj were selected. Fifty respondents were selected purposively from each village, making a total of 150 respondents. A list of rural women was prepared from the selected hoblis. Proportionate random sampling technique was employed to select the respondents from selected villages. An interview schedule was developed consisting of schedule items for measuring the variables included in the study. Independent variables, namely age, caste, education, annual income, occupation, family size, family type and dependent variables, time utilization, participation etc. were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Age group plays an important role for participation of rural women in various activities. The results on distribution of rural women according to age respondents revealed that the majority of respondents belonged to 31-40 years of age group (46.67%) followed by 20-30 year (34%) (Table 1). The results on distribution of rural women according to education revealed that the highest percentage (40%) of rural women was illiterate, whereas, 28.0 per cent of rural women were educated up to primary level. The 14 per cent of respondents were educated up to high school & intermediate and 4 per cent were educated up to graduation and above level. (Table 2).

In the present study the participation of rural women in land preparation *i.e.* main part of agricultural activities was only 62.0 per cent and time spent on it 5 hrs/day followed by seed treatment, cleaning of seeds, Irrigation, transplanting etc. (Table 3). The study indicates that participation level of rural women was higher in land preparation and lowest in marketing of farm produce.

CONCLUSION:

Women are a vital part of Indian economy. Over the years, there is a gradual realization of the key role of women in agricultural development and their vital contribution in the field of agriculture, food security, horticulture, processing, nutrition, sericulture, fisheries, and other allied sectors. Among the different sectors of the Indian economy the women contribute significantly in agriculture sector is an important one. Besides the work in the field, they also take part in all aspects of animal husbandry such as grazing, feeding, cutting fodder, cleaning livestock sheds and so on. There is a need to impart training to these women in order to strengthen the knowledge about farm activities. In order to improve women's work efficiency, Govt. and Extension worker should plan and execute need based training programmes.

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Table 1: Distribution of rural women according to age

Age group (year)	Frequency	Per cent
20 – 30	51	34.00
31 – 40	70	46.67
41 – 50	21	14.00
> 51	8	5.33

Table 2: Distribution of rural women according to education

Education level	Frequency	Per cent
Illiterate	60	40.00
Up to Primary	42	28.00
High School	21	14.00
Intermediate	21	14.00
Above Graduate	6	4.00

Table 3: Participation and time utilization pattern of rural women in agricultural activities

S.No.	Agricultural activities	Participation (%)	Time utilization (hrs/day)
1.	Land preparation	62.0	5.0
2.	Seed treatment	59.0	2.0
3.	Use of chemical fertilizers and manures	32.0	1.0
4.	Sowing/transplanting	55.0	3.0
5.	Irrigation	59.0	3.5
6.	Weeding/Interculture	55.0	1.5
7.	Plant protection measures	50.0	1.2
8.	Threshing and cleaning of seeds	59.0	1.2
9.	Harvesting	30.0	1.5
10.	Winnowing	55.0	3.5
11.	Marketing of farm produce	11.0	0.5
12.	Storage	55.0	3.2