

“Constraints Faced By Rural Working and Non-Working Women in Home Activities in Patna District of Bihar State”

* Qudsiya Tamkeen, ** Dipak Kumar Bose

Research Scholar, Associate Professor Department of Agriculture Extension and Communication, Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, -211007, U.P., India
Corresponding Author: Qudsiya Tamkeen

Abstract: Women are vital human resource and play a significant role in agricultural and allied sectors undertaking both on-farm and off-farm activities. Yet their contribution has not been recognized and they are considered as ‘invisible member of family’. Considering this, the present study has been conducted to analyze the constraints faced by rural women in home activities and decision making. A total of 360 working and non-working women were sampled from Patna district of Bihar state. The selected respondents were interviewed personally. Lack of decision-making power, poor contact, lack of knowledge and skill and their illiteracy also hindered their progress. Non-working women perform all un-mechanized agricultural tasks and perform multiple tasks, which add more burdens to them. There is still a need to enhance women's autonomy and their role in decision making at household for the development in Indian society.

Keywords: rural women, constraints, agriculture.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In today's society, the role of women extends much beyond the home upbringing of children. They have to perform dual roles of house wife as well as wage earner and play a vital role in agricultural operations. A large number of farm women are not only engaged in farm operations as cultivators assistant but also playing vital role in kitchen gardening, poultry keeping, goat rearing, preserving seeds, marketing of milk, vegetables and fruits etc. Whenever they are not having employment on their own farm, they get engaged in off farm activities. About 82.20 per cent of women in the rural sector are employed in the primary production as family helpers on the farm. Women are responsible for at least 50.00 per cent of all food production. Their Participation in home and farm activities is depending upon social, cultural and economic conditions of the area. Hence, it is necessary to know the profile of the rural working and non working women and constraints faced by them in home and allied activities with the following objectives. Accordingly, the present investigation entitled “Autonomy and decision making pattern of rural working and non-working women in home activities in Patna District of Bihar state” has been undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To study the constraints faced by the working and non working women in participation of household and allied activities.

II. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected district of Patna, Bihar. Four blocks namely Phulwari, Barh, Fatwah and Bihta were selected for the selection of respondents. 5 village panchayat were selected from each block. The villages were selected proportionately where working women were more in number. From each village, approximately 5 working and 5 non working women were selected proportionately making the total size of 180 working and 180 non-working women.

Findings

Constraints Faced by Working and non working Women in Decision Making

In order to find out what constraint / challenges working women have faced in their journey, total constraint were divided into 3 categories as constraint on personal level, social level and environmental level they are still facing.

Personal Level Constraints

In the category of personal level constraints 11 attributes were identified. The percentages were obtained to identify the personal level constraints faced by rural working and non working women provided the output shown in table given below.

Table: 1
Personal Constraints

Personal Constraints	Working Women		Non Working Women	
	Percentage	Ranks	Percentage	Ranks
Poor Self Image	76.55	1	85.24	1
Lack of motivation and confidence	73.45	2	80.49	2
Role conflict	63.54	3	73.65	3
Lack of leadership qualities	63.22	4	70.72	4
Susceptibility about own decision making abilities	60.68	5	67.18	5
Orthodox family background	56.67	6	61.53	6
Lack of finance	55.74	7	57.73	7
Lack of security	53.48	8	51.60	8
Physical constraints like pregnancy	52.66	9	47.22	9
Lack of support from husband and family	52.65	10	40.24	10
Fear of failure and criticism	51.54	11	38.82	11

It can be evident from the above table that in personal level constraints poor self image was experienced by 76.55 per cent working and 85.24 per cent non working women. Lack of motivation and confidence was experienced by 73.45 per cent working and 80.49 per cent non working women whereas role conflict was the experienced by 63.54 per cent working and 73.65 per cent non working women . Lack of leadership qualities was experienced by 63.22 per cent working and 70.72 per cent non working women. Susceptibility about own decision making abilities as constraints was experienced by 63.22 per cent working and 70.72 per cent non working women. Orthodox family background was experienced by 60.68 per cent working and 67.18 per cent non working women. Lack of finance was experienced by 55.74 per cent working and 57.73 per cent non working women.

Lack of security as constraints was experienced by 53.48 per cent working and 51.60 per cent non working women. A physical constraint like pregnancy as personal constraints was experienced by 52.66 per cent working and 47.22 per cent non working women. Lack of support from husband and family was experienced by 52.65 per cent working and 40.24 per cent non working women. Fear of failure and criticism was experienced by 51.54 per cent working and 38.82 per cent non working women.

Social Level Constraints

In the category of social level constraints 4 attributes were identified and shown in table given below.

Table: 2
Social Constraints

Social Constraints	Working Women		Non Working Women	
	Percentage	Ranks	Percentage	Ranks
Discriminating treatment	75.84	1	86.66	1
Lack of social acceptance	71.60	2	83.33	2
Cultural values	65.99	3	73.33	3
Socio-cultural problems related to the basic ethics of the society, language, religion etc	58.72	4	70.00	4

It is clear from the above table that in social constraints discriminating treatment as constraints was experienced by 75.84 per cent working and 86.66 per cent non working women. Lack of social acceptance was experienced by 71.60 per cent working and 83.33 per cent non working women. Cultural values as as constraints were experienced by 65.99 per cent working and 73.33 per cent non working women. Socio-cultural problems related to the basic ethics of the society, language, religion etc. as constraints were experienced by 58.72 per cent working and 70 per cent non working women.

Environmental Level Constraints

In the category of Internal and external environmental level constraints and attributes were identified. The output of environmental level constraints is shown in table given below, where shows the factors which are environmental level constraints for rural working women.

Table: 3

Environmental constraints

Environmental Constraints	Working Women		Non Working Women	
	Percentage	Ranks	Percentage	Ranks
Local/Official Competition	56.12	1	61.25	1
Understanding government rules and regulations	55.00	2	59.57	2
Marketing Problems	53.89	3	54.68	3
Lack of latest technology	38.89	4	45.89	4
Lack of managerial education	35.56	5	39.71	5
Maintaining cordial interpersonal relations	35.00	6	31.44	6
Understanding legal compliance	34.45	7	29.86	7

It can be evident from the above table that in environmental level constraints local/official competition experienced by 56.12 per cent working and 61.25 per cent non working women. Understanding government rules and regulations was experienced by 55 per cent working and 59.57 per cent non working women whereas marketing problems was the experienced by 53.89 per cent working and 54.68 per cent non working women . Lack of latest technology was experienced by 38.89 per cent working and 45.89 per cent non working women. Lack of managerial education as constraints was experienced by 35.56 per cent working and 39.71 per cent non working women. Maintaining cordial interpersonal relations was experienced by 35 per cent working and 31.44 per cent non working women. Understanding legal compliance was experienced by 34.45 per cent working and 29.86 per cent non working women.

III. CONCLUSION

There has been a steady increase in the participation of women in employment indicating immense potential for development among them. From the point of view of performance, it was observed that the women in India have made significant contribution towards generation of employment, gross output, asset creation and exports. Women form the family, which participate to develop society and Nation. Employment movement among women started late and is still in its infancy. Among the rural population, 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. They must be supplied with opportunities for self development and self employment. This is the best way to make use of the natural and potential capabilities of rural women. The result of the study showed that the rural women seldom have a control over the production resources like land, credit, finance, knowledge and skill and decision facility. The constraints were related with their social, economical, financial and technological conditions.

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