



Relationship between the Socio-economic Characteristics of Rural Women and Constraints Encountered during Agricultural Activities

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ABSTRACT

The present research study was conducted to explore relationship between the selected socio-economic characteristics of the rural women and constraints faced by them during agricultural activities in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. From selected district, two panchayat samities (Dudu and Jalsu) were selected by using simple random sampling. From these panchayat samities, five villages from each panchayat samiti were selected by using simple random sampling. Similarly, from 10 selected villages 120 respondents were selected by proportionate random sampling. The result of the study showed that the farm women's education (-0.222), farming experience (-0.301), annual income (-0.314), and extension participation (-0.317) were negative and significant relationship with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities. The farm women's age (-0.064 NS) and land holding (-0.036 NS) were found to have a negative and non-significant relationship with their participation in agricultural activities and the farm women's marital status (0.044 NS) was found to have a positive and non-significant relationship.

Key Words: Agricultural activity, Constraint, Participation and Rural women.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture can be an important engine of growth and poverty reduction but in many developing countries is underperforming, because women, who play a crucial role in agriculture and the rural economy as farmers, labourers and entrepreneurs, almost everywhere, face more severe constraints. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (2011), women farmers account for more than quarter of the world's population. In Indian society, women have a multi dimensional role. The largest numbers of women in India are engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as supervisors or as agricultural labourers. Doss (2011) showed that women comprise about 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force globally. They

are the main participants and decision makers in various agricultural operations like seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, application of manure, storage of seeds and food grains and post harvest home level processing (Chayal, 2010). Moktan and Mukhopadhyay (2012) found that farm women had participated in all identified agricultural activities to a great extent. Apart from all these they are also involved in bringing fodder from field, chaff cutting, feeding and cleaning of cattle, maintaining cattle shed, compost making etc. Women play a significant role in the agricultural labor force and in agricultural activities (ESA, 2011). Most of the contributions made by women to the farm sector also go unaccounted as they are not directly paid. The picture of rural

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Table 1. Relationship between the selected independent variables of rural women with their constraints. n=120

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Correlation coefficient (r)		
		Dudu panchayat samiti	Jalsu panchayat samiti	Overall
1.	Age	- 0.049 NS	- 0.082 NS	- 0.064 NS
2.	Education	- 0.235*	- 0.246*	- 0.222*
3.	Marital status	0.055 NS	0.072 NS	0.044 NS
4.	Farming experience	- 0.310**	- 0.266*	-0.302**
5.	Annual income	- 0.321**	- 0.335**	- 0.314**
6.	Land holding	- 0.033 NS	- 0.039 NS	- 0.036 NS
7.	Extension participation	- 0.352**	- 0.312**	-0.318**

* Significant at the 0.05 level NS= Non-significant

** Significant at the 0.01 level

women is that of a submissive, illiterate, ignorant, assess female, who has been trapped in web of traditions and customs. Constraints encountered by rural women also affect by their socio-economic characteristics. Equitable access for rural women to educational facilities would certainly improve their performance and liberate them from their marginalized status in the society. The objective of the study was to know how and which socio-economic characteristics help to reduce constraints encountered by rural women.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. Two panchayat samities (Dudu and Jalsu) were selected randomly by using simple random sampling. From the selected panchayat samities, five villages from each panchayat samiti were selected by using simple random sampling. From 10 selected villages 120 respondents were selected by proportionate random sampling. The data were collected by using personal interview schedule. The relationship between constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities and the selected independent variables viz., their age, education, marital status, farming experience, land holding, annual income and

extension participation, were measured by computing Coefficient of correlation (r).

Correlation Coefficient

The correlation coefficient ('r' value) was used to measure the relationship between dependent and independent variables. The correlation coefficient between two groups was calculated by using the following formula.

$$r = \frac{\sum(XY) - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[\sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{n} \right] \left[\sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{n} \right]}}$$

Where r = Correlation Coefficient

X = Independent variable

Y = Dependent variable

n = Total number of respondents

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of rural women and constraints encountered by them during agricultural activities

The values of coefficient of correlation furnished in Table 1 show that, the rural women's age was

Socio-economic Characteristics of Rural Women and Constraints

found to have a negative and non-significant relationship with constraints encountered by them during agricultural activities. It means that age did not have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. Similar finding was also observed by Pandit and Basak (2013) and Nath *et al.* (2016).

The data (Table 1) expressed that education had negative and significant correlation with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities. It means that education have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. It was evident that level of education had strong influence on understanding of the problem and technological efficiency, which help them to reduce the constraints during agricultural activities. Educated rural women have more awareness and they get knowledge about various new technologies by cosmopolite and locality contact which contribute significantly in agricultural activities. Education help women to make higher contributions to farming decisions than less educated ones. Furthermore, having less education reduces their bargaining power. Similar relationship was also observed by Enete *et al* (2002), Rahman *et al* (2005) and Pandit and Basak (2013).

The rural women's marital status was found to have a positive and non-significant relationship constraints encountered by them during agricultural activities. It means that marital status did not have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. The data presented in the (Table 1) express that farming experience had negative and significant correlation with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities. It means that farming experience have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. It is evident that level of farming experience had strong influence on technological efficiency. The constraint of farm women reduce with farming experience because

farming experience increases the knowledge about agricultural activities. Experienced women farmers may be more versatile with regards to the production systems and may therefore be better able to assess the risks involved in farming than inexperienced ones. Women have less work experience and may earn a lower wage. Similar finding was also observed by Enete *et al* (2002).

It was evident (Table 1) that annual income had negative and significant correlation with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities. It means that annual income have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. The constraints of farm women reduce with annual income because annual income helps rural women to adopt new technology and equipment. Annual income of rural women empowers them which help to take decision related to agriculture and reduce their constraints. Similar finding was also observed by Nath *et al* (2016).

The data (Table 1) indicate that land holding had negative and non-significant correlation with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities. It means that land holding did not have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. Despite growing dependence on agriculture, rural women are unable to access the benefits incurred from the land. Similarly, due to lack of land rights, female farmers are unable to utilize the livelihood assets that come from land ownership. Similar finding was also observed by Pandit and Basak (2013) and Nath *et al* (2016). It was observed that extension participation had negative and significant correlation with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities. It means that extension participation have a significant effect on the constraints encountered by farm women during agricultural activities. It was evident that level of extension participation has strong influence on technological efficiency which help them to reduce the constraints during

agricultural activities. The constraint of farm women reduce with extension participation because who has more contact with extension media acquired more knowledge on technological aspects which helped them to reduce their constraints more efficiently. Women having more extension media contact and social mobility have more knowledge on different issues such as their rights, their ability, about new agriculture technology, they can take their own decision. Halim (2003), Roy (2012), Pandit and Basak (2013), Chowdhury (2014) and Nath *et al.* (2016) found similar results in their respective research.

CONCLUSION

The result of this research study showed that the farm women's education, farming experience, annual income, and extension participation were negative and significant relationship with constraints encountered by rural women during agricultural activities, the farm women's age and land holding were found to have a negative and non-significant relationship with their participation in agricultural activities and the farm women's marital status was found to have a positive and non-significant relationship.

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