

Constraints of Tribal Women in Performing Their Farm and Home Management Activities

S Raveena, M Srinivasa Rao, P V Sathya Gopal and M Martin Luther

Department of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural College, Bapatla, A. P.

ABSTARCT

India is the traditional homeland for rich culture and heritage of tribal people, almost 90 percent of tribal people living in rural areas and 10 percent tribal people live in urban areas. They are unique in their language, culture, geographical situation and having independent mode of lifestyle and social stratification. The study was conducted to analyze the profile characteristics of tribal women and their extent of role of tribal women in farm and home management. This study also focused on identifying the relationship and contributing variables towards the extent of role of tribal women in farm and home management .The problems faced by tribal women while performing farm and home activities and suggestions given by them to overcome their problems were elicited. *Ex post-facto* research design was followed for the study. The study was conducted in the hilly areas of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2019-20. Three mandals Chintapalli, Gudem kotha veedi, Pedabayalu from the selected district was purposively selected for the study based on the highest percentage of tribal population in each mandal. From each mandal four villages had been selected, from each village 10 respondents selected randomly. From 12 villages total 120 tribal women were expressed their opinion on role in farm and home management. The data was collected with the help of a structured interview schedule through personal interview method and data obtained was analyzed.

Key words: *Role and Constraints, Tribal and Home Management.*

There are about 10.4 crore tribal people, who contribute 8.2 per cent of total population in India. Role is the social behaviour pattern of the individual expressed in a situation which is usually determined in a particular society. It is the actual work done by tribal women in farm and home management. Tribal women play a pivotal and decisive role in their farm and home management. Women participation in agriculture and household activities is different from one place to another place depending upon the nature of their livelihood. Tribal women perform numerous labour intensive jobs such as collection of minor forest produce like Bamboo; Adda leaves, Firewood, Hill

brooms, Cattle/Sheep rearing and Kitchen gardening *etc.*, apart from management of farm and home with utmost care and courage. Tribal women play a vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the agriculture and allied activities. No operation in fields is beyond them. Further more their lack of empowerment often results in negative externalities as lower educational attainment for their children and poor familial health. Looking the significant role of tribal women in agriculture and allied activities.

While introducing inventories in any field it is quite natural to have problems in implementation part

which hinder the extent of role of tribal women in farm and home management. Hence an attempt is made with an objective to unearth the problems faced by the tribal women and also to enlist the suggestions for overcoming the problems.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ex post-facto research design was followed for the study. The study was conducted in the hilly areas of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2019-20. Three mandals Chintapalli, Gudem kotha veedi, Pedabayalu from the selected district was purposively selected for the study based on the highest percentage of tribal population in each mandal. From each mandal four villages had been selected, from each village 10 respondents selected randomly. From 12 villages total 120 tribal women were expressed their opinion on role in farm and home management. The data were collected with well structured pretested interview schedule. Garret ranking is used to rank the constraints given below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal constraints faced by the tribal women

The responses on the personal constraints faced by tribal women while involving in farm and home management are furnished in Table 1

It is evident from Table 1 Among the personal constraints faced by tribal women, the major problem expressed by the majority of respondents were drop out illiteracy is (61.96%,rank I), followed by burden of family work(61.61%,rank II), less rest period(58.33%, rank III), continuous working hours (56.67%, rank IV), difficult to spend time for farm activities due to domestic work (53.1%, rank V),more social taboos, superstitions and rituals(51.68%, rank VI), high mortality, morbidity and malnutrition, fertility incidence of sexuality transmitted infections (STIs), reproduction health problems(50.06%,rank VII),

inadequate motivation from family members(48.19%, rank VIII),unsanitary conditions(47.67%,rank IX), lack of self motivation (47.51%, rank X),more early marriages, trafficking, forced prostitution and other forms of exploitation (44.62%, rank XI), less time to spare for children(38.94%, rank XII), gender bias, social discrimination on tribal women(35.86%, rank XIII). The results are in conformity with the findings of Patel(2015), Mareeswaran(2017).

Drop out illiteracy is high

Majority of Tribal women were educated up to primary standard and later discontinued their education (dropouts are high). This might be due to their need to involve in economic activity from childhood due to poor economic condition, less understanding and lack of realization of the importance of education in their life. The tribal women were more traditional and lack interest in taking formal education.

Burden of family work

Due to heavy workload and drudgery most of the tribal women perceived burden of family work as a major constraint (rank II). It was difficult to manage agriculture, child, household and other allied activities at a time.

Economic constraints faced by tribal women

It is evident from Table 2. that among the economic constraints faced by tribal women, the major problem expressed by the majority of tribal women less financial background(57.62%,rank I), followed by less availability of government subsidies(55.9%, rank II), less loan repayment of tribal women(53.27%, rank III), insufficient credit facilities and non-availability of timely credit(51.53%, rank IV), lack of awareness about loans/subsidies from banks(48.59%, rank V),complex loan procedures(47.7%,rank VI), no pension/non-availability of pensions(44.98%, rank

VII), less job opportunities for tribal women(44.05%, rank VIII). The results are in conformity with the findings of Sujeetha(2015), Mareeswaran(2017).

Less financial background

In economic constraints, less financial background was ranked first because most of the tribal women were agricultural+ labour, small farmers and few were working in the processing units. Their daily wages were less compared to other non-tribal women. They were restricted to the household activities. Majority of the tribal women suggested to provide income earning activities.

Less availability of government subsidies

Tribal women were living in remote areas and they were having less contact with officers and most of them were unaware of subsidies. Government should focus on the welfare of tribal communities.

Extension constraints faced by tribal women

It is evident from Table 3. that among the extension constraints faced by tribal women, the major problem expressed by the majority of respondents less extension contact and lack of response from government officers(53.92%, rank I), followed by inadequate knowledge on scientific operations(53.38%, rank II), unavailability of officials(51%,rank III), complex administrative formalities(41.68%,rank IV).

Less extension contact and lack of response from government officers

In extension constraints, less extension contact and lack of response from government officers was ranked first. Most of tribal women hesitate to meet the extension personnel and gain access to

information from their neighbours. Visits of Government officials was very rare.

Inadequate knowledge on scientific operations

Tribal women were having inadequate knowledge on scientific operations. Most of them were unaware of the scientific operations. This could be accounted for the reason that less participation in training programmes and demonstrations by tribal women. They used to share information from their neighbours rather than outsiders.

Agri-related constraints faced by tribal women

It is evident from Table 4 that among the agri-related constraints faced by tribal women, the major problem expressed by the majority of respondents was less affordable prices for agricultural produce and minor forest products (MFPs) (58.89%, rank I), less availability of agricultural inputs in time (55.02%, rank II), lack of marketing facilities/limited marketing facilities (52.97%, rank III), few training programmes conducted on improved technology practices (45.41%, rank IV), depend on traditional practices/ indigenous technical knowledge (ITKs) (45.45%, rank V), fear of adoption of new improved practices(42.23%, rank VI). The results are in conformity with the findings of Kalyani(2011), Mareeswaran(2017).

Less affordable prices for agricultural produce and minor forest products (MFPs)

In agri-related less affordable prices for agricultural produce and minor forest products (MFPs) was ranked first. As tribal women depend on the minor forest products as their major source of income. They were not getting the minimum support price on minor forest products. Therefore ITDA, GCC should support the tribal community by providing minimum support prices.

Table 1. Ranking of different personal constraints faced by tribal women (n=120)

S.No.	Personal Constraints	Garret scores	Garret mean sores	Rank
1	Dropouts and Illiteracy is very high	7436	61.96	1
2	Burden of family work	7394	61.61	2
3	Gender bias, Social discrimination on tribal women	4304	35.86	13
4	Unsanitary conditions	5721	47.67	9
5	High mortality, morbidity and malnutrition, fertility incidence of sexuality transmitted infections(STIs), reproduction health problems	6008	50.06	7
6	Continuous working hours	6801	56.67	4
7	Less rest period	7000	58.33	3
8	Less time to spare for children	4673	38.94	12
9	Difficult to spend time for farm activities due to domestic work	6373	53.1	5
10	More social taboos, superstitions and rituals	6202	51.68	6
11	Lack of self motivation	4751	47.51	10
12	Inadequate motivation from family members	5783	48.19	8
13	More Early marriages, trafficking, forced prostitution and other forms of exploitation	5355	44.62	11

Table 2. Ranking of different economic constraints faced by tribal women (n=120)

S.No	Economic Constraints	Garret scores	Garret mean sores	Rank
1	Less availability of government subsidies	6708	55.9	2
2	No pension/non-availability of pensions	5398	44.98	7
3	Less financial background	6915	57.62	1
4	Less loan repayment of tribal women	6393	53.27	3
5	Lack of awareness about loans/subsidies from banks	5831	48.59	5
6	Complex loan procedures	5725	47.7	6
7	Insufficient credit facilities and non-availability of timely credit	6184	51.53	4
8	Less job opportunities for tribal women	5286	44.05	8

Table 3. Ranking of different extension constraints faced by tribal women (n=120)

S.No	Extension Constraints	Garret scores	Garret mean scores	Rank
1	Inadequate knowledge on scientific operations	6404	53.38	2
2	Less Extension contact and lack of response from government officers	6471	53.92	1
3	Unavailability of officials	6121	51	3
4	Complex administrative formalities	5002	41.68	4

Table 4. Ranking of different agri-related constraints faced by tribal women (n=120)

S.No	Agri-related Constraints	Garret scores	Garret mean sores	Rank
1	Less availability of agricultural inputs in time	6603	55.02	2
2	Less affordable prices for agricultural produce and minor forest products(MFPs)	7067	58.89	1
3	Lack of marketing facilities/limited marketing facilities	6357	52.97	3
4	Depend on traditional practices/Indigenous technical knowledge(ITKs)	5455	45.45	5
5	Few training programmes conducted on improved technology practices	5450	45.41	4
6	Fear of adoption of new improved practices	5068	42.23	6

Table 5. Ranking of different infrastructure constraints faced by tribal women (n=120)

S.No	Infrastructure Constraints	Garret scores	Garret mean scores	Rank
1	No local hospitals/Medical facilities	6790	56.58	2
2	Remoteness of villages / Lack of transport	6875	57.29	1
3	Improper drainage channels	6430	53.58	3
4	Lack of clean drinking water	4870	40.58	5
5	Collapsed Anganwadi buildings	5035	41.95	4

Less availability of agricultural inputs in time

Tribal women were rarely involved in the backward and forward production linkages with agriculture. Poor linkages between the non-farm activities and farm activities further hamper opportunities for value addition. Better market linkages for economic empowerment and livelihoods promotion of women are needed. Though women's participation in agricultural production is consistently expanding, they lack access to input supplies.

Infrastructure constraints faced by tribal women

It is evident from Table 5. that among the infrastructure constraints faced by tribal women, the major problem expressed by the majority of respondents remoteness of villages / lack of transport (57.29%, rank I), no local hospitals/medical facilities (56.58%,rank II), improper drainage channels (53.58%, rank III), collapsed anganwadi buildings(41.95%, rank IV), lack of clean drinking water(40.58%, rank V).

Remoteness of villages/Lack of transport

In infrastructure constraints, remoteness of villages/lack of transport was ranked first. Tribal people who were living in hilly areas did not have any access to transport, educational facilities and employment opportunities due to remoteness of their villages.

No local hospitals/Medical facilities

Due to lack of accessibility to hospitals, tribal women were facing many health issues which include malnutrition, mortality *etc.*

CONCLUSION

The constraints expressed by tribal women should be considered especially aspects like weak extension service in remote places, the inaccessibility of officials in time, inadequate technical support received from extension officials. Poor linkages between the non-farm activities and farm activities further hampers opportunities for value addition.

Administrators, officials and institutions should conduct in depth studies to find out the causes for backwardness of the remote areas. The results are in conformity with the findings of Patel(2015), Mareeswaran(2017).

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