

## Constraints as Perceived by the Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh

**Keywords:** Andhra Pradesh, Constraints and Perceived Women Agriculture Officers.

The status of women in India is somewhat different from that of the developed countries of the west. In all the aged women did not have an independent existence of her own. The role that modern emancipated women has been playing in India's social, political and cultural life is significant but the emancipation of women has not entirely been an unmixed blessing for her. In Indian society, a women is one of two wheels of the life carts and responsibility of the family, society and the nation rests upon both men and women equally. Throughout the history, the central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress and long- term development of nation. Women are likely to be the prime initiator of outside assistance, and play an important role in facilitating (or hindering) challenges in family life. They play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied sectors. The strength of women agriculture officers is increasing day by day. The annual growth rate in real terms in agriculture and its allied sectors was 2.9 per cent in 2019-20. The stake holders starting from researchers, policy makers, extension functionaries, input dealers, marketing personnel, post harvest processors to the ultimate farming community are striving hard to sustain the growth of agriculture. Among all these stake holders, the connecting link between extension functionaries and the farmers is more vital in fulfilling the desired goals of the agricultural sector in the country.

The Present investigation was carried out with the following objective

1. To study the Constraints as Perceived by the Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in all thirteen districts of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2019-20. *Ex- Post Facto* research design was followed for the study with simple random sampling procedure. From each district ten Women Agriculture Officers were selected i.e., total of 13 districts with a sample size of 130 Women Agriculture Officers. Statistical tests such as Frequency, Percentage and Garrett ranking was used.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Constraints as Perceived by the Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh.

The results were represented as below

#### Personal constraints faced by Women Agricultural Officers

It is revealed from the Table 1. that among various personal constraints faced by Women Agricultural Officers, the major constraints expressed by majority of them was lack of Govt. transportation facilities (61.46, Rank I) followed by lack of adequate and equitable sanitation facilities at work place (53.31, Rank II), family related issues such as child care,

**Table 1. Garrett's ranking for different Personal Constraints faced by the Women Agricultural Officers (n=130)**

S. No.	Constraints	Garrett's score	Garrett's Mean score	Rank
1	Lack of support from society	5095	39.19	V
2	Lack of Govt. transportation facilities	7990	61.46	I
3	Lack of adequate and equitable sanitation facilities at workplace	6930	53.31	II
4	Family related issues (such as child care , household work)	6315	48.58	III
5	Lack of time for revitalization of mind and body	6170	47.46	IV

**Table 2. Garrett's ranking for different Administrative Constraints faced by the Women Agricultural Officers (n=130)**

S. No.	Constraint	Garrett's score	Garrett's Mean score	Rank
1	High Political interference	4915	37.81	V
2	Untimely release of funds and more clerical work	6165	47.42	IV
3	Heavy workload and hectic schedule of working untimely instructions	7990	61.46	I
4	Inadequate manpower	6400	49.23	III
5	Cumbersome reporting and documentation	7030	54.08	II

**Table 3. Garrett's ranking for different Technological Constraints faced by the Women Agricultural Officers (n=130)**

S. No.	Constraint	Garrett's score	Garrett's Mean score	Rank
1	Lack of location specific technologies	7115	54.73	II
2	No time for refreshing knowledge	6520	50.15	III
3	Release of inputs late in season	7915	60.88	I
4	No time for visiting demonstration acts frequently	4820	37.08	V
5	Less number of refresher trainings on ICTs	6130	47.15	IV

**Table 4. Ranking of suggestions given by Women Agriculture Officers (n=130)**

S. No.	Suggestions	F	%	Rank
1	Provision of Govt. vehicle during the crop season	117	90	I
2	Assignment of official work within the office hours	113	86.92	II
3	Optimum working hours to have a comfortable personal life	108	83.08	III
4	Capacity building training	98	75.38	IV
5	Filling of the vacancies of the supporting staff	93	71.54	V
6	Permission to purchase inputs well in advance of the season	89	68.46	VI
7	Provision of proper infrastructure	85	65.38	VII
8	Simplified reporting practice	82	63.08	VIII
9	Organisation of study tours	76	58.46	IX
10	Timely release of funds	69	53.08	X

household work (48.58, Rank III), lack of time for revitalization of mind and body (47.46, Rank IV) and lack of support from society (39.19, Rank V). These findings are in line with the conformity of Rao (2002).

### **Administrative Constraints faced by Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh**

It is evident from the Table 2. that among various administrative constraints faced by Women Agricultural Officers, the major constraints expressed by majority of them was heavy workload and hectic schedule of working untimely instructions with a mean score of 61.46 (Rank I) followed by cumbersome reporting and documentation 54.08 (Rank II), a mean score of 49.23 was observed for inadequate manpower (Rank III), untimely release of funds and more clerical work 47.42 (Rank IV) and high political interference 37.81 (Rank V). These findings are in line with the study of Babu (2005).

### **Technological Constraints faced by Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh**

It is evident from the Table 3. that among various technological constraints faced by Women Agricultural Officers, the major constraint expressed by majority of them was release of inputs in late season 60.88 (Rank I) followed by lack of location specific technologies 54.73 (Rank II), no time for refreshing knowledge 50.15 (Rank III), less number of refreshing trainings on ICTs 47.15 (Rank IV) and no time for visiting demonstration acts frequently 37.08 (Rank V). The above findings are in line with the findings of Mishra (2005), Mandavi (2002) and Patil (2016).

### **Suggestions given by the Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh**

A List of suggestions given by the Women Agriculture Officers was collected to overcome the

constraints faced by them in their gravity of perceived role. The results were presented in Table 4. The suggestions offered by the Women Agriculture Officers were arranged in descending order of their frequency and percentage.

From the Table 4. It is evident that among various suggestions expressed by Women Agriculture Officers to overcome the constraints, the major suggestion was Provision of Govt. vehicle during the crop season (90.00%, Rank I) followed by Assignment of official work within the office hours (86.92%, rank II), Optimum working hours to have a comfortable personal life(83.08%, rank III), Capacity building training (75.38%, rank IV), Filling of the vacancies of the supporting staff(71.54%, rank V), Permission to purchase inputs well in advance of the season(68.46%, rank VI), Provision of proper infrastructure(65.38%, rank VII), Simplified reporting practice(63.08%, rank VIII), Organisation of study tours(58.46%, rank IX) and Timely release of funds (53.08%, rank X). The above findings are in line with the findings of Gurav (2006) and Sharma *et al.* (2013)

### **CONCLUSION**

Major constraints enlisted by the Women Agriculture Officers if the government should bestow the efforts for addressing the constraints then the performance of Women Agriculture Officers will be at maximum.

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