

Land ownership and Decision Making Pattern of Farm Women: A Field Study in Medak District of Andhra Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Medak district of Andhra Pradesh, India to study and quantify the decision making pattern of the farm women with and without land ownership and to identify the factors which contributed positively and negatively in holding the land ownership with a sample of 50 women having 25 in each group. Results of the study revealed that there was a distinct difference between the two groups of women in decision making pattern. Out of the total 15 identified farm decisions, women with land ownership were more independent in 14 decisions than the women without land ownership with an average difference of 11.2 per cent. Age of the women, their respective village literacy level, individual education level and family size respectively were the factors that played significant role in acquisition of the land ownership in the study area in descending order of magnitude and discriminated between the two groups. It was concluded from the study that the land ownership of the farm women has very clear impact on decision making pattern which denote their empowerment level and confirmed that enhancing the education levels of the farm women and over all literacy rate of the villages is required to improve the percentage share of the land holdings by the farm women for empowerment of women in agriculture.

Key words : Decision making pattern, Field study.