



PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN DECISION MAKING

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Abstract

The present investigation attempt to highlight the decision making pattern of farm families in rural area of Uttar Pradesh. The analysis of data collected from 80 farm households indicates that the participation of rural women was of a supportive nature in the decision making process except in case of the decision related to households. Their participation in decision making was observed to be joint with their male counterparts. For data collection interview schedule, field observation and cross questioning were farmed. Finding revealed that majority of rural women respondents were middle age women in the age group between 31 to 40 years (55%). Most of the respondents 52.50% were from general caste. Majority of respondents were 81.25 per cent from nuclear family and main occupation were agriculture 57.50 per cent. A large majority of seventy five rural women respondents were making decision for cooking food and purchase grocery (75.50%). Majority of rural women participated in the decision making process for vaccination of children (61.25), participation of social and religious function (52.50%). It is also revealed that only 6.25% rural women respondents were making process for sale and purchase of property and 16.25 per cent taken decision for income generating. Decision about seed and fertilizers and harvesting crop were taking by their husband majority of these case the husband were decision maker.

Key Words: *Decision Making Process, Rural Women, Joint Decision, Participation, Family.*

INTRODUCTION

Women are an integral part of human society. Women contribute one third of the labour allied enterprises they have been playing significance role in home, farm and allied activities (Raval et.al 2014). Decision making is a critical element in the status of the family members since it involves the allocation of resources and the distribution of roles with in family (Hussain 2011). Women play a crucial role in the economic welfare of the family. Women perform different tasks depending on their socio-economic structure, number of members in family. The authoritarian character of the traditional joint family entails decision making powers concentrated in the position of the eldest male members (Rao 1982). The power to take decisions extremely important from the view point of empowerment of women because it is often seen that their voice is not properly listened. Women are the integral part of family and play crucial role in socio economic welfare of family (Rao 1982). Females in agriculture households assist the farmers in fields as well as household activities women participate in all agricultural activities like crop production, processing, storage, input allocation. The main purpose of study was to evaluate rural women's attitudes to their participation in the decision making process.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY WERE AS FOLLOWS

1. Describe socio personal characteristics of rural women.
2. Determine the level of women's attitude to participation in decision making.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. This study was limited to two village of district Kannauj.
2. The sample consisted of only 80 households.

METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh. A sample of eighty rural women was selected through multi random sampling technique. In first stage Kannauj district was select purposively. In second stage Jalalabad block was select purposively. In third stage two villages namely Jaspurapur and Meerpur were selected purposively. In fourth stage eighty rural women were selected randomly from selected villages.

Data were collected through personal interview technique with the help of structured schedule. The schedule was divided into two sections, i.e. socioeconomic characteristic and decision making power of the respondents. The data were tabulated and analyzed in terms of frequency and percentage.



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data with respect to various personal socioeconomic characteristic of the respondents have been studied and furnished in table 1-

Table -1 Socio personal characteristic of respondents (N =80)

S.N.	Selected Characteristic	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (years)		
	Young (<30)	15	18.75
	Middle (31-40)	44	55.00
	Old (>40)	<u>21</u>	<u>26.25</u>
	Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100.00</u>
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	06	07.50
	Able to read & write only	12	15.00
	Primary	22	27.50
	Middle	23	28.75
	Graduation	<u>17</u>	<u>21.25</u>
	Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100.00</u>
3.	Caste		
	General	42	52.50
	Other backward class	23	28.75
	Schedule caste	15	18.75
	Schedule Tribes	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100</u>	
4.	Number of Family Members		
	3-6 Family Members	58	72.50
	6-10 Family Members	18	22.50
	10-13 Family Members	<u>04</u>	<u>05.00</u>
	Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100</u>
5.	Type of Family		
	Joint Family	15	18.75
	Nuclear Family	<u>65</u>	<u>81.25</u>
Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100</u>	
6.	Occupation		
	Agriculture + Labour	20	25.00
	Agriculture	46	57.50
	Agriculture + Service	06	07.50
	Agriculture + Subsidiary	<u>08</u>	<u>10.00</u>
Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100</u>	
7.	Farming Experience		
	Lower (up to 10 years)	14	17.50
	Middle (11 to 20 years)	54	67.50
	Upper (above 20)	<u>12</u>	<u>15.00</u>
	Total	<u>80</u>	<u>100</u>

Table 1 shows maximum i.e. fifty five per cent (N=44) respondents were in age group of 31-40 years of age followed by 26.25% (N=21) in age group above 40 years and 18.75% (N=15) in age group less than 30 years. Maximum 28.75 percent (



N=23) women respondents have passed middle level of education followed by 27.50 per cent (N = 22) have passed primary education, 21.50 per cent (N = 17) were graduation, 15 per cent (N=12) were able to read and write and only 7.50 per cent (N = 06) of respondents who were illiterate.

Most of the women respondents 52.50 per cent (N = 42) were belonging to General caste followed by other back ward caste and schedule caste. According to the results, the number of family members of the subjects is as follows: 72.5% (N =58) were in 3-6 member families, 22.5% (N =18) in 6-10 member families and 5% (N =4) in 10-13 member families. Majority of 81.25% (N=65) women respondents were living in the Nuclear Family followed by 18.75% (N=15) Joint family.

Maximum 57.50% (N=46) respondents were having only agriculture occupation followed by 25 per cent (N=20) of respondents having Agriculture and labour as their income source. The Table represented that only 7.50% (N=06) respondents have Agriculture and service. It is clear from the table the agriculture dominates in the sampled area. Most of the rural women respondents (67.50%) were 10 to 20 years farming experience followed by 17.50 % (N=14) have up to 10 year farming experience. Only fifteen percent (N=12) have above 20 years farming experience.

Table 2 participation of rural women in decision making. (N=80)

S.N.	Decision making power	Wife	Husband	Both
1.	Decision about Cooking food	60 (75.00%)	08 (10.00%)	12 (15.00%)
2.	Purchase grocery	62 (77.50%)	08 (10.00%)	10 (12.50%)
3.	Help to children studies	42 (52.50%)	26 (32.50%)	12 (15.00%)
4.	Care of sick person	52 (65.00%)	13(16.25%)	15 (18.75%)
5.	Child marriage	22 (27.50%)	16(20.00%)	42 (52.50%)
6.	Determine number of children	20 (25.00%)	15(18.75%)	45 (56.25%)
7.	New house construction	08 (10.00%)	56(70.00%)	16 (20.00%)
8.	Vaccination of children	49 (61.25%)	15 (18.75%)	16 (20.00%)
9.	Participation of social & Religious function	42 (52.50%)	09(11.25%)	29(36.25%)
10.	Purchase of seeds and fertilizer	13 (16.25%)	45(56.25%)	22 (27.50%)
11.	Harvesting of crops	10 (12.50%)	58 (72.50%)	12 (15.00%)
12.	Decision about income generating	13 (16.25%)	60(75.00%)	07 (08.75%)
13.	Decision about sale/purchase of property	05 (06.25%)	49(61.25%)	26 (32.50%)

From the above table 2 it is clear that seventy five per cent (N=60) rural women respondents were making decision for cooking food followed by fifteen per cent (N=12) both (Husband and wife) and only ten per cent (N=8) making decision by husband.

Majority of 77.5 percent (N=62) respondents were making decision for grocery followed by 12.5 per cent (N=10) both and ten per cent (N=8) by husband.

Further 32.50 per cent (N=26) respondents were making decision for help to children studies. Sixty five per cent (N=52) rural women were taking decision for care of sick person.

Twenty five per cent (N=20) respondents take decision for determine the number of children, 56.25% (N=45) taking decision jointly for determine the number of children. Only ten per cent (N=8) rural women were taking decision for new house construction. Decision about new house construction seventy percent (N=56) was taken by their husbands. Only 6.25 per cent (N=5) respondents were taking decision of sale or purchase of the property. In majority of the cases husband were the decision makers.

Most of the respondents 52.50% (N=42) reported that participated in social and religious function. Only 16.25 percent (N=13) respondents were making decision for purchase seed and fertilizers, 12.5% (N=10) harvesting of crops.

Decision about seeds and fertilizer and harvesting crop were taken by their husbands. About seventy five percent decision about involvement in income generation activity taken by their husband similar results were also presented by (Shingad et al 2014).



CONCLUSION

From the investigation it can be seen that rural woman possess low decision making power in their families. Maximum respondents take decision with their spouse. Rural women were participated in decision making in cooking, purchase Grocery, vaccination of children and help to children studies. Husbands were the main decision makers for purchase or sale property and new house construction. Most of respondent's rural women showed low level of participation in purchase of seeds & fertilizers.

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