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Study the Profile Characteristics of Farm Women with Reference to Decision Making Behaviour

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Indian rural women always play an important role and remain as a prominent partner of agricultural sector. Women form one – third of the world's official labour force but are concentrated in the lowest paid occupation and are more vulnerable to unemployment than men. Rural Indian Women are extensively involved in agricultural activities, however, the nature and extent of their involvement differs with the variations in agro-production systems. Hence, the study focused on 'profile characteristics of farm women in decision making behaviour'. The study was conducted in Orathanadu and Thiruvonam blocks of Orathanadu Taluk in Thanjavur District with sample of 120 farm women selected based on proportionate random sampling procedure. The profile characteristics of farm women in majority of the farm women were in middle - age category, with middle level of education, nuclear family type, agriculture as their major occupation, medium level of farming experience, information source utilization, innovativeness, risk orientation, economic motivation, self-confidence, with low level of extension agency contact, with high attitude towards farming and low level of socio-economic status.

Keywords: Farm women; profile characteristics.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Rural women play a significant role by working with full passion in production of crops right from the soil preparation till post-harvest activities. But the agriculture sector in many developing countries is underperforming in the past, because women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, labourers, entrepreneurs, almost everywhere, face more severe constraints than men in access to productive resources. Efforts by national government and the international community to achieve their goals for agricultural development, economic growth and food security will be strengthened and accelerated if they build on the contributions that women make and take steps to alleviate these constraints. The women are employed in any remunerative work for 247 days in a year and they are in need of gainful employment. Over the years, women cultivators are typically and wrongly characterized as economically inactive and women cultivators play only a supportive role in agriculture as farmers' wives. Rural women remain busy from morning to night in various agricultural activities and livestock. Orasanu and Connolly [1] defined it as series of cognitive operations performed consciously, which include the elements from the environment in a specific time and place. Women must be given full chance to participate in decision making as they are actively engaged in home and farm activities. Women's active involvement in decision making is considered essential for rapid economic development of the country. Thanjavur being the foremost district of the cauvery delta occupies an important position in the agricultural map of Tamil Nadu as 70 percent of the population is engaged in Agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood by keeping view of The present study was under taken to explore the profile characteristics of farm women.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In this study, the investigator has attempted to describe the profile characteristics of farm women with reference decision making behaviour. The data collection related to this study was carried out in the year 2017. The farm women were interviewed and their response was recorded as per the interview schedule. Thanjavur District selected purposively. Again, Orathanadu and Thiruvonam blocks were purposively selected. In these two blocks, six (6)

villages were identified from each block based on the criteria that they were the most agricultural important blocks. Descriptive research design has been followed in the study with sample size of 120 farm women selected based on proportionate random sampling procedure. Thirteen (13) independent variables were selected based on judges' opinion like most relevant, relevant and irrelevant score based on the 3 point likert scale. The independent variables were Age, Educational status, Family type, Occupational status, Farming experience, Information source utilization, Innovativeness, Risk orientation, Economic motivation, Self-confidence, Extension agency contact, Attitude towards farming and Socio-economic status. The respondents has been divided into three group's viz., low, medium and high based on the statistical tool like frequency and percentage were used for analyzing the collected data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Profile Characteristics of Farm Women

Table 1 represent in the profile characteristics of farm women. As far as socio-economic and personal profile of farm women is measured the results understand that nearly half of the respondents (46.67 per cent) were found under middle age category. This might be due to that the farm women of this age group were more involved in paddy cultivation practices than other age group. These findings are line with the findings of Kamala Singh et al. (2014).

One- third of the respondents (37.50 per cent) were middle level of education. This might be due to the presence of educational institutions within easy reach. This findings were constricted with the findings as reported by Meti and Sathish [2]. It could be noticed that majority of the respondent's belonged to nuclear type of family (87.50 per cent) because of desire to lead an independent life with proper accommodation, basic amenities and to provide better future to their kids followed by joint family (12.50 per cent) and its similar to the findings of Reshma et al. [3]. Majority of the respondents (97.50 per cent) were found to have agriculture as their primary occupation. It could be concluded that majority of the respondents depend only on agriculture for their family income. Traditionally there are no industries in the study area. Hence there was no option for them to get any other jobs. The present findings were in contrast to findings as

reported by Rathod et al. [4]. It is inferred that more than half of the respondents (50.00 per cent) in 13-24 years of farming experience of farm women. As the farm women majority of the respondents had middle and young age category so 13-24 years farming experience. The present findings were in contrast to findings as reported by Fabiyi et al. [5].

Table 1. Distribution of farm women according to the profile characteristics (n=120)

S. no	Category	Frequency	Percentage	
1	Age	Young	33	27.50
		Middle	56	46.67
		Old	31	25.83
2	Educational status	Illiterate	25	20.83
		Primary education	18	15.00
		Middle education	45	37.00
		Secondary education	21	17.50
		Collegiate	11	9.17
3	Family type	Joint family	15	12.50
		Nuclear family	105	87.50
4	Occupational status	Agriculture as Primary Occupation	117	97.50
		Agriculture as Secondary Occupation	3	2.50
5	Farming experience	2-13 Years	40	33.33
		13-24 Years	60	50.00
		24-35 Years	20	16.67
6	Information source utilization	Low	53	44.17
		Medium	61	50.83
		High	6	5.00
7	Innovativeness	Low	27	22.50
		Medium	57	47.50
		High	36	30.00
8	Risk orientation	Low	20	16.67
		Medium	71	59.17
		High	29	24.17
9	Economic motivation	Low	34	28.33
		Medium	74	61.67
		High	12	10.00
10	Self- confidence	Low	34	28.33
		Medium	74	61.67
		High	12	10.00
11	Extension agency contact	Low	96	80.00
		Medium	3	2.50
		High	21	17.50
12	Attitude towards farming	Less favourable	3	2.50
		Favourable	50	41.67
		More favourable	67	55.83
13	Socio-economic status	Low	78	65.00
		Medium	39	32.50
		High	3	2.50

It could be seen that more number of farm women 50.83 per cent medium level of information source utilization. This might be due to lack of interest and middle level education, they did not have good source of information. This result is in consistent with that Valbhav and Basunathe [6]. Majority of the respondents (47.50 per cent) had medium level of innovativeness. It could be concluded that more interest and motivation of farm women infuse a new idea in their own social system by obtaining the innovation from outside the system boundaries .the similar findings are reported by Kamal Singh Chouhan et al. [7]. As found among the respondents more than half that (59.17 per cent) of the respondents fell in medium category of risk orientation. This might be due to the preference reflects one's readiness or willingness to use the recommended technologies. This finding derives support from the findings Sarala Chouhan et al. [8]. More than half of the farm women (61.67 per cent) had medium level of economic motivation. This may be due to that fact that middle age, educated farm women urge to earn more so as to improve their standard living. This is in line with the findings of Priyanga [9]. Slightly more than half of the respondents (61.67 per cent) belonged to medium category with respect to self-confidence. This is due to less awareness about the new technologies, less interaction with the extension agents, middle education level and as well as not as much of experience about farming activity. The findings supported by Kiran et al. [10]. It could be seen that majority of the farm women had low (80.00 per cent) to medium level of extension participation. This may due to the fact that the farm women had middle education level and less opportunity to them for associating in extension activities. This finding derives support from the findings Warkade [11]. Most of the farm women (55.83 per cent) had more favourable attitude towards farming. This might due to reason that most of the respondents have medium level of self-confidence and risk orientation. All these reasons might have related them to be strongly faithful to their occupation and have more favourable attitude towards farming. These findings are in the line with the findings Priyanga [9]. 65.00 per cent of the women belonged to low level of socio-economic status. It may be on account of their medium income from occupation and they may have dependence on only agriculture. These findings are in the line with the findings Priyanga [9].

4. CONCLUSION

The finding of the study implies that profile characteristics of farm women were decision making is an important aspect of farm and home life. To a large extent of the success in agriculture depends upon, how well the family takes decision. The profile of farm women task master require to be knowledge gained through farming experience and develop self confidence. Need to more contact extension agents with farm women.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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