

Factors influencing the Decision-making and Involvement of Farm Women in Farm and Home Activities

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Abstract : The study was carried out in three villages of Periyar district of Tamil Nadu. Hundred women heading farm families formed the respondents of the study. The findings revealed that the scientific orientation alone was found to be positively and significantly associated with the decision-making behaviour of rural women.

Key words : Farm decision making, Farm women

Introduction

The human society today is witnessing unprecedented changes in all walks of life due to rapid development of science and technology. Consequently every human being is called upon to make adjustments which involve series of decisions. Decision-making is important because much of the success of any enterprise and particularly farming depends upon how well the family makes decision. Every action of individual is the result of conscious or unconscious decisions. The present decision has its roots in the past and reflects upon the future decision. The decision is the heart of the farm management.

The Indian rural women generously credit their spouse for all decisions taken on their farm and home activities. Though they prefer to remain in the background they contribute a lot to the family decisions.

The involvement of women in farm and home activities remain invisible, so also their contribution to the decision-making. This necessitated the researcher to conduct a detailed study on the rural women in farm and home decision-making with respect to all farm and home activities. Keeping the above aspects in mind the present study on rural

women in farm and home decision-making was attempted with specific objective of the factors influencing the decision-making and involvement of farm women in farm and home activities.

Methodology

The study was conducted in three selected villages of Perundurai of Periyar district in Tamil Nadu. Hundred women heading farm families formed the respondents. The required data were collected with a well structured and pretested interview schedule. The data were analysed with appropriate statistical tools for meaningful interpretation.

Results and discussion

Factors influencing rural women in farm and home decision-making

Correlation analysis was carried out to find out the relationship of characteristics of rural women and their decision-making pattern and the results are given in Table 1.

It could be observed from above Table that out of 18 characteristics studied scientific orientation alone was found to be positively and significantly associated with the decision-making pattern of rural women.

Table 1. Zero order correlation coefficient between characteristics rural women and their decision-making pattern

| S.No. | Independent Variables | r' Values |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Age | 0.03222 NS |
| 2. | Educational status | -0.09899 NS |
| 3. | Farming experience | -0.05142 NS |
| 4. | Experience in home activities | -0.04580 NS |
| 5. | Family status | -0.02151 NS |
| 6. | Occupation status | -0.05594 NS |
| 7. | Social participation | -0.09308 NS |
| 8. | Farm power status | 0.12628 NS |
| 9. | Material status | 0.18900 NS |
| 10. | Mass media exposure | 0.17313 NS |
| 11. | Cosmopolitaness | 0.03081 NS |
| 12. | Credit orientation | -0.14580 NS |
| 13. | Innovativeness | -0.13250 NS |
| 14. | Marketing behaviour | -0.00199 NS |
| 15. | Change agency contact | -0.08610 NS |
| 16. | Socio-economic status | -0.00100 NS |
| 17. | Scientific orientation | 0.19808 * |
| 18. | Farm status | -0.16325 NS |

* significant at 5% level NS : Non significant

The other variables namely, age, social participation, farm power status, material status, mass media exposure, cosmopolitaness, change agency contact and socio economic status had positively non-significant relationship with their decision-making behaviour of rural women. Educational status, farming experience, experience in home activities, family status, occupational status, credit orientation, innovativeness, marketing behaviour and farm status had negatively non-significant association with their decision-making behaviour of rural women.

The findings contradict to the findings of Rexlin (1984) and Santha (1984).

Correlation analysis was also carried out to find out the relationship of rural women and their involvement and the result are given in Table 2.

It could be stated from the Table that none of the 18 characteristics had significant association with the involvement of rural women. Age, farming experience, experience in home activities, family status, mass media exposure, cosmopolitaness, marketing behaviour, scientific orientation and socio-economic status had positively non-significant association with the involvement of rural women. But the other variables namely, educational status, occupational status, credit orientation, innovativeness and change agency contact had negatively nonsignificant association with the involvement of rural women.

From the findings, it is concluded that scientific orientation alone was found to be positively and significantly associated with the decision-making behaviour of rural women. None of the 18

Table 2. Zero order correlation coefficient between characteristics rural women and involvement

| S.No. | Independent Variables | 'r' Values |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Age | -0.14161 NS |
| 2. | Educational status | -0.19461 NS |
| 3. | Farming experience | 0.09460 NS |
| 4. | Experience in home activities | 0.11430 NS |
| 5. | Family status | 0.89200 NS |
| 6. | Occupational status | -0.11634 NS |
| 7. | Farm status | -0.09951 NS |
| 8. | Social participation | 0.13446 NS |
| 9. | Farm power status | 0.17381 NS |
| 10. | Material status | 0.03712 NS |
| 11. | Mass media exposure | 0.06169 NS |
| 12. | Cosmopolitaness | 0.04748 NS |
| 13. | Credit orientation | -0.01656 NS |
| 14. | Innovativeness | -0.00410 NS |
| 15. | Marketing behaviour | 0.01533 NS |
| 16. | Scientific orientation | 0.05463 NS |
| 17. | Change agency contact | -0.09825 NS |
| 18. | Socio-economic status | 0.00760 NS |

NS : Non significant

characteristics had significant association with the rural women. So, lack of confidence or the prevalence of social stigma may be the reason for keeping away from decision-making in important aspects. The government is taking adequate steps to provide the basic literacy to women but it alone may not be sufficient to empower the women. What is needed is organising the women into viable groups and exposing them to the component of various development programmes and women's share in them. Again this could be achieved by organising

appropriate training programmes by the Department of Agriculture and Social Welfare.

References

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