
INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN LIVESTOCK SECTOR IN ALIGARH DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Gender refers to the socially determined differences between women and men, such as roles, attitudes, behaviours, and varies across gender roles are learned and vary across cultures and overtime. They are, thus amenable to change. Gender is a relational term that includes both women and men. Gender equality focuses on changes for both women and men. The caste system in India separated into economic and social strata by birth. The rigid hierarchy remained largely in place for many countries, despite periodic challenges from social and religious reform movements. The study was carried out during 2018 in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh regarding on the ground of being Lodha block in livestock areas. Four villages were randomly selected from the village list of the block for the study in Livestock activities that as compare to man, women average contribution was more (61.00 %) out of 8 livestock activities and man contribution was (39.00%). Out of 8 livestock activities, in three activities major contribution of women were found with livestock as (1) Milk processing (Butter, curd and Ghee etc) (100%) (2) Fodder managements (65%) and (3) Milking (62%), respectively. Similarly but vice-versa, man contribution less as compare to women, major contribution of man were found with livestock as (1) Making animal food (48%) (2) Cleaning of animals and animal house (44%) and animal feeding (3) (41%), respectively. India is an agriculture based country and livestock sector is an integral component of it where, livestock production is largely in the hands of women. Most of the animal farming activities such as fodder collection, feeding, watering, and health care, management, milking and household-level processing, value addition and marketing are performed by women. S.J. Patel et.al. (2016)

INTRODUCTION:

India is an agriculture based country and livestock sector is an integral component of it where, livestock production is largely in the hands of women. Most of the animal farming activities such as fodder collection, feeding, watering, and health care, management, milking and household-level processing, value addition and marketing are performed by women. S.J. Patel et.al. (2016). Swaminathan, the famous agricultural scientist describes that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fibre and fuel. Women have played and continue to play a key role in the conservation of basic life support systems such as land, water, flora and fauna. They have protected the health of the soil through organic recycling and promoted crop security through the maintenance of varietal diversity and genetic resistance. Rural women play a key role in agricultural sector production by working with full passion in production of crops right from the soil preparation till post harvest and food security activities (Habib, 1996; ESCAP, 1996; Ahmed & Hussain, 1986).

That women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post harvest operations, agro/ social forestry, fisheries, etc. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture, no doubt, varies greatly from region to region. Even within a region, their involvement varies widely among different ecological sub-zones, farming systems, castes, classes and stages in the family cycle. But regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production, except ploughing in which women are not actively involved. Studies on women in agriculture conducted in India and other developing and under developed countries all point to the conclusion that women contribute far more to agricultural production than has generally been acknowledged. Recognition of their crucial role in agriculture should not obscure the fact that farm women continue to be concerned with their primary functions as wives, mothers and homemakers. Roshan lal and Ashok khurana(2011)

In the food security the rural women over the world play a major role, agricultural production and in the development and stability of the rural areas but women face a number of constraints in approaching agricultural extension sources especially in developing countries.

Rural women along with men play an important role in the agriculture sector like crop production, livestock production as well as cottage industry. Butt, T.M., Z.Y. Hassan et.al. 2010.

In this context, a study was taken with the following objectives:

1. To study the study were gender based on caste category
2. To study the comparative activities related to livestock sector

METHODOLOGY:

The study was purposively conducted in Lodha block of Aligarh district (U.P.) on the ground of being a major rice growing area and livestock areas. Four villages were randomly selected from the village list of the block for the study. Thus, there were 100 respondents in total for study undertaken through proportionate random sampling technique and the investigator himself collected data with the help of pre tested interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Table 1. Distribution of respondents (Gender) based on caste category in agriculture and livestock sector

Table 1 indicate that a majority of the respondents (39.00%) belong to backward caste while the general caste (34.00%) and Scheduled caste/ scheduled tribe caste category (27.00%), respectively. Similar finding have been reported by Bose and Santipriya (1961)

It is obvious from table 2 in Livestock activities that as compare to man, women average contribution was more (61.00 %) out of 8 livestock activities and man contribution was (39.00%). Out of 8 livestock activities, in three activities major contribution of women were found with livestock as (1) Milk processing (Butter, curd and Ghee etc) (100%) (2) Fodder managements (65%) and (3) Milking (62%), respectively. Similarly but vice-versa, man contribution less as compare to women, major contribution of man were found with livestock as (1) Making animal food (48%) (2) Cleaning of animals and animal house (44%) and animal feeding (3) (41%), respectively.

It is obvious from table 3 in Social and decision power activities that as compare to women, average contribution of man was very high (91.00 %) and women contribution was very low (9.00%). Out of 5 Social and decision power activities, in three activities major contribution of man were found as (1) Village Leader (98%) (2) Social workers (97%) and (3) Head of family

(96%), respectively. Similarly but vice-versa, women contribution less as compare to man, major contribution of women were found as (1) Social participation (22%) (2) Extension agents (14%) and (3) head of family (4%), respectively.

CONCLUSION:

Gender refers to the socially determined differences between women and men, such as roles, attitudes, behaviours, and varies across gender roles are learned and vary across cultures and overtime. They are, thus amenable to change. Gender is a relational term that includes both women and men. Gender equality focuses on changes for both women and men. The majority of the respondents (39.00%) belong to backward caste while the general caste (34.00%) and Scheduled caste/ scheduled tribe caste category (27.00%), respectively. In Livestock activities that as compare to man, women average contribution was more (61.00 %) out of 8 livestock activities and man contribution was (39.00%). Out of 8 livestock activities, in three activities major contribution of women were found with livestock as (1) Milk processing (Butter, curd and Ghee etc) (100%) (2) Fodder managements (65%) and (3) Milking (62%), respectively. Similarly but vice-versa, man contribution less as compare to women, major contribution of man were found with livestock as (1) Making animal food (48%) (2) Cleaning of animals and animal house (44%) and animal feeding (3) (41%), respectively.

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Table 1. Distribution of respondents (Gender) based on caste category in agriculture and livestock sector

No. of respondents	Gender caste category		
	Scheduled caste/ scheduled tribe caste	Backward caste	General caste
Total N (100)	27	39	34
Percentage	27.00	39.00	34.00

Table.2. Comparative activities related to agriculture and livestock sector

S.No.	Activities	Man (Percentage)	Women (Percentage)
A.	Live stock		
1.	Fodder managements	35	65
2.	Animal feeding	41	59
3.	Cleaning of animals and animal house	44	56
4.	Making animal food	48	52
5.	Milking	38	62
6.	Milk processing (Butter, curd and Ghee etc)	0	100
7.	Grazing of animals	49	51
8.	Animals washing	57	43
	Average	39.00	61.00
B.	Social and decision power		
1.	Head of family	96	4
2.	Social workers	97	03
3.	Social participation	78	22
4.	Extension agents	86	14
5.	Village Leader	98	2
	Average	91.00	9.00