

DECISION MAKING PATTERN OF TRIBAL FARM WOMEN**Vishvajeet Patel * and Dr. N.M.Chauhan******P.G. Student* and Principal******College of Polytechnic in Agriculture.****NAU, Vyara-394 650, Gujarat, India.****A B S T R A C T**

Role concert defined as the way women essentially plays their role in a source of revenue running. Farmwomen play fundamental role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. No operation in field is beyond them. They are best in sowing, transplanting, weeding, manuring, harvesting, winnowing, threshing, storing, marketing and rearing livestock etc. Besides they are the manager to the household activities. They take important decision in home and outside the home. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them. Therefore, it was felt necessary to carry out the investigation entitled "Role performance of tribal farm women in livelihood management". The study was conducted with following objectives; To study the profile of the tribal farmwomen, to study the tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making for home management, farm management and animal husbandry practices and to study the role performance of tribal farm women in crop and animal husbandry practices.

The results clearly indicates that the majority of the respondents (83.33 per cent) were in middle to young age groups, had secondary level of education, (92.50 percent) of the respondents were married, (55.83 per cent) had 3 to 5 number of children,(60.83 per cent) belonged to the joint family, (81.66 per cent) of the respondents belonged medium to big family size, more than half (54.16 per cent) of the respondents had medium herd size, two-fifth (37.50 per cent) of the respondents possessed skilled occupation, (92.50 per cent) had medium to big size of land holding,(58.32 per cent) respondents had medium to low annual income, (80.83 per cent) of the respondents sometimes to regularly used source of information, (85.00 per cent) involved in social activities, (80.00 per cent) of respondents had moderate level of scientific orientation, (93.33 per cent) of the respondents earned their livelihood from two to three enterprises, More than half of (52.50 per cent) the respondents had medium level of decision making in home management. Majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents were medium level of decision making in farm management. Majority (64.16 per cent) of the respondents were medium level of decision making in animal husbandry practices. Majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance in crop practices. Majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance in animal husbandry practices.

Introduction

Farmwomen are the spinal column of Indian agriculture. Growing food has been an ceaseless saga of her life. Like other rural women tribal women also play an important role in agriculture. Even cultural anthropological literature suggests that agriculture is invention of women. Farming in India is mainly a family occupation. Most of the family members are acutely engaged in farming. At present when the farm technology is changing at faster speed a farmer has to adopt this in order to become a competitive and efficient farmer. The change in farming has increased manifold. The farming capabilities for taking timely and judicious decisions by the farm families have a direct bearing on the agricultural development in country. It is well known fact that decision is the heart of management. Much of success

of farm families depends upon how well the family members develop skills in decision making. Farmwomen play vital role within home as housewives in managing the domestic affairs and they work as co-partners in the farming profession. Besides they are the manager to the household activities. They take important decision in home and outside the home. Scientific achievements and modernization are yet to make an impact on them. However, tribal women face problems in getting a sustainable livelihood and a decent life due to their decision, unnecessary improvement and improper management. There are wide variations across regions and tribals in terms of work participation, sex ratio, economic productivity and social life. For the accelerated socio-economic development of any tribal farm women community, the active participation, active role, decision and management of tribal women is essential. That has developed in connection with improving their status. It includes higher literacy levels, education, better healthcare, equal ownership of productive resources, increased participation in economic and commercial sectors, awareness of rights and responsibilities, improved standards of living, self-reliance, self-esteem and self-confidence.

Research methodology

The study was conducted in tribal dominated Tapi District of South Gujarat. For this study total 6 blocks (talukas) of Tapi district were selected. The selected talukas were Vyara, Dolvan, Valod, Songadh, Uchchhal and Nizer. From each taluka two villages were selected and from each village ten respondents were selected randomly. Hence, from each taluka total twenty respondents were selected for present study. The simple random sampling method was used to select 120 respondents for the study. The name of taluka and villages are presented in table1. Ex-post-facto research design was used in the present investigation. Different scales developed by different scientists were used. Keeping in view the various objectives of the study, the interview schedule was prepared to collect the required information, for that several questions and statements were prepared. After finalizing the research design and interview schedule, the data were collected by using the personal interview method. To achieve the defined objectives, a field survey method was adopted. Respondents were interviewed at their home and their farms. The good rapport was thus established with the respondents to secure full co-operation for gathering reliable and valid information. To make a fruitful research, the casual observations, their verbal expressions and their symbolic opinions were also recorded. The statistical tools such as Frequency, Percentage, Rank, Mean, Standard deviation and Correlation of coefficient were used for interpretation of the data.

Results and Discussion

1. Tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making for home management, farm management and animal husbandry practices.

1.1 Tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making for home management

Decision making of farm women in different aspects of home management was decided on the basis of their actual participation in taking decision in home management activities. These were categorized into three groups' viz., i) low decision making (up to 18 score), ii) medium decision making (19 to 30 score) and iii) high decision making (above 30 score). The data collected about their participation are presented in table 1.

The data presented in table 1 indicated that more than half (52.50 per cent) of the respondents had medium decision making followed by 31.66 and 15.84 per cent of them were low and high decision making in home management, respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making in home management

(n=120)

Sr.	Categories of decision making	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low decision making	38	31.66
2.	Medium decision making	63	52.50
3.	High decision making	19	15.84
Total		120	100

(Mean= 24.58)**(S.D.= 5.66)**

In general, the data clears that more than half of (52.50 per cent) the respondents had medium decision making in home management. Thus, it indicates that the decisions regarding home management were carried out jointly by family. The finding is in concurrence with the findings reported by Cherian *et al.* (2001), Vanetha (2006), Sharma *et al.* (2014). and Mistry *et al.* (2012).

1.2 Tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making for farm management

Decision making of farm women in different aspects of farm management was decided on the basis of their actual participation in taking decision in farm management activities. These were categorized into three groups' viz., i) low decision making (up to 20 score), ii) medium decision making (21 to 27 score) and iii) high decision making (above 27 score). The data collected about their participation are presented in table 2 and fig. 1.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making in farm management (n=120)

Sr.	Categories of decision making	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low decision making	20	16.66
2.	Medium decision making	88	73.33
3.	High decision making	12	10.01
Total		120	100

(Mean= 23.76)**(S.D.= 3.48)**

The data presented in table 21 concluded that majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents had medium decision making followed by 16.66 and 10.01 per cent of them were low and high decision making in farm management, respectively. In general, the data clears that majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents were in medium decision making in farm management. Thus, it indicates that the decisions regarding farm management were carried out jointly by family. Similar findings were obtained by Vanetha (2006).

1.3 Tribal farmwomen's involvement in decision making for animal husbandry practices.

Decision making of farm women in different aspects of animal husbandry practices was decided on the basis of their actual participation in taking decision in animal husbandry practices activities. These were categorized into three groups' viz., i) low decision making (up to 10 score), ii) medium decision making (11 to 13 score) and iii) high decision making (above 13 score). The data collected about their participation are presented in table 3 and fig. 2.

The data presented in table 3 concluded that majority (64.16 per cent) of the respondents had medium decision making followed by 28.33 and 07.51 per cent of them were low and high decision making in animal husbandry practices, respectively.

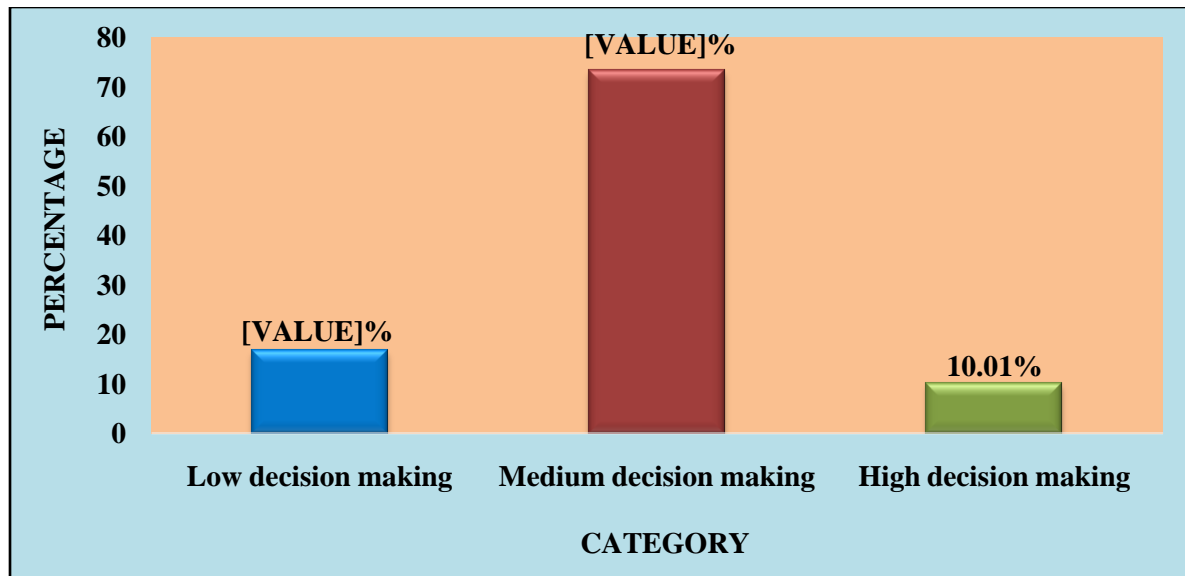


Fig. 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making in farm management

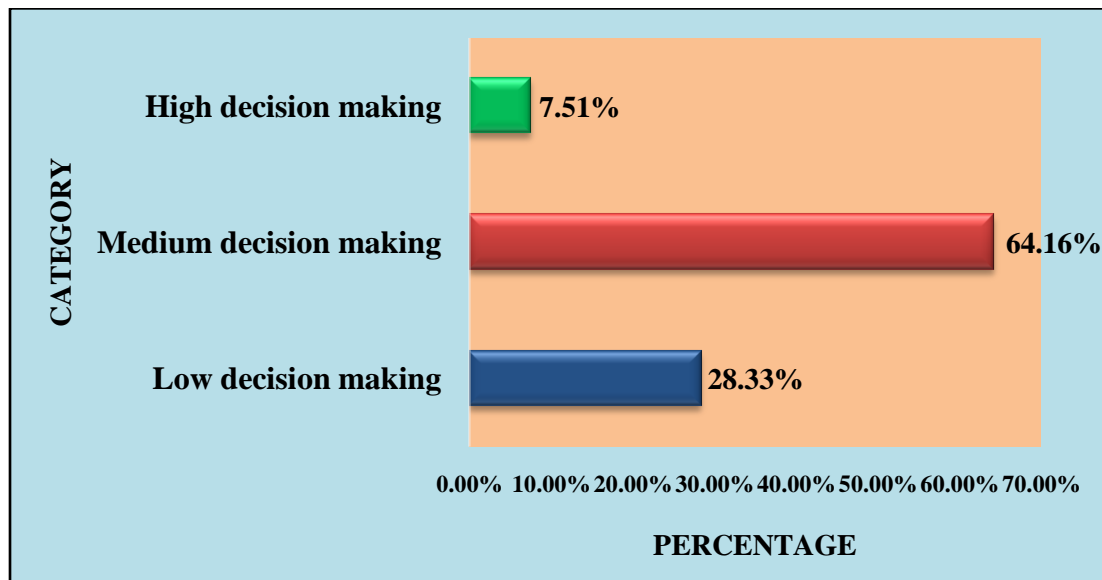


Fig. 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making in animal husbandry practices.

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their decision making in animal husbandry practices. (n=120)

Sr.	Categories of decision making	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low decision making	34	28.33
2.	Medium decision making	77	64.16
3.	High decision making	09	07.51
Total		120	100

(Mean= 12.00)**(S.D.= 1.71)**

In general, the data clears that majority (64.16 per cent) of the respondents were in medium decision making in animal husbandry practices. Thus, it indicates that the decisions regarding animal husbandry practices were carried out jointly by family. The finding is in concurrence with the findings reported by Cherian *et al.* (2001), Mulugeta et al (2014). and Chauhan (2012)^b.

2. Role performance of tribal farm women in crop practices

Role performance of farm women in crop practices was decided on the basis of actually performing different role by them. These were categories into three groups' viz., i) poor role performance (up to 21 score), ii) moderate role performance (22 to 36 score) and iii) good role performance (above 36 score). The data collected about their role performance are presented in table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their role performance in crop practices (n=120)

Sr.	Categories of role performance	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Poor role performance	05	4.17
2.	Moderate role performance	89	74.16
3.	Good role performance	26	21.67
Total		120	100

(Mean= 29.62)**(S.D.= 7.23)**

The data presented in table 4 concluded that majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance followed by 21.67 and 4.17 per cent of them were good and poor role performance in crop practices, respectively. In general, the data clears that majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were in moderate role performance in crop practices. Thus, it indicates that the farm women done the all practices of crop. The findings are in concurrence with the findings reported by Shah (1997).

3. Role performance of tribal farm women in animal husbandry practices

Role performance of farm women in animal husbandry practices was decided on the basis of actually performing different role by them. These were categories into three groups' viz., i) poor role performance (up to 21 score), ii) moderate role performance (22 to 29 score) and iii) good role performance (above 29 score). The data collected about their role performance are presented in table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their role performance in animal husbandry practices. (n=120)

Sr.	Categories of role performance	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Poor role performance	24	20.00
2.	Moderate role performance	79	65.84
3.	Good role performance	17	14.16
Total		120	100

(Mean= 25.6)**(S.D.= 3.41)**

The data presented in table 5 concluded that majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were moderate role performance followed by 20.00 and 14.16 per cent of them were poor and good role performance in animal husbandry practices, respectively. In general, the data clears that majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were in moderate role performance in animal husbandry practices. Thus, it indicates that the farm women done the all practices of animal husbandry. The finding is in concurrence with the findings reported by Prakash *et al.* (2011) and Patki et al (2000).

4. Summary and Conclusion

The collected data were analyzed by using percentage, mean, standard deviation, and correlation coefficient (*r*).

4.1 MAJOR FINDINGS

4.1.1 Majority of the respondents (83.33 per cent) were in middle to young age groups.

Majority of the respondents (67.50 per cent) had secondary level of education. Majority (92.50 percent) of the respondents were married. Majority of the respondents (55.83 per cent) had 3 to 5 number of children. Majority of the respondents (60.83 per cent) belonged to the joint family. Majority (81.66 per cent) of the respondents belonged medium to big size of family. More than half (54.16 per cent) of the respondents had medium herd size. Two-fifth (37.50 per cent) of the respondents possessed skilled occupation. Majority of respondents (92.50 per cent) had medium to big size of land holding. Majority of (58.32 per cent) respondents had medium to low annual income. Majority (80.83 per cent) of the respondents sometimes to regularly used source of information. Majority of the respondents (85.00 per cent) involved in social activities. Majority (80.00 per cent) of respondents had moderate level of scientific orientation. Majority (93.33 per cent) of the respondents earned their livelihood from two to three enterprises. More than half of (52.50 per cent) the respondents had medium decision making in home management. Majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents were medium decision making in farm management. Majority (64.16 per cent) of the respondents were medium decision making in animal husbandry practices. Majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents had moderate role performance in crop practices. Majority (65.84 per cent) of the respondents were in moderate role performance in animal husbandry practices.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

Following implications can be made in the light of findings of the present study.

5.1 The findings of this study reported that majority of the respondents were in middle age groups, had secondary level of education, married, had 3 to 5 number of children, belonged to the joint family, belonged medium to big family size, had medium herd size, possessed skilled occupation, had medium

to big size of land holding, had medium to low annual income, sometimes to regularly used source of information, involved in social activities, had moderate level of scientific orientation and earned their livelihood from two to three enterprises. Hence, considering the influence of variables of respondents, infers that the above said variables to be kept in mind while selecting the respondents and for conducting activities to disseminate the information about role performance of tribal farm women.

5.2 Majority of the respondents had 3 to 5 and above 5 number of children's so it may affect on livelihood of family. There for extension expert should provide awareness regarding family planning.

5.3 This study revealed that only few tribal women had college level of education there for very less chance of empowerment. Hence intensive efforts should be made among tribal women for increased level of education and increase their role in livelihood management.

5.4 During the study it was seen that many agricultural, animal husbandry related and house hold activities were performed by the tribal women, but when questions comes to take decisions regarding all these matter, their roles were seen meagre. As tribal farmwomen are the key units of the family of the tribals' community and they have skill in taking good decisions regarding all economic activities of the family, their participation in decision talking process needs to be encouraged by those people who are involved in the development of tribals.

5.5 Special measures need to be taken to increase the enrolments of girls in schools and to impart non-formal education for the dropouts, so that they would be able to keep accounts and made wage distribution to labours. There is also a need to strengthen informal tribal education programme as means to the develop agriculture and livestock profitably by providing modern tools and techniques for sustainable development.

5.6 High construction cost of cattle shed was reported as major constraint faced by the repondents hence government should come forward to make proper efforts and subsidy which helps to reduce of cattle shed cost by enabling them financially strong. Proper strategies should be made to solve their problems in animal husbandry.

5.7 Keeping in mind, same extension strategy should be used while extending the project in other or nearby area as well as the respondents should be used as success story to motivate others.

6. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH Future research to support the present investigation may be conducted on the following line.

6.1 Similar investigation may be conducted in other talukas of the district, so that the results of the study can be strengthened.

6.2 Similar studies may be conducted periodically with large sample to determine the role of tribal farmwomen in agriculture.

6.3 Similar studies may be conducted on the role of trained and untrained tribal farm women in agriculture and animal husbandry.

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