

# Periodic Research

## Women Participation in Farm Activities: Evidence from Haryana Economy

### Abstract

Women are backbone of the development of any nation in general and agriculture in particular. They play a crucial role in various farm and non-farm activities of agriculture as sowing, weeding, harvesting, livestock management and poultry keeping and many more. Out of total female workers, 55 percent were agricultural labourers and 24 percent were cultivators. However, only 12.8 percent of the operational holdings were owned by women (Census, 2011). All these facts insight that the role of women in agriculture sector. Women are actively involved in all farm and non-farm areas and are playing significant role in total production with low wage. So, present paper is an endeavor to examine the participation of women in farm activities in agriculture with the use of cross sectional data generated through multi stage sampling. The findings of study explore that 75 percent of women are involved in two broad activity of farm as harvesting and crop protection. With this study also reveals that these women is only marginal farmers and getting minimal income and major cause of joining of this occupation is family occupation in rural areas of Panipat district of Haryana economy.

**Keywords:** Women Participation, Farm Activity, Harvesting, Crop Protection, Rural Economy Haryana.

### Introduction

The Indian economy has a national tradition bound to agricultural fertility under which 60-70 percent population (directly or indirectly) depends upon agriculture sector. The share of primary sector in GDP was 56.5 percent in 1950-51 and in the year 2016-17 it has decline to 15.87 percent. (Economic Survey 2017-18). As economic development proceeded, many other occupations allied to farm production as a part of agriculture plays a significant role in total agriculture production and employment generation for the economy. Agriculture at present includes production of crops, forestry, fishery and animal husbandry. The community has recognized that agriculture is important in growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the low income people, but there is not denial the fact that it is full of challenges especially in developing countries. The participation of the invisible working hands of women with the male farmers is continuously rising and is contributing a lot towards agricultural development. The village is a male dominant patriarchal society. But today, In India agriculture is defined as familial tradition in which the dominance has been challenged by an emerging female economic power. It is important to analyze how structured features have made significant changes inside the villages. (Handaragam, 2013). They contribute about 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the labour required for agricultural operations. Women from rural areas are engaged in farm and non-farm operations as weeding, sowing, harvesting, poultry keeping, livestock, dairy etc. Besides domestic work women are involved in agricultural operations. The participation of women greatly helps to supplement the family income and their dual role helps to play as income generator as well as homemaker. Their role considerably varies between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social factors are transforming the agricultural sector. Out of total female workers, 55 percent were agricultural labourers and 24 percent were cultivators. However, only 12.8 percent of the operational holdings were owned by women, which reflected the gender disparities in ownership of land holdings in agriculture. More ever, there is concentration of operational holding 25.7 percent by women in the marginal and small holdings category (Census, 2011). So, present paper is an endeavor to examine the participation of women in various farm activities in agriculture with the use

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of cross sectional data generated through multi stage sampling in Panipat District of Haryana economy.

#### Review of Literature

Review of literature is a powerful tool which provides a useful insight into the subject matter of research. It helps the researcher to know about the aspects of the research problem, which have not been duly covered by previous researches.

Damisa & Yohanna (2007) had highlighted the role of rural women in farm management process. The study based on primary data which was collected through the random sampling technique and structured questionnaire method. The data was analyzed through the descriptive statistics. The result shows that the wealth condition of women was also play the important role in decision making. The more financially strong women are having more involvement in decision making process. The farm women involved less in agriculture because they were not aware about technical advancement. Agriculture credit facility available to rural women farmers should be started with concerted effort in agriculture sector (Nain & Kumar, 2010). The women in Peshawar district were actively participated in agriculture activities, but the participation was not large and limited to only live stocks (Khan & Muhammad, 2012). The female contribution found to decline with increasing farm size because of their economic condition of their family. Women between the age group 15 to 60 years illiterate, graduate were found in agriculture sector. Means the status of female agricultural workers was found to be poor. They don't run land and the right over their own earning. They get low wage as compare to male. (Goswami, 2013). Women engaged in sowing and weeding activity but these type activities are seasonally. The Bado women did the agriculture and allied activities on the behalf of traditional culture. Some women not enjoy their income independently. They participated in farm activity like piggery, poultry and animal husbandry etc. The study reveals that that agriculture and allied sector is a good source of income (Swargiary, 2015). Women had not been participated in decision making process of ploughing, weeding and in fertilizers activity. Then rural women did not play any role in purchase and sale of farming equipments. Women role is important for economic development, and the proportion is increased in the decision making power. (Pal & Haldar, 2016) The income generating was a major challenge for the tribal women. For the active involvement in farming education, economic condition, motivation play a significant role (Shrama & Biswas, 2018).

#### Objectives of Study

The main objective of study is to examine the participation of women in farm activities of agriculture sector in rural Haryana. With this study also focused on some support objectives as follows

1. To examine the demographical profile and occupation profile of selected women in rural Haryana.
2. To analyze the participation of women in various farm activities as input purchase, irrigation, harvesting, crop protection, marketing etc.

# Periodic Research

3. To examine the issues and challenges faced by them and suggestion made by them for grooming of women participation in farm activity.

#### Research Methodology

The present study is based on cross sectional data on participation of women in farm activity in Panipat District of Haryana States in Indian Economy. Information is gathered through personal interview method. At very first a well structured questionnaire is prepared and sample is designed through multistage random sampling. In first stage of multi stage sampling, Panipat District is randomly selected in all 22 District of Haryana state and then at second stage, out of five blocks of Panipat District one block Samalkha is randomly selected. At the third stage, five villages from this block are considered under. In total 250 women are sampled out of five villages under which 139 women have reported farm activity is their main occupation remaining is involved in other allied activities as poultry, fishing, animal husbandry etc. A pilot survey is also conducted to examine the accuracy of questionnaire. The analysis of primary data is done through tabular expression, percentage and ratio analysis.

**Table 1: General Profile of Selected Respondents**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1)Age of Respondents</b>		
a)Below 30	67	26.8
b)30-40	84	33.6
c)40-50	62	24.8
d)Above 50	37	14.8
<b>2)Education Level</b>		
a)Illiterate	47	18.8
b)Primary	72	28.8
c)Secondary	72	28.8
d)Graduate	45	18
e)Above Graduate	14	5.6
f)Other	00	00
<b>3)Marital Status</b>		
a)Married	192	76.8
b)Unmarried	28	11.2
c)Widow	25	10
d)Divorced	5	2
e)Separation	00	00
f)Other	00	00
<b>4) Main Occupation</b>		
a)Farming	139	55.6
b)Poultry	21	8.4
c)Animal Husbandry	45	18
d)Fishing	9	3.6
e) Others	0	0
<b>5)Status of House</b>		
a)Owner	217	86.8
b)On rent	23	9.2
c)Provided by government	1	0.4
d)Provided by owner	9	3.6
<b>6)Structure of House</b>		
a)Kachcha	10	4
b)Pakka	218	87.2
c)Semi pakka	22	8.8

**Source:** Field Survey

# Periodic Research

Table 1 put a light on the general profile of selected women respondents under which 33 percent of respondents lie under the age group of 30-50 and 28 percent are below 30. Respondents also reported that 30 percent out of them having the education up to only secondary level and only 6 percent are above graduate and more than 70 percent are enjoying the marital status. 55 percent respondent reported that farm activity is their main occupation and almost 80 percent are owner of house and are residing in pukka house. *In nutshell, general profile of women respondent's shows that they have a minimal level of literacy, young respondents and almost half of selected respondents are working in farm activity as a main occupation but still enjoying good accommodation conditions. It also may be considered from respondent there low level of literacy may be one of the causes of their present occupation.*

**Table 2: Details of the Farm Activity of Selected Respondents**

1.)If Farming How Many You Work on		
a)Own land holding	92	66.2
b)Lease in	21	15.1
c)Lease out	26	18.7
d)Other	00	00
2.)Operational Land		
a)0 to 1 hectare	75	53.9
b)1 to 2	28	20.1
c)Above 2 hectare	36	26
3)Total Crops Cultivated in Year		
a)One	49	35.3
b)Two	79	56.8
c)Three	11	7.9
d)More than three	0	0
4)Experience of Farm Activities		
a)Up to 5 year	10	7.2
b)5 to 10 year	40	28.8
c)10 to 20 year	43	30.9
d)More than 20 year	46	33.1
5.)Training from Agro Centre		
a)Yes	29	20.9
b)No	110	79.1

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 2 presents a synoptic view of occupation profile of selected respondents. Respondents have reported that two third women are engaged in their own land holding at very first and they have very small land holding with this they grow two crops per year. One third women have experience of more than 20 years but they didn't have any training for this work. *In inferences, selected women respondents is marginal farmer, which are growing two crops per year in their land holding and they a long experience of their work.*

**Table 3: Activity- Wise Participation of Women in Farm Activities**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
1)Input Purchase		
a)Very high	11	7.9
b)High	3	2.2
C)Low	12	8.6
d)Very low	10	7.2
e)No participation	103	74.1
2)Sowing		
a)Very high	2	1.4
b)High	8	5.8
C)Low	12	8.6
d)Very low	24	17.3
e)No participation	93	66.9
3)Irrigation		
a)Very high	10	7.2
b)High	13	9.4
C)Low	10	7.2
d)Very low	11	7.9
e)No participation	95	68.4
4)Manure and Fertilizers		
a)Very high	11	7.9
b)High	12	8.6
C)Low	29	20.9
d)Very low	11	7.9
e)No participation	76	54.7
5)Plant Protection/Chopping		
a)Very high	62	44.6
b)High	21	15.1
C)Low	23	16.5
d)Very low	3	2.2
e)No participation	30	21.6
6)Harvesting(fodder cutting)		
a)Very high	95	68.4
b)High	19	13.7
C)Low	16	11.5
d)Very low	5	4.0
e)No participation	4	2.4
7)Marketing		
a)Very high	7	5.0
b)High	5	4.0
C)Low	14	10.1
d)Very low	16	11.5
e)No participation	97	69.4

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 3 reveals the women participation under various farm activities as input purchase, irrigation, sowing, harvesting, plant protection and analysis shows that almost 75 percent women is engaged in harvesting and followed by plant protection and chopping whereas participation under reaming activities of farm as mentioned above is less than 5 percent. *In short it can be concluded that there are only two activities as harvesting and plant protection where women are playing significant role and have very low engagements in other activities of farm.*

**Table 4: Reasons for Joining the Occupation and Income Generation**

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1.Reasons for Preparing Occupation</b>		
a)Family Occupation	80	57.6
b)Lack of knowledge	20	14.5
c)Agriculture better than other business	14	10.0
d)Getting loan easily	11	7.9
e)Profitable proportion and getting income	14	10.0
f)Other	0	0
<b>2).Are You Satisfied with Your Occupation</b>		
a)Yes	111	79.9
b)No	28	20.1
<b>3.)If Not, Then Why</b>		
a)Heavy workload	3	10.7
b)More cost	7	25
c)Not aware about modern technique	8	28.6
d)Owners not treat better way	0	0
e) Less earning	10	35.7
<b>4.)Total Income Annual from Farming</b>		
a)0 to 2 lakh	98	70.5
b)1 to 3 lakh	19	13.7
c)3 to 5 lakh	14	10.2
d)Above 5 lakh	8	5.6

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 4 shows the reasons for pursuing the activity and income generation from farm activity and 80 percent respondents have reported that family occupation is main cause of their occupation and they are satisfied with it. Women who are not satisfied with this occupation reported that due to less earning they

didn't like it. 70 percent respondents have reported that they are earning up to 2 lakh annually from crop production. *In short, maximum women are involved in this occupation to family occupation and there are marginal farmers and majority of them are getting a minimal earning from it.*

**Table 5: Issues and Challenges and Suggestions by Respondents**

Characteristics	Frequency
<b>1)Major Issues and Challenges</b>	
a)Uncertain and No Separate Income for Women	50
b) No Recognition	48
c)Health Issues	29
d) Lack Decision Making Power	11
e)Harassment Issues	00
f)Lack of knowledge	12
g)Do not have authority to use Earning Money	14
h)Traditional Crops	19
g)No agro Centre	4
j)More than one	63
<b>2)Suggestions</b>	
a)Providing for all Subsidies	30
b)Establishing Agro Centre	35
c)Training Facility	55
d)Liberal Credit Facility	22
e)Independent Decisions	24
h)More than one	78

**Source: Field Survey**

Table 5 represents the major issues faced by women participant and suggestion made by them. Respondent have reported that uncertain and no separate income is major issues they faced in farm activity and followed by no recantation of work as it is their family occupation. For more involvement, respondents have suggested the establishment of agro centre, more liberal credit facility, training programming etc.

### Conclusions and Suggestions

India is predominately an agrarian country and more than 60 percent of its population is living in villages and depending on agriculture and allied activities as dairy, poultry, fishing etc for their livelihood and complementary earning. It has accounted for only 13.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product (at constant prices) (Economic Survey 2016-17), but still is a source of income and employment to more than two third of national population. The women who play an invisible hand in all spheres of life

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# Periodic Research

but activity involved in agriculture and allied activities. The results of study show although participation of women can be seen all farm activities but in crop protection and harvesting they play a significant role. The main cause of more involvement is their family occupation but they faced lots of challenges as no separate income, no recognition of their works, no independent power to use agro income, no agro centre for modern crop etc. So for more active participation of women in farm activities, there is strong need on focused on establishment of agro centre, more liberal credit facilities, traditional crops should be subsidized, more focused on marketing.

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