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Workload and Perception about Seasonal Workload of Rural Women in Baraut Block (UP)

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Abstract

The present study based on the women's workload in Baraut block of Bagpat district. The main objective of the study was to seek women perception about the seasonal workload and working hours. Apart from this women's work is categorised into five categorized very high workload to low workload. This Study was conducted on the primary data and a questionnaire was used to collect the data. Six villages have been chosen for data collection on the geographical basis. The Nature of the women's work is determined on the basis of calorie utilization and B.N. Patverdhand's formula was used to calculate the calorie utilization. The result reveals that a lot of women engaged with domestic and agricultural works and work approximately five to eight hours per day. Summer and the Monsoon are the seasons of heavy workload for women.

Keywords: Maximum Workload, Minimum Workload, Calorie, Khadar, Bangor,

Introduction

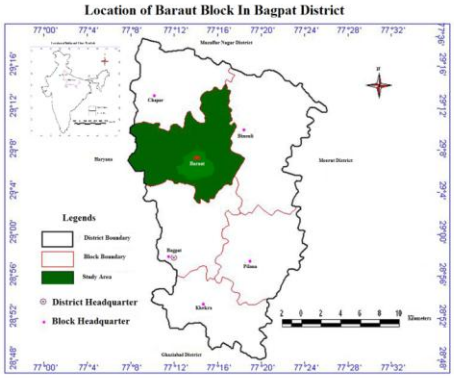
India, Traditionally and culturally is a very rich country. It has a vast variety of its culture and traditions. In our Indian culture we consider female "Grahay Laxmi" in Indian terms. The role of women is limited to the household works and responsibilities of family. In spite of doing domestic works Indian women have very high workload in their daily life schedule as they play as a nurse for elders, caretaker of the house, cook and also a mother.Although, it is very well known that domestic work is not counted as an economic activity. FAO reported that women consist of 50% out of the total population, contribute 75% of the work hours, got 10% of income and 1% share in property. In agricultural and associated fields, Indian women play a very important and crucial role, but it is a fact that they have been getting ignorance for so long.

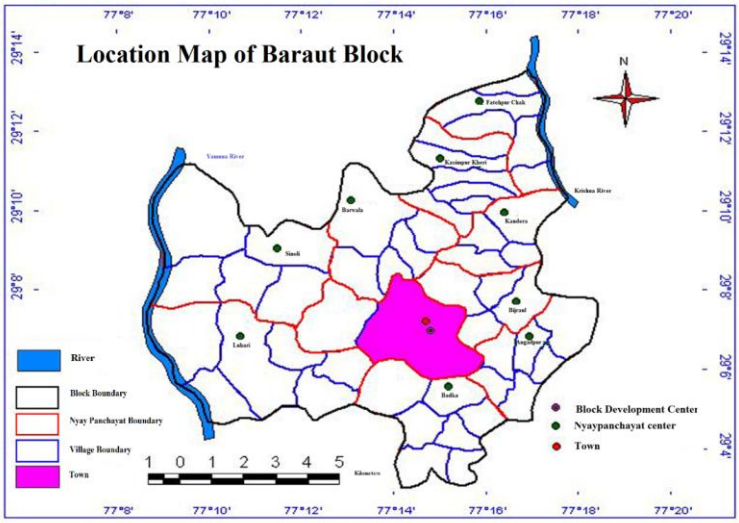
In additional to physical workload, geographical environment has a major impact on work efficiency of the workers. Wyon (1974), state that if the temperature rises from 20ºc to 24 ºc an individual performance of a typing task decrease up to 50%. Similarly, Chand and Brown (1995), conclude that cardiovascular and thermoregulatory system get influence by temperature and worker's performance affect both in light and heavy work. Grandjean (1983); Burdorf et al. (1991), said that concrete workers feel back pain three more time in comparison with other workers.

Area of the Study

The present study is focused on women's workload in development block "Baurat" in district Bagpath. Baurat lies between 29º02' N to 29º13' N latitude and 77 º 05 'E to 77 º 19' longitudes. According to political boundaries, block Chaproli situated in its north, block Binoli in its east, and block Bagpath in south and river Yamuna makes its western boundary. It is located at the elevation of 200 meters from the sea level.

Map of the Study Area





Objective of the Study

Present study based on the following objectives.

1. To study the women's perception about seasonal workload.
2. To estimate the working hours of the women per day.
3. To categorized nature of women's work on the basis of utilized energy.

Research Methodology

The research methodology divided into two parts. Very first part of the methodology is related to primary data collection and second one associated with estimation of women's workload as well as the type of work on the basis of utilized energy for a task. Utilize energy, calculated by the "*B.N. Patvardhan*" formula.

Primary Data Collection

This study, based on the primary data and a questionnaire was formed for data collection. The questionnaire consists two parts, first part was associated with the demographic profile of the respondents and second part consist the questions related to women's workload. Respondents were asked about the nature of work, type of work, working hours and seasonal workload. The sample unit was the village which was randomly chosen on the basis of distance from urban centers, transportation and type of land (*Khadar and Bangar*) and the sample size was 701 respondents.

Work Classification and Calculation of Workload

The women's works are classified into three categories on the basis of utilized energy for a task. The categories of work are followed-

Easy Works

Dressing, Taking baths, Combing,Walking etc.

Medium Works

Typing, Study, Embroidery and easy agricultural works etc.

Hard Works

Working in bricks field (Eentt Bhatta), Looping of sugarcane, Harvesting and other hard agricultural works .

Result and Discussion

On the basis of receiving responses of the respondents, it was found that women's works are mainly associated with primary sector. They work as an agricultural labour and domestic work, agricultural work. The population of working women in any organization is very stumpy.

Table No.1
Types of Women's Work

Name of Sample Villages	Domestic Work		Agricultural Work		Agricultural & Domestic		Labor Work		Official	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boodhpur	30	28.84	19	18.26	29	27.88	17	16.34	9	8.65
Lahodda	47	54.02	9	10.34	13	14.94	9	10.34	9	10.34
Ossika	23	25.84	17	19.10	25	28.08	21	23.59	3	3.37
Shabga	56	25.22	56	25.22	49	22.07	47	21.17	14	6.30
Fatehpur	9	24.32	2	5.40	14	37.83	8	21.62	4	10.81
Wajidpur	42	25.92	60	37.03	24	14.81	21	12.96	15	9.25
Total	207	29.52	163	23.25	154	21.96	123	17.54	54	7.70

Source: Primary Data Collection

The above table depicts that women who are associated with domestic work, high frequency 28.84 % is in Boodhpur and low frequency 24.32% is in Fatehpur. In agricultural works high frequency 37.03% is associated with Wajidpur and low frequency 5.40% with Fatehpur.

Results are showing that a lot of women doing agricultural work with domestic work Fatehpur associated with maximum number of women with 37.83% and Wajidpur related to low frequency that is 14.81% of those women who are doing domestic as well as agricultural works. Ossika village has maximum percentage 23.59% and Lohadda has minimum percentage 10.34% of women associated with labour work. Some women are associated with the service sector Fatehpur has maximum frequency 10.81 while Ossika has a very low frequency of 3.34%.

Table No. 2
Distribution of Working Hours

Name of Sample Villages	Less Than 5 Hours		5 to 8 Hours		Above 8 Hours	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boodhpur	43	41.34	38	36.53	23	22.11
Lahodda	44	50.57	15	17.24	28	32.18
Ossika	25	28.08	45	50.56	19	21.34
Shabga	86	38.73	100	45.04	36	16.21
Fatehpur	16	43.24	12	32.43	9	24.32
Wajidpur	79	48.76	58	35.80	24	15.43
Total	293	41.79	268	38.23	140	19.97

Source: Primary Data Collection

The above table related with working hours of women in a day and table describes that 50.57% women of Lahodda are working less than five hours while Ossika have minimum percentage 28.058% of women working less than five hours. Reversely Ossika has a high frequency of women, 50.56% and Lahodda has a low frequency of women, 17.24% working 5 to 8 hours per day A number of women working more than 8 hours and Lahodda have maximum 32.18% and Wajidpur has minimum 15.34% of the women.

Table No. 3
Women's Perception about Seasonal Workload

Name of Sample Villages	Summer		Winter		Monsoon		Summer+ Winter		Summer+ winter + Monsoon	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boodhpur	27	25.96	14	13.46	41	39.42	16	15.38	6	5.76
Lahodda	41	47.12	25	28.73	6	6.89	6	6.89	9	10.34
Ossika	25	28.08	16	17.97	23	25.84	16	17.97	9	10.11
Shabga	43	19.36	15	6.75	70	31.53	34	15.31	60	27.02
Fatehpur	10	27.02	9	24.32	9	24.32	5	13.51	4	10.81
Wajidpur	42	25.92	30	18.51	52	32.09	30	18.51	8	4.93
Total	188	26.81	109	15.54	201	28.67	107	15.26	96	13.69

Source: Primary Data Collection

Table no. 3 depicts women's perception about seasonal workload. 47.12% women of Lahodda village have maximum workload and the women of Shabga village have a minimum workload in summer season. The percentage of is 19.36%. Similarly, in winter season the 28.72% women of Lahodda have maximum workload and 6.75% women of Shabga village minimum workload. However, 39.42% women of Boodhpur admitted that they have maximum workload in monsoon and 6.89% of Lahodda village have minimum work in monsoon.

Some women have workload in both the winter and summer seasons. The 18.5% women of Wajidpur have maximum workload when the 6.89% women of Lahodda have minimum workload in both winter and summer season. The study shows that some women have workload in all the seasons. The maximum percentage of women, i.e. 27.02% of

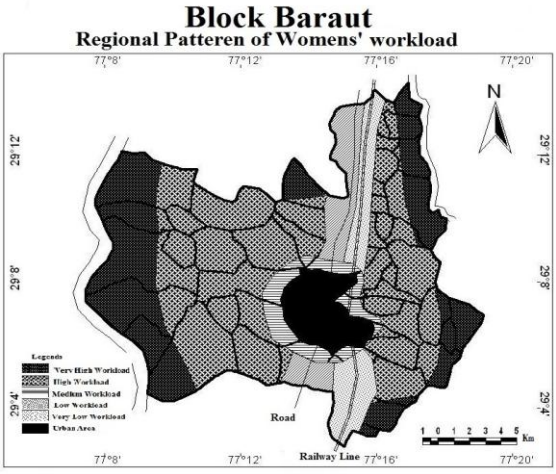
Shabga village has workload in all seasons and with 4.93% women of Wajidpur has minimum workload.

Table No.4
Nature of Women's Work on the Basis of Utilize Energy

Name of Sample Villages	Nature of work
Boodhpur	Medium Workload
Lahodda	Very High Workload
Ossika	High Workload
Shabga	Very High Workload
Fatehpur	Very Low Workload
Wajidpur	Low Workload

Source: Primary Data Collection

Table No.4 depicts the nature of women's works on the basis of energy which is consumed by them. Lahodda and Shabga village have very high workload due to agricultural work and brick field. Basically, *Shabga* is situated in *Khadar* region and truck farming is taking place in this region that's why women are engaged in the agricultural field whole day. Similarly, Lahodda is situated in *Bangor* region and women are engaged in the harvesting, lopping of sugarcane, wheat.mazie etc whole year. Ossika village have high workload due to the brick fields. Boodhpur village situated beside the road that's why it is well connected with transportation and have good accessibility. Fatehpur and Wajidpur are the village lies near the city and connected with railway that's why education level is high in comparison of other area.



Conclusion

The outcomes of the study show that women on Baurat block are associated to the both primary and service sectors, but most of the women are associated to domestic and agricultural works. A very tiny proportion (7.70%) of women engaged with official works. Apart from this, a low frequency (19.97%) of women worked more than eight hours. Approximately 80% women of the study area work less than five hours or five to eight hours. From the working hour's point of view the situation of women is satisfactory. However, women's perception about the seasonal workload has variety. According to their views maximum workload have in Monsoon season and after it the summer season have second high workload. Two seasons (summer &Monsoon) have maximum workload for women. Beside the season many other factors, (education, accessibility, distance from urban centers, etc.) also influence the workload. Boodhpur, Fatehpur and Wajidpur are the such village, connected well to road, railway and situated near the city that's why the education level of women is quite good and have low work load. Its opposite, Lahodda, Shabga and Ossika village situated far from the city and have low accessibility. Due to these factors women have high workload.

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