

## **A Study of Womens Income Generating Activities**

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### **Introduction:-**

It is an universal fact that man and women are complementary to each other in discharging the social roles assigned to them on the basis of sexual division of labour in found in all the societies, though some variations are found based upon the difference in cultures, places, time and socio personal characteristics of the group of people. In rural India women play a major role in the household activities and outside as a partner in the man's profession involve in income generating activities.

Women constitute 48.10 percent having the sex ratio of 927 females per thousand males ( 2001 census.) Women play a major role in the home in managing domestic affairs and out side as a partner in the man's profession statistics have shown that about Attention: 47 percent of the work forced engaged in agriculture is women. Women are involved in most of the farming and related activities beside their exclusive involvement in domestic chores. The women do the extremely tedious, time and labour intensive works like sowing, transplanting, weeding and Intercultural, harvesting, threshing, transplant and postharvest operations like shelling, cleaning, grading and processing etc.

The women not only contribute to physical production process but also in decision making as regards to income generating activities. A majority of women work in marginal occupations to supplement family income by collection of fuel wood, fodder, fishes practicing small animal husbandry and dairying, home/cottage scale industry and marketing of many rural and forest produce. The daily put in 14 – 18 hours of productive manual labour. In many areas, women assume exclusive responsibility of farm management in addition to domestic tasks (Srivastava, 1988), FAO (1983) reports that women constitute over 40 percent of the total agricultural labour force in 52 or 63.40 percent of its member countries and 51 percent of working women's population is farm labour (Government of India, 1988).

Women are most countries are integral part of the income generating activities. Their participation in productive process varies according to socioeconomic circumstance and cultural heritage of the given society. Numerous are the factors which determine the nature of level or economic environment of women in a society. But the most important determinant of economic role of women in any contemporary society is possible the tradition division of labour by sex which has further been influenced by numerous factors varying from one historical differently in different countries and partly because the term 'work' has no standard definition,

marked variation in the level of work force participation rate (hence forth WPR) are noted across countries.

The female WPRs vary not only across the countries, but also within the same country depending on the level of economic development, type of family, system of religious belief and level of female education and the nature of political system. For these reasons the level of female participation varies markedly from one region to another and also between rural and urban areas within the same region in India.

Women tend to shift gradually from primary to secondary and tertiary sectors of the economy. The validity of this generalization seems to be questionable, especially in the case of contemporary India. Despite the fact that different censuses employed different definitions of work, it has become quite evident from the census data that the general activity rates of females have shown a declining trend during 1911 – 1981. This has happened even when the pace of development, more especially during the post independent era, was faster than the during the colonial period. The continuing downward trends reflect a tendency towards diminishing participation in the labour forces. This is said to be true of many developing countries. In this connection Durand has argued that women's participation falls in the early stages of economic development and rises again at a later stage. Thus, the total picture supports a U-shaped relationship between development and females participation rates. There are two important reasons for this trend in India. First, economic development could not be fast enough to absorb the rapidly growing population, ensuring from the onset of demographic transition in the country. Second, as a result of recent industrial development, the spread of modern education, westernization and urbanization, a new class of people has started to emerge in Indian society.

#### **Procedure:-**

In this procedure consist the size of holding, caste, education and economic conditions were the variables affecting the behaviour of the rural women towards income generating activities and house holds activities, so the sample was selected taking into consideration the socio-economic aspect.

#### **Sample :-**

Twenty five families from each of four selected village were selected following the stratified random sampling technique. However, to circumvent the problems of data collection viz. non-availability despite a number of visits to their houses and doubt on the quality of data furnished by some old respondents had to be replaced by others. This was however done in accordance with the method of selection.

#### **Design :-**

The ex-post-facto and exploratory designs of research were used in the study.

**Result :-**

The consolidated picture of decision-making patterns of various aspects of house and home activities has been presented in Table – 7. The data in the Table show that men dominated the scene in agricultural decisions and women in the field of socio-religious decisions. The calculated value of  $X^2$  in the area of farm-related decisions showed that the holding size of the respondents and sex were associated at 5 per cent level of significance. Hence, it can be concluded that there was difference in the decision-making role of men and women of various holding size categories. The data also showed that there was not significant difference in the decision-making role of both the sexes in home-related decisions. This was due to the reason that this area of decision-making encompasses the area of family-related decisions along with home management decisions (and the role of men in family-related decisions was found substantial). Men were found superior to women in the area of money-related decisions which is quite obvious in the social structure being studied. Significant difference was observed between the decision-making role of men and women falling to different land holding categories in the areas of money-related decisions and socio-religious decisions. The  $X^2$  value on all farm and home related decisions indicated that the sex and holding size were associated at 5per cent level of significance. The data shows superiority of men over women in the area of all farm and home related decisions.

**Table – 1:**Percentage income generating activities scores of women of all the landholding categories and calculated value of  $X^2$

Areas of decision-making	Land holding categories					
	Landless labours	Marginal farmers	Small farmers	Medium farmers	Large farmers	$X^2$ -value
Farm-related participation	20.48	22.01	17.82	10.78	12.03	4.41
Home-related participation	50.27	52.70	48.69	46.11	43.34	1.089
Money-related participation	22.45	32.95	24.17	21.81	13.12	8.718
Socio-religious participation	55.04	66.07	65.36	60.95	44.56	5.422
All farm and home participation	37.06	43.43	39.01	34.91	28.26	3.423

**Participation in Farm Activities for income generating**

School going girl respondents participated in all agricultural activities independently or jointly with the father except in three operations, namely, ploughing, spading

and pudding. Ninety per cent women respondents participated in the clanging, grading and drying the grains, independently followed by the process of seed selection in which 75.19 per cent of respondents were participating independently. The activities like beating cods, collecting weeds, transplanting, weeding by Khurpi, uprooting weeds, collection and preparation of manure and fertilizers, guarding of crops, harvesting, threshing, winnowing and bagging and storing grains were performed jointly by both mother and father joint majority of the cases. The data showed that large farmer's women participated least in the agricultural activities, through there was not much variation in this role performed by women from the different land holding categories. The data presented also revealed gradual decrease in the rate of joint participation from the landless labours' families (45 %) to the large farmer's (12 %) i.e., with increase in farm size, rate of joint participation of girl decreased in agricultural activities. The findings of Devi and Reddy (1984), Verma and Malik (1984), Sanagwan (1990), Kanpur (1991), Ratan (1991) and Sudharani and Raju (1991) also supported the facts found in the present study.

The data on horticultural aspects showed that 35.82 per cent women were involved in horticultural worker followed by 31.37 per cent members of family. Rate of joint participation was found 32.81 per cent.

In the field of livestock-related tasks 44.64 per cent women from landless labourers category were involved followed by small farmers in task performing (26.41 %). There was less participation of women of other three categories in livestock rearing.

In the area of livestock rearing women from landless and marginal farmer's categories participated in almost all the activities as livestock rearing is a source of subsistence for their families and being at home most of the times they find time to work in this area. Respondent from medium and large holding size participate very less in livestock related activities as the cultural norms not permit them to work beyond the home. Devi and Reddy (1984), Verma and Malik (1984), Laxmi Devi (1986), Bhati et al. (1987), Singh et al. (1987) and Oill and Miglani (1989) also supported the findings of the present study.

#### Participation in household activities for income generating

Food processing tasks were performed cent per cent by women followed by cooking miscellaneous house-works, socio-religious tasks and household manufacturing in which 98.15, 82.42, 74.43, 61.22 and 57.16 women were engaged respectively. No woman was engaged in repair and construction of house and fences under the area of household construction. Similarly, no man was engaged in construction of Chulha/Chakki etc. per cent men and women were making ropes and performing sowing and embroidery work respectively. Three-fourth of the men were repairing the tools and utensils.

On paying a close look into the tasks performed by women in the area of home activities, it was found that women of all the classes were invariable discharging their household obligations irrespective of their holding size. Variation was found in the area of money-

management tasks performed by the two lower groups of women whose participation was 25.00 and 17.36 per cent respectively in this area, the other three groups had a participation rate of 6.66 only. Perusal of the data under household-related activities revealed that 58.00 per cent women were engaged in household activities followed by 34.00 per cent father. Rate of joint participation was very low i.e. 8.00 per cent only.

The present findings are in conformity with those of Parker (1986), Devi and Reddy (1984), Verma and Malik (1984) and Ratan (1991) who also reported that the performance of household tasks was the main concern of women.

As depicted by the data, men of this area bother least for the tasks which are strictly of household proximate. They perceive the tasks as female-related tasks and the tasks are performed according to sex ascribed roles in the society. They are found engaged in income earning to a great extent. To some extent, they are reluctant to their soles related to proper upbringing of their children.

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