



Time Utilization Pattern And Drudgery Of Horticultural Farmers

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ABSTRACT

The research study was carried out in Kolar district of Karnataka state, which is located in the eastern dry zone of the state. Kolar district occupies a prominent place in the horticulture map of Karnataka and plays a vital role in the economy of the district. The diverse agro-climatic features favours the district to grow a wide variety of tropical and subtropical plantation and horticulture crops. In land preparation, planting, intercultural operation and harvesting 57.56, 12.75, 23.67 and 13.61 Man days/year time was spent by female as compare to 33.99, 9.11, 15.03 and 2.23 Man days/year respectively, spent by male. Most of the female perceived drudgery in task like field preparation (55.00 %), carrying FYM (58.33%), preparation of field (63.33%), seed treatment (55.00%) and use of implements with inappropriate shape (63.33%).

Keywords

INTRODUCTION

According to (2001) Census the total population of India is 102.87 crore, wherein, the male population is 53.22 crore and female population is 49.65 crore. As high as 72.72 per cent of the total population live in rural India. Women contribute considerably to household income through farm and non-farm activities, they also work as landless agricultural labourers. Their contribution in the daily household chores is not even recognized as work nor credited as being of any economic value. Women are involved in most of the farming and related activities besides their exclusive involvement in domestic responsibilities. Traditionally, women do the exclusively tedious, time and labour intensive works like sowing, transplanting, weeding and intercultural operations, harvesting, threshing, transportation and post harvest operations like shelling, cleaning, grading and processing etc. All these jobs involves considerable amount of drudgery, because it is mainly done manually (Shilparani, 2007). Although, women work for longer hours and contribute substantially to family income, they are not recognized as workers either by their family members or by the society. Thus, in order to have a better understanding of women's role in horticulture, which is an important means of improving the economic condition of the family, it is important to know the participation of women in various activities of horticulture enterprise. Number of studies has been conducted to identify different farm activities performed by women. However, studies on time utilization of both men and women and drudgery in horticulture production are very few. Therefore, the study was

formulated with the following specific objectives: To compare the time utilization pattern of male and female horticulture farmers. And also to identify the drudgery related activities as perceived by male and female horticultural farmers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present research was carried out in Kolar district of Karnataka state, which is located in the eastern dry zone of the state. Kolar district occupies a prominent place in the horticulture map of Karnataka and plays a vital role in the economy of the district. Kolar district consist of five taluks viz., Bangarpet, Kolar, Malur, Mulbagal and Srinivasapura. Out of which two taluks Malur and Srinivasapura were purposively selected for the study which are predominantly horticulture areas and for the convenience in commuting. Two villages were selected randomly from each of the selected taluks of Kolar district. Thus, a total of 4 villages were selected for the study. Initially, an exhaustive list of horticultural farmers was prepared from the selected villages where horticulture farming is being practiced. Then from each village 15 horticulture farmers were selected on the basis of random sampling. Data were collected from both the head and his spouse. Thus, the final sample comprised of 4 villages and 120 respondents. Structured interview schedule was used to elicit the required information from the respondents. The data collection was done by personal interview with the farmers. Time utilization refers to the extent of time spent by male and female horticulture farmers for doing horticulture activities. Time utilization pattern of respondents was measured by amount of time spent on each

activity of horticulture and it is expressed in Man days/Year. Drudgery was operationalized as physical and mental strain, fatigue, monotony and hardship experienced by human beings while doing horticultural operations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A perusal of **Table 1.** showed that majority of the respondents (71.67%), irrespective of gender spent between 403.96 to 483.20 mandays/year in horticultural activities and had a medium level of time utilization. Only 13.33 per cent of the respondents had a high level and 15.00 per cent had a low level of time utilization. Further, the table revealed that 18.33 per cent of the female and 8.33 per cent of male respondents spent more than 483.21 man days/year. Whereas, in case of male (20.00%) and female (10.00%) respondents spent less than 403.95 man days/year.

As evident from the data in Table 2, the female respondents spent 57.56 Man days/year as against 33.99 man days/year of time spent by male in activities related to land preparation, whereas, for planting/sowing 12.75 and 9.11 man days/year time was spent by female and male, respectively. While for intercultural operations and harvesting 15.03 man days/year and 2.23 man days/ year, respectively, were spent by male, on the other hand, females spent 23.67 and 13.61 man days/year, respectively. With regard to post harvest activities both male and female spent merely 2.45 and 4.18 man days/year. In case of irrigation, crop protection and marketing, male alone spent 11.98, 12.14 and 21.35 man days/year respectively, whereas, females were not at all involved in these activities. Men and women are involved in different activities related to horticulture. In land preparation, planting, intercultural operations and harvesting women spent more time as compared to men. Due to mechanization, the work done by the male is very fast by using implements which consume less time but, in case of female all the activities are done manually by which time utilization will be more.

It is known from the table 3 that Most of the female perceived drudgery in tasks like field preparation (55.00 %), carrying FYM (58.33%), preparation of field (63.33%), seed treatment (55.00%) and use of implements with inappropriate shape (63.33%). Whereas, majority of the male perceived that earthing up (51.67%), carrying fertilizer (53.33%), dusting of chemicals (51.67%), spraying of chemicals (55.00%) and use of implements with inappropriate shape (50.00%) were activities which involved drudgery. The extent of drudgery of the rural farm women in India vary widely with the nature of work, type of activity, their social and economic status, local customs, size of family and many other factors. Reduction in drudgery will

lead to reduced fatigue, increase participation in productive work and ultimately lead to mainstreaming of women.

CONCLUSION

Although, women work for longer hours and contribute substantially to family income, they are not recognized as workers either by their family members or by the society. But in reality women work greater number of hours than men and her nutritional requirements are not much different from men taking into account the type of work she is involved in. If modern methods of farming have made agricultural activities easier, the change has pushed the women workers to the background. It is only the men who learn to operate machines like harvesters, tractors and tube wells. But, it is not the physical incapacity, which has kept her in background; it is illiteracy, social restriction, her low self esteem and lack of facilities for technical training. Women get limited opportunities in modern occupations as they do not have access to the training required for new technologies. Hence, atleast in the 21st century where lot of policies are coming up for women should be completely diffused or communicated to the need women group so that we can see a raise in the standard of living. The investigation has shown that farm women spent most of their time in activities which were non-mechanized and involve drudgery. While mechanization has been the domain of men. Seemingly, researcher needs to develop tools which reduce the drudgery of women with minimum mechanization, however, enhancing the efficiency of the implement.

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Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to level of time utilization and decision making in horticultural activities.

(n=120)

Variable	Category	Male	Female	Total
		(n=60) No.	(n=60) No.	No.
Time utilization	Low	12	06	18
	<403.95	(20.00)	(10.00)	(15.00)
	Medium	43	43	86
	403.95-483.21	(71.67)	(71.67)	(71.67)
	High	5	11	16
	>483.21	(8.33)	(18.33)	(13.33)
	Total	60	60	120
		(100)	(100)	(100.00)

Table 2: Time utilization of respondents in major horticultural activities.

Major activities	Male (n=60)		Female (n=60)		Total	
	Mandays/ Year	%	Mandays/ Year	%	Total Mandays/ Year	%
Land Preparation	33.99	15.45	57.56	26.16	91.55	41.60
Planting / Sowing	9.11	4.14	12.75	5.79	21.86	9.93
Irrigation	11.98	5.44	-	0.00	11.98	5.44
Intercultural Operation	15.03	6.83	23.67	10.76	38.7	17.59
Crop Protection	12.14	5.52	-	0.00	12.14	5.52
Harvesting	2.23	1.01	13.61	6.18	15.84	7.20
Post-Harvest	2.45	1.11	4.18	1.90	6.63	3.01
Marketing	21.35	9.70	-	0.00	21.35	9.70
Total	108.28	49.2	111.77	50.79	220.05	100.00

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to perception of drudgery in horticultural activities**(n=120)**

Items	Male		Female	
	N	%	N	%
I Backache				
1. Field preparation	23	38.33	33	55.00
2. Transplanting	27	45.00	37	61.67
3. Weeding	27	45.00	38	63.33
4. Earthing Up	31	51.67	24	40.00
5. Harvesting	27	45.00	32	53.33
II Neck Pain				
1. Carrying FYM	29	48.33	27	45.00
2. Carrying Fertilizer	32	53.33	35	58.33
3. Carrying Harvested crops	29	48.33	34	56.67
III Blisters / Lesion				
1. Preparation of field	24	40.00	38	63.33
2. Weeding	28	46.67	34	56.67
3. Harvesting	30	50.00	36	60.00
4. Spraying of chemicals	31	51.67	29	48.33
5. Spraying of weedicides	28	46.67	27	45.00
IV Eye Irritation				
1. Seed treatment	40	66.67	33	55.00
2. Spraying of chemicals	37	61.67	26	43.33
3. Dusting of chemicals	31	51.67	27	45.00
4. Spraying of weedicides	33	55.00	26	43.33
V Pain				
1. Shape of implements	30	50.00	38	63.33
2. Size of implements	27	45.00	26	43.33
3. Weight of implements	25	41.67	27	45.00

Multiple responses are obtained