

Aspirations of women agricultural labourers

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ABSTRACT

An aspiration usually refers to a person or a group of person's orientation towards goal. Labourers also have a goals like to get more income per year, to save and invest more money to raise standard of living, to educate their children, to settle their children in better occupation, to construct *pucca* type of house & purchase any type of furniture in house, etc. A higher level of aspirations among the women agricultural labourers would certainly lead to a greater level of development among them and gives an impression of their living standard, their level of adoption and ways and means to be adopted by the government and other agencies to bring about an all-round development in this underprivileged but indispensable group of the Indian population. In order to know the aspirations of women agricultural labourers and the association between the characteristics of women agricultural labourers and their aspirations, the study was conducted in three districts viz., Banaskantha, Mehsana and Sabarkantha under jurisdiction of Sardar Krushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardar Krushinagar (North Gujarat). All the 15 research stations were selected as the study area, a total of 65 women agricultural labourers were selected proportionately but 60 respondents were available at the time of data collection. Using simple interview schedule with personal contact method, the data were collected. In order to determine the extent of aspirations a teacher made structure schedule was worked out by the conference method of the teachers. It was found that majority of the (80%) women agricultural labourers had medium to high level aspirations owing to young age group. The independent variables viz., age and marital status were negatively and significantly associated with aspiration at 0.01 level of significance. While education and mass media exposure were found positively and significantly associated with aspirations at 0.05 level of significance. Remaining variables were failed to establish any significant association with the aspirations of the women agricultural labourers.

Key words: Agril. labourers, aspiration

Historians believed that it was woman who first demonstrated crop plant and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. Woman is regarded as "the creator of all green things in the world." Intellectual decision making and physical participation of women in agriculture production system is substantial. Indian rural woman have been always an important and prominent partner in agriculture sector.

Nearly 78 per cent of women are actively engaged in agriculture as compared to 68 per cent of men. 34.55 per cent of women cultivators are engaged in agriculture. According to recent studies 50-90 per cent of all the agricultural activities are carried out by women

and women produce 44 per cent of the world food today (Sarvanan and Rasmy, 2001).

Aspirations can be defined as a level of possible goals set by an individual. Aspirations are goal statement concerning future level of achievement. An aspiration usually refers to a person or a group of person's orientation towards goal. Goals can vary in kind and usually described with reference to a particular social status (occupation, income, education, residence and so on). Labourers also have goals like to get more income per year, to save and invest more money to raise standard of living, to educate their children, to settle their children in better occupation, to construct *pucca* type of house and purchase any type of furniture in house, etc.

The level of inspiration of an individual is a decisive determinant of raising the standard of living of an individual. A higher aspiration level certainly compels an individual to achieve his/her goal. Similarly a higher

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level of aspirations among the women agricultural labourers would certainly lead to a greater level of development among them and gives an impression of their living standard.

Aspiration of the women agricultural labourers would certainly help to indicate their mental disposition and would definitely help to indicate their standard of living, their level of adoption and ways and means to be adopted by the government and other agencies to bring about an all-round development in this underprivileged but indispensable group of the Indian population.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 To study the aspirations of women agricultural labourers.
- 2 To study the relationship between personal, socio-economic, psychological characteristics of women agricultural labourers and their aspirations.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was confined to "Ex-post facto" research design. The multistage sampling technique was used for selection of area, districts and research stations/schemes. The study was undertaken in jurisdiction of Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University. Three districts of north Gujarat viz., Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, and Mehsana, which covers 15 main and lead research stations, were purposively selected. Using proportionate random sampling technique a sample of 30.00 per cent respondents were drawn from the list obtained from the head of the selected research stations. Accordingly, respondents were included in the sample, however, 60 respondents were available at the time of data collection and they were interviewed.

An objective type teacher made test was developed for measuring the aspirations of the respondents. The score on each item was assigned by the conference method and recorded then added to arrive at total aspiration score. The respondents were grouped in to three categories viz., low, medium and high level of aspirations on the basis of $\pm$ S.D. from mean.

The coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the association between personal, socio-economic, psychological characteristics of women agricultural labourers and their aspirations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aspirations of women agricultural labourers
The women agricultural labourers who mostly

Table 1 Distribution of the respondents according to their aspirations (n = 60)

Sr. No.	Level of Aspirations	Number	Per cent
1.	Low level (Up to 37 score)	12	20.00
2.	Medium level (38 to 49 score)	40	66.67
3.	High level (Above 49 score)	8	13.33
Total :		60	100.00

Mean = 43.133

S.D. = 6.1049

belonged to the lower social strata are expected to have aspirations in life like any other individual.

The score obtained by an individual respondent for each of the aspect were added upto give her total aspiration score. The total score that the respondent obtained varied from 9 to 74.

The distribution of women agricultural labourers according to their aspirations were categorised on the basis of mean and $\pm$ standard deviation. The data regarding the same are presented in Table1:

The data depicted in the Table 1 indicate that two-third (66.67 %) of the respondents had medium level of aspiration; while 20.00 per cent of the respondents had low level and only 13.33 per cent of the respondents had high level of aspirations. From the finding, it can be found that majority of the (80.00%) women agricultural labourers had medium to high level aspiration.

The probable reason for this finding might be that majority of the respondents belonged to young age group. The finding is similar to the findings of Tawade and Nirban (1995).

Association between selected personal, social, economical and psychological characteristics of the women agricultural labourers with their aspirations

Association between selected attributes of the women agricultural labourers, such as personal, social, economic, communicational and psychological variables with their level of aspirations were worked out by calculating coefficient of correlation, 'r'.

The result with regard to association between selected independent variables and aspiration level of the respondents is presented in Table 2

The independent variables viz., age and marital status

Table 2 Association between selected independent variables of the respondents with their level of aspirations

Sr. No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)
1.	Age	-0.41245**
2.	Education	0.26513*
3.	Habit	-0.09928 ^{NS}
4.	Type of family	-0.03371 ^{NS}
5.	Size of family	0.11296 ^{NS}
6.	Marital status	-0.34804**
7.	Caste	0.01260 ^{NS}
8.	Social participation	0.22828 ^{NS}
9.	Social mobility	-0.20134 ^{NS}
10.	Annual income	-0.02696 ^{NS}
11.	Indebtedness	0.03561 ^{NS}
12.	Mass media exposure	0.29711*
13.	Awareness about Government aid schemes for landless	-0.10527 ^{NS}

Table value at 0.01 level = 0.325

Table value of 0.05 level = 0.250

*, ** Significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance, respectively. NS = Non-Significant

were negatively and significantly associated with aspirations at 0.01 level of significance. While education and mass media exposure were found

positively and significantly associated with aspirations at 0.05 level of aspirations. Remaining variables viz., habit, type of family, size of family, caste, social participation, social mobility, annual income, indebtedness and awareness about Government aid schemes were failed to establish any type of significant association with the aspirations of the respondents.

CONCLUSION

As aspirations usually refers to a person or a group of person's orientation towards goal. Labourers also have goals. Therefore, In order to know the aspirations of women agricultural labourers and the association between their characteristics and aspirations, the study was conducted in North Gujarat. It could be concluded that, the majority of the women agricultural labourers had medium to high level of aspirations. The age and marital status were negatively, while education and mass media exposure were found positively and significantly associated with aspiration at 0.01 level of significance and at 0.05 level of significance respectively. Remaining variables were failed to establish any significant association with the aspirations of the women agricultural labourers.

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