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Influence of Socio-Psychological Correlates on Farm Women's Contribution in Mixed Farming

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ABSTRACT

The present study highlights the relationship that exists between the various socio-psychogical characteristics of farm women and their contribution in mixed farming activities. The study was conducted in Kheda district of Gujarat State. The results indicated that all the socio-psychological factors i.e. social participation, achievement motivation, economic motivation, cosmopolite orientation, scientific orientation, agricultural beliefs and attitude towards mixed farming were having direct bearing on farm women's contribution in mixed farming.

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INTRODUCTION

It is an admitted fact that farm women play a significant and crucial role in managing the farm affairs and especially the home affairs. The daily work schedule of rural women is very demanding and arduous one. Her day starts in the early hours of the morning and she retires to bed at night. In India 79 per cent of the female working population as against 63 per cent of men is found actively engaged in agriculture and agricultural based enterprise i.e. mixed farming. Munjal *et al.* (1985), stated that about 60 per cent, 90 per cent and 95 per cent of women in farm families participated respectively in crops, dairy and home activiities. However, their contribution in mixed farming production system varies with several factors such as personal, social, economic, psychological etc. which needs to be investigated. Keeping in view the above facts, an attempt has been made to study the influence of socio-psychological factors on farm women's contribution in mixed farming.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample population for this study was selected from four blocks of Kheda district of Gujarat State. Four villages were randomly selected from each of these blocks. The study was conducted in sixteen villages. A list of the farm families of each village was prepared. Sixteen farm women from each list were randomly selected and interviewed. Thus, the sample population for this study consisted of 256 farm women. Productivity score for each respondent was calculated by using two dimensions, crop yield and economic performance. The formula developed by Yang (1962) was used with little modifications to obtain the total score of contribution of farm women in mixed farming activities.

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In order to ascertain the existance or non existance of relationship, correlation of coefficient (r) was computed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The existance of relationship between independent and dependent variable, when tested for all respondents (Table 1) it was observed that all the variables under study i.e. social participation, achievement motivation, economic motivation, cosmopolite orientation scientific orientation, agricultural beliefs and attitute towards mixed farming were positively and significantly correlated with farm women's contribution in mixed farming. It meant that as the level of these characteristics increased, the contribution of farm women in mixed farming activities also increased.

It is quite obvious that active participation of women in various formal and informal organizations provide them an opportunity to meet other people, develop contacts with them through interpersonal communication and share day to day experiences with them. This might have inspried them to know about improved practices and to adopt the same to increase production. This might be the reason of significant relationship of social participation and cosmopolite orientation with contribution of farm women in mixed farming. The finding is in concurence with the findings reputed by Candy (1990). With the idea of getting maximum profit from the resources available with them, farm women try to adopt improved technology at faster rate and evaluate them more objectively by following scientific criteria and adopt it with more accuracy which leads to higher production. This may be the possible reason for significant correlation of scientific orientation and achievement motivation with women's contribution in mixed farming.

Crop cultivation alone is subjected to higher degree of risk and uncertainity and provides seasonal, irregular and uncertain income. On the other hand dairy enterprise provides constant and regular flow of income from milk production all round the year. Under such circumstances, mixed farming is the only solution not only to augument income but also it provides gainful employment to the members of family throughout year. This may be the possible reason for significant relationship of attitude towards mixed farming and their contribution in mixed farming activities.

TABLE 1

Relationship between independent variables with contribution of farm women in mixed farming.

Socio-Psychological variables	*Coefficient of .Correlation 'r' value*
Social participation	0.328*
Achievement motivation	0.374*
Economic motivation	0.337*
Cosmopolite orientation	0.311*
Scientific orientation	0.435*
Agricultural belief	0.141*
Attitude toward mixed farming	0.425*

*Significant at 0.05 per cent level of probability.

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