



Research Article

STUDY ON DRUDGERY FACED BY MAN AND WOMEN IN PADDY CULTIVATION

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Abstract: In developing countries, one third of total population was peasant and women. Women get only one tenth of the total income of the world and were owner of less than 1 percent assets. The physical strain of female farmers seems to be too high because of heavy work tasks done by them in agriculture. The study was conducted in Kurukshetra district of Haryana state with the objective of analyzing drudgery in paddy cultivation. Result showed that the women devoted 9.5 man days and man devoted 9.6 man days in cultivation of one acre of paddy still the results appear to lend support that most drudgery ridden tasks are assigned to women. The data revealed that in case of women respondent age, caste and size of family found to be significantly but negatively correlated with drudgery in paddy cultivation this might be due to the fact that respondents of younger age group, belonging to lower caste, having large family were working as agricultural labours on others farms used to undertake higher drudgery load in paddy cultivation operations.

Keywords: Women, Man, Drudgery

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Introduction

Paddy as a major staple food is vital for the nutrition of much of the population in Asia, as well as in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa. Developing countries account for 95 per cent of the total production, with China and India alone responsible for nearly half of the world output [1-5]. In developing countries, one third of total population was peasant and women. Women get only one tenth of the total income of the world and were owner of less than 1 percent assets. They were lagging behind in representation of household heads, in education and in socio-economic conditions. They were not only involved in transplanting, weeding, application of fertilizer and harvesting but also raising and rearing of small and large ruminants, their care and marketing. In our country in different process of paddy cultivation female workforce plays significant role although quantitative valuation in terms of money is ignored. They also do equal or more works than man in paddy operation but their efforts are not recognized. The real issue therefore, is more serious despite their involvement in agriculture work in such a long magnitude that they have not been actively involved in the main stream of development and there is hardly any appreciation and recognition of their extensive contribution. By and large, they have remained as invisible workers [6-9].

Methodology

The study was conducted in Kurukshetra district of Haryana state with the objective of analyzing the inter-gender drudgery in paddy cultivation. Two villages were selected randomly from each block and 30 households from each village were selected randomly thus making a total sample of 120 households from different socio-economic categories [10-14].

Results and discussion

Socio-economic profile of respondents

More than half of the respondent (60.8%) were of middle age group, illiterate (66.7%), belonged to lower caste (40.8%), having low family education status (76.7%) and with negligible social participation.

Most of the respondents (72.5%) had joint family, medium family size (40.0%), owned mixed type house (66.7%), cultivator (41.7%) as their main occupation.

Table-1 Knowledge of women regarding paddy cultivation operations, n=120

| S | Operations | Thanesar (Mean score) | Ladwa (Mean score) | 't' value |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Varieties to be grown | 1.52 | 1.48 | 0.36 |
| 2 | Nursery raising | 1.70 | 1.67 | 0.34 |
| 3 | Intercultural operations | 0.73 | 0.92 | 1.92 |
| 4 | Transplanting | 1.75 | 1.47 | 2.97* |
| 5 | Manure and fertilizer application | 1.58 | 1.33 | 2.82* |
| 6 | Plant protection measures | 0.72 | 0.85 | 1.56 |

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

The data reported above clearly indicate that farm women were very much involved in paddy cultivation but they were not having adequate knowledge of modern paddy cultivation practices and plant protection measure. There have been no deliberate attempts to give education about the modern technology to women. The Table 2 indicate that in case of paddy cultivation, there are three operations namely spade work during irrigation, puddling by plough and pesticide dusting which are performed exclusively by men and one operation namely carrying load on head is performed exclusively by women and other remaining four operations are such which are performed by men and women both. The heavy pre-occupations in these four operations of paddy cultivation have resulted in much higher contribution of labour by women than men. Women devoted 9.5 man days and man devoted 9.6 man days in cultivation of one acre of paddy. There is distinct operation wise distribution of labour between men and women farm workers and also there is a variation in the operations in terms of drudgery shouldered by them. Therefore, in order to take account of this difference, the amount of drudgery taken up by every individual involved in one acre of paddy cultivation was worked out. The average drudgery data for men and women are reported in Table 3, which reveal that there is significant difference in the total drudgery taken up and average drudgery per manday taken up by men and women in cultivation of paddy.

Table-2 Paddy cultivation operations undertaken by men and women in terms of man days

| S | Operation | Drudgery Score | | |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | | Men | Women | Total |
| 1 | Puddling by plough | (8.11)* 93.19 (100.0)** | - | 93.19 |
| 2 | Uprooting of seedling | -8.9 102.77 -44.5 | -11.2 128.15 -55.5 | 230.92 |
| 3 | Spade work during irrigation | -8.2 93.9 -100 | - | 93.9 |
| 4 | Transplanting | -26.4 303 -47.9 | -28.9 329 -52.1 | 632 |
| 5 | Pesticide dusting | -4.9 56.9 -100 | - | 56.9 |
| 6 | Harvesting | -31.9 366 -48.7 | -33.9 386 -51.3 | 752 |
| 7 | Carrying load on head | - | -12.5 142.51 -100 | 142.51 |
| 8 | Threshing | -11.6 132.7 -46.3 | -13.5 153.8 -53.7 | 286.5 |
| Total | | 1148.46 | 1139.46 | 2287.92 |
| Average | | 9.6 | 9.5 | 19.1 |

*Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of the total man days over all operations deployed in the particular operations (vertical data), ** Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of the total man days deployed in the operation by men and women (horizontal vertical data)

Table-3 Inter gender drudgery taken up by men and women in paddy cultivation operations

| Gender | Average drudgery taken up | t' value | Average drudgery per man day | t' value |
|--------|---------------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Men | 3.4 | 6.1* | 0.35 | 26.5* |
| Women | 4.0 | | 0.43 | |

Discussion

Drudgery is generally conceived as physical and mental strain, fatigue, monotony and hardship experienced by women. While all of these results show decline in living and working conditions affecting men and women alike, the plight of the poor and the weak in this regard is alarming as they continue to be constrained by illiteracy, malnutrition and employment. There are three operations namely spade work during irrigation, puddling by plough and pesticide dusting which are performed exclusively by men and one operation namely carrying load on head is performed exclusively by women and other remaining four operations are such which are performed by men and women both. The heavy pre-occupations in these four operations of paddy cultivation have resulted in higher contribution of labour by women than men. Data also revealed that there is an obvious need to impart training in order to provide planned exposure of modern paddy cultivation practices to the women who are heavily involved in farm activities to set the pace of agricultural development.

Application of research: Study will help in planning of Tools and technique that can reduce drudgery involved in the tasks being performed by women, but it must accompany a well-designed programme of education for both rural men and women to help them unlearn the unreasonable and undesirable norms and values. Unless this go together emancipate of rural women is unconceivable

Research Category: Drudgery of farm women and man

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Sample Collection:

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