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Aradhana Kushwaha
PDF Fellows, C. S. Azad Uni. of
Agri. & Tech., Kanpur, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Shivangi Shukla
Department of Family Resource
Management, C. S. Azad Uni. of
Agri. & Tech., Kanpur, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Nishu Yadav
PDF Fellows, C. S. Azad Uni. of
Agri. & Tech., Kanpur, Uttar
Pradesh, India

Rekha Dayal
Ex-Dean Department of FRM,
College of Home Science, C. S.
Azad Uni. of Agri. & Tech.,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Role of women in decision making of livestock management practices

Aradhana Kushwaha, Shivangi Shukla, Nishu Yadav and Rekha Dayal

Abstract

The present study was conducted in Uttar Pradesh State. U.P. is divided under Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat and these are further divided into 10 blocks each. Three blocks from Kanpur Nagar namely Sarsoul, Shivrajpur, Choubeypur and three blocks from Kanpur Dehat namely Amaraudha, Malasha, Sarvankheda were randomly selected for the study. Out of these six blocks, 12 villages were randomly selected and a sample of 180 rural women was chosen for the purpose of obtaining necessary information. The main emphasis was made to analyze the rural women's existing socio-economic features of different age groups and their involvement, decision making power and constraints faced during livestock management. Credit and marketing facilities of dairy products available to rural women were also given much consideration.

Keywords: Constraints, rural women, livestock management, decision making

Introduction

Rural women constitute the most important productive work force in the Indian economy. In dairy and animal husbandry women far outnumber the men and this sector of agriculture is wholly dependent upon the women work force. Decision making is a basic process that underlies all function of family resource management. Rural women in our country share abundant responsibilities and perform a wide spectrum of duties in running families, maintaining the households, attending to farm labor and tending domestic animal. Despite their considerable involvement and contribution, women's role in livestock production has often been underestimated or ignored they do not given sole responsibility of making decisions for livestock related issues. In spite of discharging all these duties her involvement in decision making process especially in relation to money matter is low. Despite women's critical contribution to the family income through productive activities, no recognition is given to them as an important contributor and their contribution is not recorded. The overview of some of the studies conducted in India showed considerable variation in women's involvement in decision-making process in different parts of the country especially in rural societies. The states like Punjab and Haryana show positive role of women in decision making process in most of the families. But in primitive societies the pattern of participation on decision is traditional where the head of the family or male members make all the decision.

Women mainly participate in all operations related to livestock management. Livestock management has always been considered to be the sole responsibility of women. Women take responsibility for cutting fodder, cleaning sheds, milking dairy animals, processing animal and milk products and looking after the health of the herd. Livestock rearing is an important means of income generations in village for all categories of farmers including small, marginal and even landless farmer in rural India.

The specific objectives are

1. To know the socio economic characteristics of the respondents.
2. To identify the Involvement of women's in decision making related to livestock management practices.

Delimitations

- The study is limited to families having more than two animals.
- The study is limited to mulched animals.

Research methodology

Uttar Pradesh was chosen as locale of the study. This was done with the intension that U.P. is a major state of the country and rural women have an important role to play in the development

Correspondence

Aradhana Kushwaha
PDF Fellows, C. S. Azad Uni. of
Agri. & Tech., Kanpur, Uttar
Pradesh, India

of the state as well as the country. This area was deliberately selected for this study as the researcher hailed from this place. U.P is divided into district Kanpur Nagar, and Kanpur Dehat comprising of 10 blocks each. Out of these 20 blocks, 3 blocks namely Sarsoul, Shivrajpur, Choubeypur were selected from Kanpur Nagar and 3 blocks namely Amaraudha, Malasha, Sarvankheda were randomly selected from Kanpur Dehat for the purpose of drawing samples. These six blocks provided sufficient number of villages from where indicated size of sample could be drawn. List of total villages falling in the blocks was prepared separately for each of the six blocks. From each of the six blocks two villages situated at a distance were selected with the help of systematic random sampling method. Thus, a total of 12 villages (2 from each block) were selected for the purpose of drawing the required sample of respondents. A group of 15 rural women was selected randomly from each listed village. Lists of rural women were prepared with the help of respective Village list. The selected rural women were categorized according to age groups. A

total sample of 180 rural women was drawn for interviewing them personally.

Socio-economic features of rural women included age, education, family structure, family size, annual income of livestock (Dairy) Rs. occupation of head of the family, etc.

Data collection

The primary data was collected by the investigator herself personally, with the help of a well structured interview schedule. In all, 180 rural women were individually contacted and required information was gathered. Frequency, percentage, Weighted mean, Rank, Standard deviation (S.D.), Z-test, Correlation coefficient, were employed for statistical analysis.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic features of farm women

The Socio-economic features of rural women included age, education, family structure, family size, annual income of livestock (Dairy) Rs, occupation of head of the family, etc.

Table 1: Socio-economic features of rural women

S. No.	Particulars	Kanpur Nagar n=90		Kanpur Dehat n=90	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age (years)				
I	Up to 30	11	12.22	10	11.11
II	31 to 40	30	33.33	37	41.11
III	41 to 50	29	32.22	26	28.89
IV	51 to 60	17	18.89	4	4.44
V	Above 60 years	3	3.33	13	14.44
2	Education				
I	Can read/ write	28	31.11	32	35.56
II	Primary	21	23.33	18	20.00
III	Middle	18	20.00	20	22.22
IV	High School	14	15.56	13	14.44
V	Intermediate & above	9	10.00	7	7.78
3	Type of family				
I	Nuclear	54	60.00	45	50.00
II	Joint	36	40.00	45	50.00
4	Family Size				
I	Up to 4 members	30	33.33	30	33.33
II	5 to 8 members	51	56.67	52	57.78
III	9 members and above	9	10.00	8	8.89
5	Annual income of livestock (Dairy) Rs.				
I	Up to 10000	22	24.44	24	26.67
II	10001 to 30000	47	52.22	56	62.22
III	30001 to 60000	19	21.11	6	6.67
IV	Above 60000	2	2.22	4	4.44
6	Occupation of head of the family				
I	Labour	20	22.22	12	13.33
II	Agriculture	27	30.00	55	61.11
III	Service	4	4.44	6	6.67
IV	Business	7	7.78	3	3.33
V	Both agriculture & business	25	27.78	11	12.22
VI	Both agriculture & service	7	7.78	3	3.33

Table. 1. Shows that maximum 33.33 and 41.11 per cent respondents were from 31-40 years of age group from Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat respectively and were illiterate or educated below /up to middle level in both the district. About thirty one percent from Kanpur Nagar and thirty six percent from Kanpur Dehat were illiterate while 23.33 percent from Kanpur Nagar and 20.00 percent from Kanpur Dehat were Primary educated. A good number i.e. 20.00 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 22.22 percent from Kanpur Dehat were educated up to the middle level. Majority 60.00 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 50.00

percent from Kanpur Dehat were belonging to nuclear family whereas Maximum 56.67 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 57.78 percent from Kanpur Dehat were having 5-8 members in their family. Majority 52.22 percent from Kanpur Nagar and 62.22 percent from Kanpur Dehat were earning Rs10001-30000 annually from livestock only. More than sixty percent heads of family's from Kanpur Dehat and thirty percent from Kanpur Nagar were engaged in Agriculture.

The role of rural women in livestock is much more significant. In many cases, they are involved in watering and cleaning and maintenance of animals and their sheds,

preparing dung cakes as fuel, bringing water as well as milking animals and processing of milk products. But women

who are the major silent contributors of live stock production face many problems and obstacles.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the basis of size and type of herd maintained

S. No	Categories of Livestock (Buffalo)	Sex	Kanpur Nagar n=90			Kanpur Dehat n=90		
			Frequency	Percent	Total	Frequency	Percent	Total
Category 2: According to Age								
1	Suckling calves (0 to 12 months)	Male	59	16.53	357	51	16.35	312
		Female	55	15.41		30	9.62	
2	Junior heifers (13to 18 months)	Male	1	0.28		1	0.32	
		Female	40	11.20		60	19.23	
3	Senior heifers (18 month up to calving in female & breeding in male)	Male	0	0.00		0	0.00	
		Female	202	56.58		170	54.49	
Categories of Livestock (Cows)								
Category 2: According to Age								
1	Suckling calves (0 to 12 months)	Male	21	20.59	102	18	21.95	82
		Female	13	12.75		8	9.76	
2	Junior heifers (13to 18 months)	Male	1	0.98		1	1.22	
		Female	10	9.80		12	14.63	
3	Senior heifers (18 month up to calving in female & breeding in male)	Male	0	0.00		0	0.00	
		Female	57	55.88		43	52.44	
Categories of Livestock(Goat)								
Category 2: According to Age								
1	Kid	Male	36	23.38	154	34	20.12	169
		Female	55	35.71		48	28.40	
2	Adult Stock	Male	0	0.00		0	0.00	
		Female	63	40.91		87	51.48	

Maximum fifty five and little more respondents from both the district. Were having senior heifers female but no single heifers male was found in both the district. In case of cows 57.00 percent found in Kanpur Nagar and 43.00 percent found in Kanpur Besides this 63 female good adult stock and 87 female good adult stocks found in Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat. Dehat were senior heifers, whereas none single male was found in both the districts.

Table 3. Housing management

Data in relation to involvement of women in decision making for livestock is given in table 3. Envisages that in case of 'Housing Management' majority about seventy six percent respondents from both the district 'partially involved' in taking decision for 'constructing of shed while', more than twenty percent from both district 'independently' take decision about 'construction of shed'.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents on the basis of involvement of rural women in Housing management practices livestock

S. No.	Livestock Housing Management Practices	Kanpur Nagar n=90					Kanpur Dehat n=90					Z
		Fully independent	Partial involvement	Nil	Mean Score	SD	Fully independent	Partial involvement	Nil	Mean Score	SD	
a)	Construction of sheds	20	68	2	2.20	0.45	21	68	1	2.22	0.44	0.334
		(22.22)	(75.56)	(2.22)			(23.33)	(75.56)	(1.11)			
b)	Grooming of animals	51	31	8	2.48	0.65	67	18	5	2.69	0.57	2.308*
		(56.67)	(34.44)	(8.89)			(74.44)	(20.00)	(5.56)			
c)	Sanitation Everyday/ Weekly/Fourth nightly/Monthly	56	27	7	2.54	0.64	68	19	3	2.72	0.52	2.059*
		(62.22)	(30.00)	(7.78)			(75.56)	(21.11)	(3.33)			

Only two percent from Kanpur Nagar and one percent from Kanpur Dehat reported 'not involved' in taking decision for 'shed construction'. On the other hand a little less than seventy five percent respondent solely take decisions regarding 'grooming of animals' in Kanpur Dehat followed by 56.67 percent in Kanpur Nagar and 34.44 percent reported 'partial involvement' in decisions regarding 'grooming of animal' in Kanpur Nagar. Only 5.56 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat were reported 'no involvement' in decision regarding 'grooming of animal' while twenty percent reported 'partial involvement'. But in case of Kanpur Nagar 8.88 percent respondents were 'not consulted' for taking decision regarding 'grooming of animal'. As far as sanitation is concerned more than sixty percent from Kanpur Nagar and seventy five percent from Kanpur Dehat independently take decision regarding when to be done followed by thirty percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and twenty one percent from

Kanpur Dehat were reported 'partial involvement' in Decision regarding sanitation management practices i.e. only 3.33 percent from Kanpur Dehat and 7.78 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar were not getting consulted for decision regarding sanitation management practices.

As per table 4 majority of the respondents from Kanpur Dehat and Kanpur Nagar also always fully independently take decision regarding 'grooming of animal' and 'sanitation practices', whereas partially involved in decision related to construction of shed.

Significant value of z at 5 percent level of significance indicates that there is a significant difference for the practices i.e. grooming of animals and sanitation everyday/weekly performed by women of Kanpur Nagar/Kanpur Dehat. Thus the null hypothesis was partially rejected, whereas Non significant difference was found for the practices i.e. construction of sheds thus the null hypothesis was partially accepted.

Shree (2000) reported that majority of farm women adopted the practices like maintenance of separate cattle shed, location of the cattle shed, type of floor for cattle shed, feeding colostrums to the calf within six hours, artificial insemination,

drying period of the pregnant animal, frequency of milking the animal, green grasses grown, keeping the sick animal separately, method of controlling diarrhea, method of controlling ticks and lice and burying the dead animals.

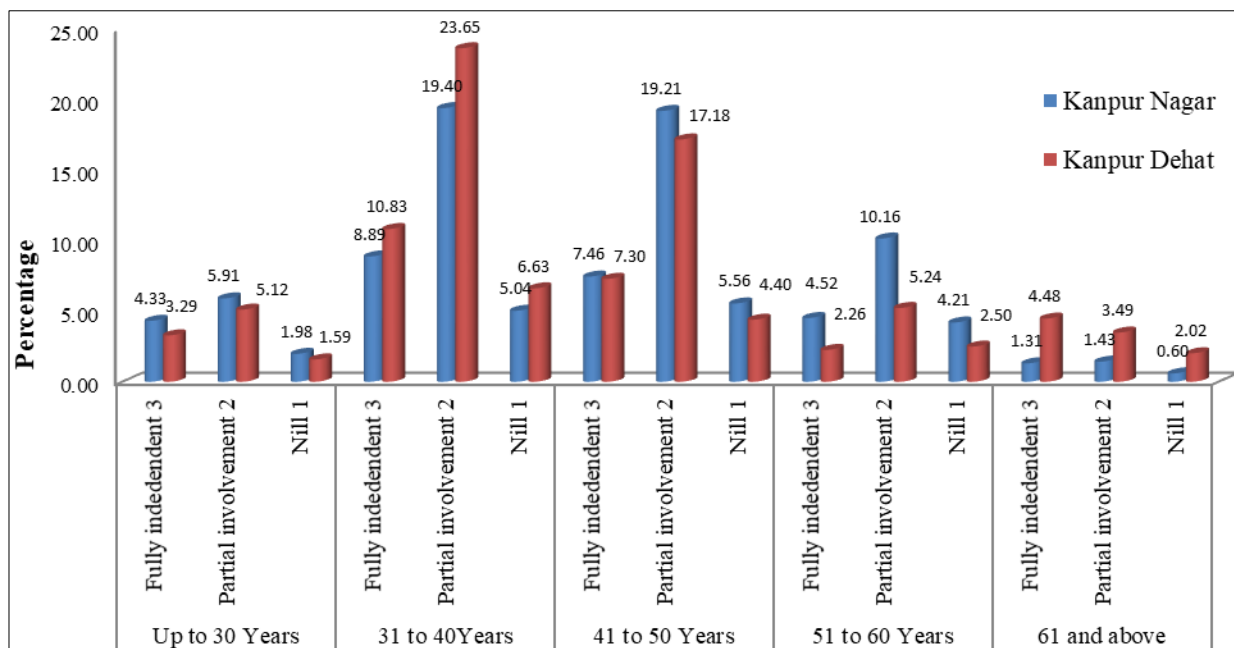


Fig 1: Comparative participation of rural women in Decision Making of live stock management practices of Kanpur Nagar & Kanpur Dehat on the basis of age wise.

Fig. 1 That middle age respondents having age from 31 to 40 years were more active and involving in decision making related livestock management practices. It is also very clear that young age (up to 30 years) and old age (61 and above) respondents were having partial involvement in decision making related to livestock management.

Table 4. Feeding Management Majority 62.22 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 54.44 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat were reported that they are partially involved in the decisions regarding type of fodder. More than fifty percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 50.00 percent from Kanpur Dehat were found partially involved in taking decision regarding green fodder. About fifty eight percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and fifty six percent from Kanpur Dehat were partially involved in

decision regarding grains to be purchased for concentrated mixture. Equal percent i.e. 51.11 percent respondents from both the district reported that they are partially involved in decision regarding purchase of bran. Fifty nine percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat and forty eight percent from Kanpur Nagar partially involved in taking decision regarding cakes. Maximum 53.33 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar partially involved in decision regarding purchase of common salt while majority 48.89 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat independently take decision regarding purchase of common salt. Maximum 57.78 percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 46.67 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat were reported non involvement in decision related to Purchase.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents on the basis of Involvement of rural women in feeding management practices livestock

S. No.	Livestock Feeding management Practices	Kanpur Nagar n=90					Kanpur Dehat n=90					Z
		Fully independent	Partial involvement	Nil	Mean Score	SD	Fully independent	Partial involvement	Nil	Mean Score	SD	
I	Type of feed											
•	Dry Fodder	23 (25.56)	56 (62.22)	11 (12.22)	2.13	0.60	36 (40.00)	49 (54.44)	5 (5.56)	2.34	0.58	2.399*
•	Green Fodder	32 (35.56)	48 (53.33)	10 (11.11)	2.24	0.64	42 (46.67)	45 (50.00)	3 (3.33)	2.43	0.56	2.113*
II	Purchase of Concentrated Mixture											
•	Grains	29 (32.22)	52 (57.78)	9 (10.00)	2.22	0.61	25 (27.78)	50 (55.56)	15 (16.67)	2.11	0.657	1.175
•	Bram (Choker)	41 (45.56)	46 (51.11)	3 (3.33)	2.42	0.56	43 (47.78)	46 (51.11)	1 (1.11)	2.47	0.52	0.553
•	Cakes	40 (44.44)	43 (47.78)	7 (7.78)	2.37	0.62	36 (40.00)	53 (58.89)	1 (1.11)	2.39	0.51	0.262
III	Purchase of Common Salts	44 (48.89)	37 (41.11)	9 (10.00)	2.39	0.66	34 (37.78)	48 (53.33)	8 (8.89)	2.29	0.62	1.047
IV	Purchase of Chalk	11	27	52	1.54	0.70	15	33	42	1.70	0.74	1.450

	(khadia)	(12.22)	(30.00)	(57.78)			(16.67)	(36.67)	(46.67)			
V	Mineral Mixture	7 (7.78)	12 (13.33)	71 (78.89)	1.29	0.60	4 (4.44)	4 (4.44)	82 (91.11)	1.13	0.45	1.963
VI	Grazing of animals	5 (5.56)	15 (16.67)	70 (77.78)	1.28	0.56	6 (6.67)	18 (20.00)	66 (73.33)	1.33	0.60	0.645
VII	Types concentrated to be feed											
•	Powder Form	32 (35.56)	54 (60.00)	4 (4.44)	2.31	0.55	39 (43.33)	47 (52.22)	4 (4.44)	2.39	0.57	0.930
•	Grinded Form	37 (41.11)	50 (55.56)	3 (3.33)	2.38	0.55	37 (41.11)	52 (57.78)	1 (1.11)	2.40	0.51	0.281
•	Dry/Soak Concentrated	42 (46.67)	45 (50.00)	3 (3.33)	2.43	0.56	35 (38.89)	51 (56.67)	4 (4.44)	2.34	0.56	1.065

of chalk (Khadia). More than Ninety percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat were not consulted regarding purchase of mineral mixture followed by 78.89 percent from Kanpur Nagar were not involved in such decisions. About seventy eight percent from Kanpur Nagar and 73.33 percent from Kanpur Dehat were not involved in decision regarding grazing of animal. Majority sixty percent respondents from Kanpur Nagar and 52.22 percent respondents from Kanpur Dehat were observed partially involved in decision regarding powder form of concentrated to be feed. Maximum fifty percent from Kanpur Nagar and 56.60 percent from Kanpur Dehat were partially involved in taking decision of drying and

soaking of concentrate. Vashishtha (2007) who revealed that most of the work related to feeding of cattle and preparation of cattle feed were performed independently by women. Z values are significant at 5% level of significance for dry and green fodder to be fed. Women of Kanpur Dehat are more involved in taking such decisions than women of Kanpur Nagar. Significant value of z at 5 percent level of significance indicator that there is a significant difference for the practices i.e. dry fodder like green fodder performed by women of Kanpur Nagar/Kanpur Dehat. Thus the null hypothesis was rejected partially.

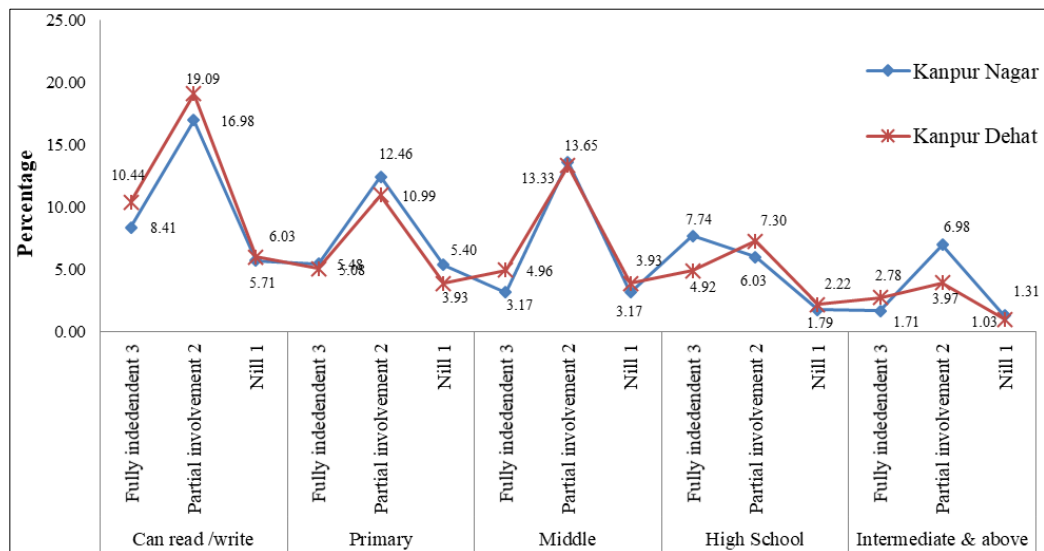


Fig 2: Comparative participation of rural women in Decision Making of live stock management practices of Kanpur Nagar & Kanpur Dehat on the basis of education wise.

Fig. 2: depicts that maximum respondent not education were more partial involved in decision making livestock management practices than those having higher education not involved in decision making.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the study that no difference has been seen in socio- economic conditions of respondents from Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat. Significant difference has been observed between respondents of both districts. sMajority of the respondents from Kanpur Dehat and Kanpur Nagar also always fully independently take decision regarding 'grooming of animal' and 'sanitation practices', whereas partially involved in decision related to construction of shed. More or less all respondents were partially involved in all decisions like care and feeding management of animal, Majority of respondents from Kanpur Nagar and Dehat were found partially involved in decision regarding dry and green

fodder, purchase of grains, Bran, Cakes for Concentrated Mixture, and powdered or grinded form of concentrated mixture to be fed. And also for dry or soak type of concentrated to be fed. But not involved in decisions regarding mineral mixture, grazing of animal and purchase of chalk. No difference has been found between respondents of both the districts in their involvement in decisions regarding feeding management practices.

Policy Implications of the study

- Awareness should be created among male members of the society about women social/civic rights by Govt. private sector, religious leaders or through media, so that female members can participate actively in marking decisions in all aspects of livestock management activities.

- Government, NGOs and private agencies should start awareness and training programmes for women related to livestock so that they may get acquaintance and latest information about livestock management activities.
- Skill development training programs should be arranged for women focusing on agriculture, farming, and livestock management in order to enhance their earnings for quality life.

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