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## A comparative analysis of decision making role of tribal and non-tribal farm women of Odisha

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### Abstract

Involvement in decision making is related with empowerment. A person having decision making power or a partner in decision making process will definitely feel elevated and enthusiastic. Moreover, as decisions lead to action, family development needs sound and rational decision for which role of farm women is essential. But review of literature concludes that the role of farm women in decision making on non-monetary aspects is somewhat visible only. Comparison of the preferred decision making role revealed not much difference between the respondents of tribal and non-tribal district. However, the respondents of the tribal district had better decision making role in house hold activities followed by type of inputs to be purchased, quantity of procurement, quantity to be sold, amount of credit and creation of household articles. The farm women of the tribal district had better family decision making role on procurement of inputs, marketing and financial aspects where as the respondents of the non-tribal district had better decision making role towards assets creation. In general, the respondents had minimum role in financial decisions followed by marketing and procurement decisions.

**Keywords:** Farm women, decision making, social participation and cosmopolitaness

### Introduction

Women in India play an important role in all aspects of life in general and agriculture in particular. Indian agriculture primarily being a family based occupation has been traditionally involving women members to share bulk of responsibilities. They are engaged carrying out a significant number of operations in different productive sectors within the broad gamut of agriculture.

In spite of significant contributions made by farm women to house hold income through on and off farm activities, there is least social and economic recognition. Very often their significant contribution and hard labour grossly under estimated. But heir active involvement is an important ingredient in bringing improvement in agricultural sector and family income. The farm women have greater responsibility as a producer, manager and also a labourer as majority of operations are part of various decisions relating to farm and home management.

### Objectives

1. To compare the degree of preference of decision making between tribal and non-tribal farm women and the income level of tribal and non tribal farm women.
2. To identify the relationship of their decision making with social and economic variables.

### Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in two blocks of tribal district Jharsuguda and non-tribal district of Ganjam of the Odisha state. A total of 120 tribal farm women and 120 non tribal farm women were interviewed with a structured schedule. Random sampling procedure was adopted for selection of blocks, panchayats, villages and proportionate random sampling procedure was adopted for selection of respondent farm women. Five important areas such as decisions in family affairs, procurement of inputs, marketing of the produce, credit, and finance and assets creations decisions were selected for study. Ex post facto research design was implemented in the study. The data generated was interpreted with some statistical tools.

### Results and Discussion

#### Most preferred decisions of farm women

Though the respondents of both the districts opined for various decision making role in different areas as framed under the study, the researcher tried to list out the most preferred decision making role on the basis of the highest score obtained. The idea was to make comparison between both categories of the respondents.

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The listed preferred roles are reflected in table below.

**Table 1:** Preferred decision making role of the farm women.

S. No	Tribal farmwomen			Non-tribal farmwomen		
	Preferred role	Mean Score	Gap (%)	Preferred role	Mean Score	Gap (%)
1	House hold activities	2.98	0.66	House hold activities	2.79	7.00
2	Type of inputs to be purchased	2.00	33.33	Creation of household assets	1.86	38.00
3	Quantity of procurement	2.00	33.33	Source of credit	1.63	45.67
4	Quantity to be sold	1.85	38.33	Mode, time and price of procurement	1.52	49.33
5	Amount of credit	1.79	40.33	Quantity to the sold	1.45	51.67
6	Creation of household assets	1.73	42.33			

Comparison of the preferred decision making role revealed not much difference between the respondents of tribal and non-tribal district. However, the respondents of the tribal district had better decision making role in house hold activities followed by type of inputs to be purchased, quantity of procurement, quantity to be sold, amount of credit and creation of household articles. The respondents of non-tribal district had better decision making role in house hold activities followed by quantity, source, mode, time and price

of procurement of inputs, quantity to be sold, source of credit and creation of house hold activities.

#### Gap in decision making process

Further attempt was made to make the comparative analysis on their aspects of the decision making process. The objective was to analyze the extent of gap exists among the collected on each aspects were pooled together on gap calculated accordingly which are presented in table below.

**Table 2:** Gap on role of farm women in decision making process.

S. No.	Activity	Mean score			Gap	%			Rank	C.R. Value
		Tribal	Non Tribal	Pooled		Tribal	Non tribal	Pooled Gap %		
1	Family decision	2.21	2.18	2.195	26.33	27.33	26.83	5	0.175	
2	Procurement of inputs	1.93	1.48	1.705	35.67	50.67	43.17	3	2.351*	
3	Marketing of produce	1.77	1.61	1.690	41.00	46.33	43.67	2	0.834	
4	Finance	1.73	1.58	1.655	42.33	47.33	44.83	1	0.780	
5	Asset creation	1.68	1.82	1.750	44.00	39.33	41.67	4	0.735	

\* Significant at 0.05 level

As it was revealed that the farm women in both the districts had better role in family decision making process than others. The farm women of the tribal district had better family decision making role on procurement of inputs, marketing and financial aspects where as the respondents of the non-tribal district had better decision making role towards assets creation. In general, the respondents had minimum role in financial decisions followed by marketing and procurement decisions.

Tribal farm women were more involved in farm activities than non-tribal women. This might be the reason for which they had better decision making role. At the same time, the farm women of the non-tribal district had better role inside home for which they had better decision making role on creation of need based assets. But the gap of 27% to as high as 51% in various aspects of decision making indicated that the farm women had limited role in the decision making process.

The analysis of the gap through C.R. test indicated that there was no significant difference on the decision making role between respondents of the tribal and non-tribal district except procurement of inputs. This confirmed that the farm women of the tribal district had better decision making role on procurement of inputs in comparison to the respondents of non-tribal district.

#### Influence of socio-economic variables on decision

Decision making role of an individual is the function of multiple factors particularly social, psychological, economic and communication variables. These variables directly or indirectly influence the individual to involve in the family decision making process. Attempt was therefore made in the study to analyze the relationship between these variables with decision making role of the farm women. The results obtained through correlation analysis are presented below.

**Table 3:** Influences of Socio-economic variables on decision making process

S. No.	Variables	Family decision		Procurement		Marketing		Finance		Asset creation	
		Tribal	Non Tribal	Tribal	Non Tribal	Tribal	Non Tribal	Tribal	Non Tribal	Tribal	Non Tribal
1	Age	0.822**	0.925**	0.876**	0.786**	0.825**	-0.490**	0.724**	0.085	0.678**	-0.493**
2	Education	-0.065	0.649**	-0.116	0.577**	0.005	-0.278*	0.178	0.104	0.247*	-0.210*
3	Family size	-0.361*	0.185	-0.358*	-0.184	-0.281*	-0.659**	-0.277*	-0.688**	-0.265*	-0.587*
4	Family type	-0.034	-0.605**	-0.018	-0.317*	0.026	0.630**	-0.069	0.366*	-0.097	0.644**
5	Social participation	-0.073	-0.255**	-0.053	0.128	0.050	0.696**	0.136	0.537*	0.168	0.540*
6	Cosmopolitaness	0.584*	0.514*	0.610**	0.689**	0.695**	0.121	0.764**	0.472*	0.765**	0.095
7	Housing pattern	0.278*	0.410*	0.349*	0.109	0.219*	-0.558**	0.098	-0.313*	0.043	-0.419*
8	Holding size	0.025	0.129	-0.027	-0.088	-0.090	-0.480*	-0.110	-0.415*	-0.108	-0.294*
9	Annual income	0.015	0.241*	0.009	-0.084	0.028	-0.658**	0.130	-0.492*	0.167	-0.342*
10	Occupation	0.219*	0.398**	0.232**	0.400*	0.218*	-0.073	0.239*	0.212*	0.240*	-0.040
11	Social Trait	0.727**	0.504**	0.665**	0.677**	0.741**	0.063	0.744**	0.388*	0.742**	0.006

12	Economic trait	0.893**	0.817**	0.861**	0.953**	0.894**	-0.054	0.843**	0.536**	0.813**	0.003
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\* Significant at 0.05 level

\*\* Significant at 0.01 level

As revealed from the table age, cosmopolitaness, occupation, social trait and economics trait had positive and significant relationship in the decision making process of all the aspects of the respondents of the tribal district as mentioned in the table. It indicated that better the status of these independent variables better was the decision making role of the tribal women. Family size had negative influence over decision making process of all aspects indicated that less the family size better was the decision making role. Education had only positive relationship with asset creation. Family type, social participation, holding size and income found to have no significant relationship with any decision making process. Housing pattern had positive relationship in decision making process on family affairs, procurement and marketing.

In non-tribal district, age and education of the respondents had positive and significant relationships with decision making in family affairs, procurement and negatively with marketing and asset creation. Family size had negative relationship with decision making process at marketing, financial and asset creation. Family type had negative relationship with decision making process of family affairs, procurement and positively with other decision making process. Social participation had significant relationship with decision making process. Consompliteness had significant and positive relationship with decision on family affairs, procurement and financial aspects. Housing pattern had negative relationship with decision making process on marketing, financial, asset creation and positively on family affairs. Holding size had also negative relationship with decision making process about marketing, financial and asset creation. Holding size and income had negative relationship with decision making process on marketing, financial and asset creation. Occupation had significant and positive relationship with decision making process on family affairs, procurement and financial aspects.

All most all the socio-personal variables had significant influence in increasing the decision making role the farm women in both the districts. But, younger age, small family size, better cosmopolitaness, occupation, social and economic trait and to some extent better housing pattern had much influence in the decision making role in the tribal district. But mixed responses were observed for the respondents in the non-tribal district. It confirms that since the farm women of the tribal district were much involved in the farm activities having poor socio-economic status, their family decision making role could be increased with increase of their socio-economic status. At the same time, farm women in non-tribal district were comparatively advanced and conscious for their family earnings as well as better socio-economic status; so, mixed results were obtained for influencing family decision making role.

However, younger age, education, less family size, cosmopolitaness, better housing pattern, occupation, social and economic traits were the major independent variables contributing much towards involvement of the farm women in family decision making process. The findings led to conclude that, the farm women need to be sufficient exposed to the latest developments so that they feel themselves competent and develop interest to involve in the family decision making process.

## Conclusion

1. The respondents of the tribal district had better decision making role in house hold activities followed by type of inputs to be purchased, quantity of procurement, quantity to be sold, amount of credit and creation of household articles. The respondents of non-tribal district had better decision making role in house hold activities followed by quantity, source, mode, time and price of procurement of inputs, quantity to be sold, source of credit and creation of house hold activities.
2. The farm women of the tribal district had better decision making role on procurement of inputs in comparison to the respondents of non-tribal district.
3. Younger age, small family size, better cosmopolitaness, occupation, social and economic trait and to some extent better housing pattern had much influence in the decision making role in the tribal district. But mixed responses were observed for the respondents in the non-tribal district. It confirms that since the farm women of the tribal district were much involved in the farm activities having poor socio-economic status, their family decision making role could be increased with increase of their socio-economic status.

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