



E-ISSN: 2278-4136

P-ISSN: 2349-8234

www.phytojournal.com

JPP 2020; Sp 9(5): 81-85

Received: 13-07-2020

Accepted: 17-08-2020

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Tribal women participation in Agriculture in Gariaband district of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract

Agriculture is the most important and significant part of our life. It plays a vital role in Indian economy. Farm women's are backbone of Indian agriculture. Present study was conducted at Teka and Kopra villages of Fingeshwar block, Gariaband district, Chhattisgarh. The aim of study is to ascertain the participation rate of tribal women of farm, wage discrimination, and constraints faced. A sample size of 150 households seventy five each from two village *viz.* Teka and Kopra through random sampling method. The data was collected through structured interview schedule. Findings of the study that the per year participation of tribal households in different operations of farm were 250.07 man-days on an overall basis. Participation rate of tribal women in agriculture and allied sectors is high as compared to their male counterparts. The study revealed that the difference in wages of female and male wages was found to be much lower than the government wage rate. Major constraints of tribal women in the study area was low wages, less awareness on developmental programmes, lack of education, lack of freedom to take decision, health issues etc. there is need to put more attention on awareness programmes government schemes of scheduled tribes by the extension services.

Keywords: Tribal women, participation, agriculture, allied sectors

Introduction

In India, there are 249,454,252 households of which, 21,467,179 households belongs to Schedule Tribe population. Total population of the country is 1,21,05,69,573 out of these 10,42,81,034 are classified as Schedule Tribe population along with 5,24,09,823 number of males and female are 5,18,71,211 (census of India, 2011) [8]. The Schedule tribal population of Chhattisgarh state is 7,822,902 constituting about 30.6 per cent of the total population of the state. Agriculture is one such area where the developmental activities can be planned for the tribal farm women. Modern agricultural technology is almost unknown to the tribal community and has been left out from the main stream of economic development (Shamna *et al.*, 2018) [7]. The rural women are extensively involved in agricultural activities. The nature and extent of their involvement differs with the variations in agro production systems. The way of participation of female in agricultural production varies with land-owning status of farm households. Their roles ranges are from managers to landless labourers (Vinod Kumar *et al.*, 1985). Tribal farm women play an important role and make significant contribution to small and medium sized farm (Mohanta, 2017) [6]. Tribal women engaged at about 90 per cent in agricultural activities. The present study present study has taken up following objectives:

1. To analyse the participation of tribal women in different operations of farm.
2. To examine the wages of tribal women in agriculture & allied sector.
3. To study the constraints faced by tribal women workers in the study area and to Suggest some suitable measure for the same.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Teka and Kopra villages the area in Fingeshwar block of Gariaband district, Chhattisgarh. The villages Teka and Kopra were selected randomly & purposively selected the district Gariaband and block Fingeshwar through maximum no. of tribal female population. The total size of sample consists of 150 tribal household, seventy five households each from two villages were selected. Primary data was collected through structured personal interview and secondary data was collected through various books, journals and websites. The data are analyzed and tabulated by using of percentage and the total time spent converted into man-days. The results are discussed in the following tables.

Results and Discussion

The results discuss about the participation rate in different activities of farm, wage discrimination and constraints faced by tribal women.

Participation of farm

The data provided on Table 1 reveals that the highest overall man-days per year were in agriculture as compared to among all the sectors. Overall man-days per year of farm were

250.07 man-days per year. Second highest man-days are showed in kitchen gardening/vegetable cultivation. The results are in line with the findings of Jaiswal (2018)^[3] and K. Suman *et al.* (2010)^[4].

Table 1: Per household employment of Farm (man-days)

Farm sectors	Landless	Marginal	Small	Medium	Overall
Agriculture	103.01	244.48	225.45	186.66	189.90
Kitchen gardening/vegetable cultivation	7.56	18.10	25.89	28.07	19.90
Dairy	5.89	29.74	35.7	30.89	25.55
Goatry	0.00	10.38	15.14	9.15	8.41
Poultry	0.00	5.55	7.2	5.72	4.62
Fishery	1.71	2.27	1.95	0	1.69
Total	118.17	310.52	311.33	260.49	250.07

Participation in Agriculture

It was observed that the participation of tribal was 189.90 man-days per year, on an overall basis. The highest man-days found in marginal i.e. 244.48 man- days per year. In agricultural operations, the highest man-day was seen in transplanting i.e. 46.85 man-days per year. The women labourers got on 127.96 man-days of employment in a year in agriculture in Chhattisgarh State (Jaiswal, 2018)^[3]. The tribal women earned on an average 158 days of work per year on

farm (Naresh, 2014). In transplanting highest man-days was found in small farmers i.e. 59.39 man-days per year. Jaiswal (2018)^[3] reported that the total no. of man-days per year involved in agriculture was highest in transplanting which are 24.75 man-days per year. Shaman *et al.* (2018)^[7] reported that the total man- days in rice, jute and mustard cultivation in terms of man-days in different operations were 379.2, 280.4 and 472.4 man-days per year respectively.

Table 2: Per household employment in Agriculture (man-days)

Operations	Landless	Marginal	Small	Medium	Overall
Field Preparation	4.51	10.44	10.76	12.27	9.49
Sowing	1.07	5.16	7.26	8.3	5.45
Transplanting	21.37	56.89	59.39	49.77	46.85
Irrigation	2.43	2.70	1.93	1.32	2.09
Weeding	28.75	68.00	51.3	37.79	46.46
Fertilizer/Manure/Plant Protection	0.63	4.78	2.89	4.27	3.14
Harvesting	34.12	59.28	50.81	39.17	45.84
Threshing	1.04	5.16	5.54	4.9	4.16
Winnowing	1.15	6.44	3.81	4.5	3.97
Grading & Packaging	1.78	5.44	9.39	8.06	6.17
Transport (Loading & Unloading)	2.65	13.54	16.88	8.65	10.43
Marketing	3.51	6.65	8.38	7.66	6.55
Total	103.01	244.48	225.45	186.66	189.90

Source: Primary data

Table 3 revealed that the participation of tribal women in agriculture was 56.62 per cent. Among all the agricultural operations the highest participation of tribal women was found in transplanting that's holding rank 1st with 97.87 per cent participation followed by weeding, harvesting, grading & packaging, winnowing, sowing, having rank II, III, IV, V, VI,

respectively. Less involvement in irrigation, threshing, marketing, fertilizer/manure/plant protection measures, field preparation having rank VII, VIII, IX, X, XI and they do not involved in transports (loading and unloading) having rank XII. The results are in line with the findings of Mohanta (2018).

Table 3: Participation Rate of Tribal women in Agriculture operations

Operations	Per cent	Rank
Transplanting	97.87	I
Weeding	95.74	II
Harvesting	93.34	III
Grading & Packaging	62.23	IV
Winnowing	51.12	V
Sowing	44.45	VI
Irrigation	24.45	VII
Threshing	22.23	VIII
Marketing	20.00	IX
Fertilizer/Manure/Plant Protection measures	11.12	X
Field Preparation	6.66	XI
Transport (Loading & Unloading)	0.00	XII
Total	56.62	-

Source: Primary data

Participation in allied sectors

It is evident from table 4 that in allied sectors, the highest participation rate of tribal women looked in kitchen gardening having rank 1st along with 77.96 per cent followed by dairy, poultry, goatry, fishery having rank II, III, IV and V respectively.

Table 4: Participation rate of tribal women in Allied sectors

Allied sectors	Participation per cent	Rank
Kitchen gardening	77.96	I
Dairy	54.05	II
Poultry	46.15	III
Goatry	44.44	IV
Fishery	43.27	V

Source: Primary data

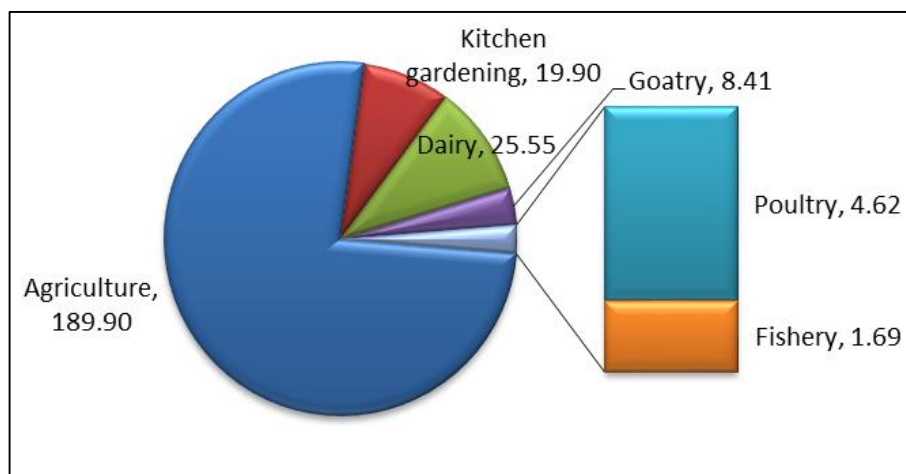


Fig 1: Per household employment of farm (man-days)

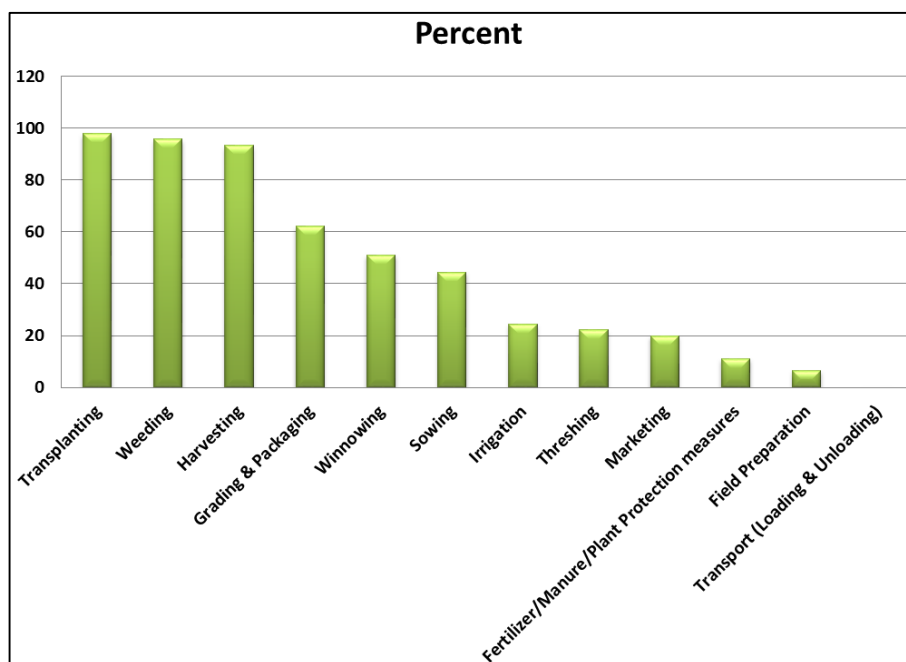


Fig 2: Participation of tribal women in agriculture

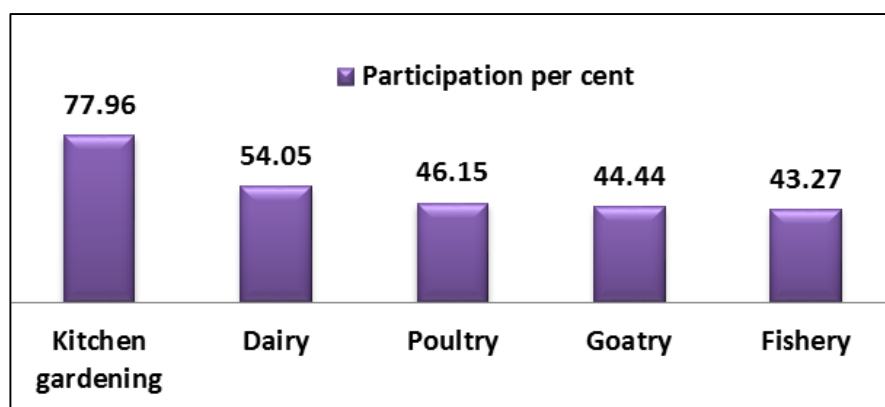


Fig 3: Participation of tribal women in allied sectors of farm

Wage discrimination

It is observed that highest difference between government wage and female wage was found in dairy and goatry sector. The overall difference between female and government wage

was ₹103.48 with 43.17 percentage of difference per cent. Female wage rate has been compared with government wage rate in the other sectors is ₹10.33 profit and with difference percentage is 4.31 per cent.

Table 5: Sector wise wage differentiation (/day)

Sectors	Govt. wage rate	Tribal male labour			Tribal female labour		
		Actual wage	Diff.	Diff. (%)	Actual wage	Diff.	Diff. (%)
Agriculture	239.67	150.00	-89.67	37.41	130.00	-109.67	45.76
Kitchen gardening	239.67	150.00	-89.67	37.41	130.00	-109.67	45.76
Dairy	239.67	120.00	-119.67	49.93	105.00	-134.67	56.19
Goatry	239.67	115.00	-124.67	52.02	105.00	-134.67	56.19
Poultry	239.67	125.00	-114.67	47.84	110.00	-129.67	54.10
Fish farming	239.67	120.00	-119.67	49.93	110.00	-129.67	54.10
Others	239.67	300.00	+60.33	25.17	250.00	+10.33	4.31
Overall	239.67	158.27	-81.40	33.96	136.19	-103.48	43.17

Difference (Diff.): (+ surplus; - deficit)

Constraints faced

During the survey, the tribal women reported to following prime constraints in listed on Table 6. The results showed that low wages (73.4 mean score) and less awareness on developmental programmes (66.6 mean score) are the major constraints of tribal women in the surveyed area. Lack of education (65.2 mean score), lack of training (59.7 mean score), lack of alternative employments (52.1 mean score), priority for men workers (45.2 mean score), insufficient credit facility (41.3 mean score), lack of freedom to take decision (37.6 mean score), family restrictions (34.6 mean score) and health issues (33.5 mean score) are also other major problems faced by the tribal women. The studies of Jaiswal (2018)^[3], Shamna *et al.* (2018)^[7] and Mareeswaran *et al.* (2017) are also in line with the above findings. The result concludes that the tribal women need to be trained and participate in developmental programmes. This will help to improve themselves and will also increase their efficiency.

Table 6: Major constraints of tribal women

Sr. No	Constraints	Mean score	Rank
1.	Low wages	73.4	I
2.	Less awareness on developmental programmes	66.6	II
3.	Lack of education	65.2	III
4.	Lack of training	59.7	IV
5.	Lack of alternate employment	52.1	V
6.	Priority for male workers	45.2	VI
7.	Insufficient credit facility	41.3	VII
8.	Lack of freedom to take decision	37.6	VIII
9.	Family restriction	34.6	IX
10	Health issues	33.5	X

Conclusions

The above discussion clarifies the participation of tribal women is high as compared to the tribal men contribution in farm operations. Result of the study shows that tribal women make significant contribution in marginal small and medium sized farm. Overall man-days per year of farm were 250.07 man-days per year for per household tribal farmers. Total percentage contribution of tribal women in agriculture was 56.62 per cent. In agricultural operations, participation of tribal women was found maximum in transplanting with highest participation rate which accounted 97.78 per cent and which holds the rank I followed by weeding (95.56 per cent). In allied sectors the participation of tribal women was maximum in kitchen gardening/vegetable cultivation with highest participation per cent 77.96 and rank position I,

followed by dairy and poultry with participation per cent 54.05 & 46.15 with rank position II & III respectively. In respect of their active involvement and participation in agriculture and allied sectors, they have not recognized and appreciated. In all the sectors wage differentiation is higher in female wages. Overall female wages are getting ₹103.48 lower than government wage rate with difference percentage of 43.17 per cent. Low wages is the prime constraints in the surveyed area. In general it requires that the support of family members to women in their family life. The tribal women in the study wanted to more and alternative job opportunity for jobless tribal women. Provide adequate information to increase the participation of tribal women in developmental programmes and educational institutions should be established in nearby areas. The government should be focused the empowerment of schedule tribe women and allocate separate funds throughout the five years plan. As per whole the following suggestions are forwarded here to overcome the constraints faced by tribal women in participation of developmental programmes for their livelihood security.

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