



## Role performance and Constraints faced by farm women Engaged in Agriculture

### KEYWORDS

Role performance, farm women, constraints

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**ABSTRACT** *The present investigation was carried out in Shegaon panchayat samiti of Buldana district as one of the distress prone district with the objective to measure the role performance of farm women in different activities in the farm. It was found that majority (77.50%) of farm women were having medium level of role performance in farm activities, followed by little more than one fourth (22.50%) of them were observed under low role performance. It was further revealed that maximum number of farm women (73.33%) had the constraints working under the unfavorable condition followed by 55.83 per cent of farm women had constraint being human it is difficult to perform certain agriculture operation and 54.16 per cent of farm women had the constraint related to lack of knowledge about improved farming activities..*

### INTRODUCTION

Rural women as a part of society are mostly engaged in laborious work involved in farming in addition to their household duties. Even after a long period of independence rural women has been neglected, over exploited and never consider equal to men. Their life is routine of farm work.

In India, more than fifty percent of the farm and related works are done by the women folk. It can therefore be forcefully established that their contribution to agriculture and allied activities in rural India is immense. Although women have made valuable contribution in the production process, this aspect of women's role has been ignored or underplayed. Economists are at pains to measure and analyses women's work in conventional supply and demand models comments that no tool has yet been evolved to measure the intensity and productivity of women's work in the relation of women's activities structure in general. Thus there is need for a conceptual and theoretical framework that can fully explicate the relationship of women's work to technological change and issues emerging from the relationship.

### Material and Methods:

Shegaon panchayat samiti of Buldana district was purposively selected. The exploratory research design of social research was used. The women who were involved in the farm activities were selected purposively. A sample of 120 farm women in different gram panchayats in shegaon panchayat samiti was randomly selected for the study. Thirty three activities related to the farm were taken in to consideration for measuring the role performance and role performance of individual farm woman was calculated by using following formula

$$\text{Role performance index} = \frac{\text{sum of obtained score}}{\text{total obtainable score}} \times 100$$

Coefficient of correlation and multiple regression analysis were used to find out the relative importance of different component of the role performance.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Role performance of farm women

The distribution of the farm women with respect to their role performance index is given in Table 1.

The extent of role performance of farm women revealed

that majority of farm women (77.5 %) were having medium level of role performance followed by more than one fourth (22.50%) of them who were found in low level of role performance category. It is surprisingly to note that none of the respondents were observed in high level of role performance.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their role performance level in farming activities**

Sr.No.	Category	Respondents (n=120)	
		Number	Percent
1	Low	27	22.5
2	Medium	93	77.5
3	High	00	00
	Total	120	100

**Table 2. Distribution of farm women according to their practice-wise role performance of farm women in different farm activities**

Sr. No	Farm activities	Respondents (n=120)		
		Always	Sometime	Never
A	Preparatory Tillage			
1	Stubble collection and burning.	82(68.33)	22(18.33)	16(13.33)
2	Application of FYM.	57(47.5)	40(33.33)	23(19.16)
3	Preparation of seed bed.	66(55)	28(23)	26(21.66)
B	Pre-sowing and sowing operation			
1	Selection of seed.	62(51)	48(40)	10(8.33)
2	Seed treatment with fungicide.	54(45)	36(30)	30(25)
3	Treatment of seed with cultures	42(35)	51(42.7)	27(22.7)
4	Transport of seed on head to field.	58(48.33)	50(41.66)	12(10)
5	Sowing of seed with seed drill.	60(50)	50(41.66)	10(8.33)

6	Dibbling of seeds.	60(50)	50(41.66)	10(8.33)
7	Transplanting	46(38.37)	48(40)	26(21.6)
C Intercultural operation				
1	Thinning and gap filling	46(38.33)	58(48.33)	16(13.33)
2	Weeding of crops	70(58.33)	27(22.5)	23(19.10)
3	Carrying weeds out of field	47(39.16)	35(29.16)	36(27)
4	Irrigation to crops	67.(55.83)	30(25)	23(30)
D Plant Protection				
1	Fetching water for preparation of insecticidal solution	77(64.16)	40(33.33)	3(2.5)
2	Scaring of birds in the field	69(57.5)	32(26.66)	19(15.8)
3	Field supervision	28(23.33)	22(18.35)	70(58.33)
4	Spraying/Dusting with sprayer / duster	30(25)	40(33.33)	50(41.66)
E Harvest and post harvest				
1	Harvesting of crops	44(36.66)	48(40)	28(23.33)
2	Cutting of cobs	46(38.33)	28(23.33)	46(38.33)
3	Picking of cotton and pods	56(46.66)	48(46)	16(13.33)
4	Collection of harvested crops	58(48.33)	52(43.33)	10(8.33)
5	Carrying farm produce on head load	55(45.83)	50(41.66)	15(12.5)
6	Threshing	51(42.5)	42(35)	27(21.66)
7	Winnowing	70(58.33)	30(25)	20(16.66)
8	Storage of seeds	53(44.16)	38(31.66)	29(24.16)
9	Grain processing	50(41.66)	40(33.33)	30(25)
10	Marketing farm of produce	61(50.83)	32(26.61)	27(21.66)
F Allied activities.				
1	Watching the farm	59(49.16)	34(28.33)	27(21.66)
2	Feed and fodder collection	57(47.5)	37(30.83)	26(21.66)
3	Feeding animal and poultry bird	20(16.66)	80(66)	20(16.66)
4	Care of livestock	50(41.66)	60(50)	10(8.33)
5	Milking and processing of milk	30(25)	50(41.66)	40(33.33)
6	Others	-	-	-

(Figures in parenthesis indicates percentage)

#### A) The preparatory tillage practices

From Table 2 with regards to the preparatory tillage practices it is evident that, stubble collection and burning one of the farm activity was performed always by majority of the respondents (68.33%) followed by little less than one fourth (18.33%) of respondents had worked sometimes. Further it was observed that 13.33 per cent farm women never performed the farm activity of stubble collection and burning. Application of FYM (47.50%) always perform this operation followed by 33.33 per cent farm women sometimes perform this operation and 19.16 per cent farm women never perform this operation. Preparation of seed bed was performed by more than half of farm women ( 55.00%) always perform this operation followed by 23.3 per cent farm women sometime perform this operation and 21.66 per cent never perform the operation .

#### B) Pre-sowing and sowing operations

Amongst pre-sowing and sowing operation, it is revealed that more than half of respondents (51%) were performed the activity of selection of seed always followed by 42.00 per cent of farm women performed this operation sometimes and few per cent (7.50%) of them never perform this operation

With regards to seed treatment with fungicide it was revealed that 45.00 per cent of farm women performed this operation always followed by the 30.00 per cent of them performed sometime and one fourth per cent were never performed this operation. Treatment of seed with cultures was revealed that (42.5%) sometime followed by 35.00 per cent of them always performed this operation and more than one fifth (22.70%) of farm women never performed this operation.

In case of transport of seed on head to field revealed that farm women (48.33%) always performed this operation followed by 41.66 per cent of them sometime performed this operation and 10.00 per cent were never performed this activity.

As far as sowing of seed with seed drill is concerned it was observed that exactly half of the farm women (50.00%) always performed this operation followed by 41.66 per cent of them sometime performed and only 8.33 per cent farm women never performed this operation. With regards to dibbling of seed it was observed that half of farm women (50%) always perform this operation followed by 41.66 per cent sometime and 8.33 per cent farm women never performed this operation. In case of transplanting, it was observed that that 40.00 per cent of farm women performed this operation followed by 38.33 per cent sometimes performed and little more than one fifth (21.66%) of them never performed this operation.

#### C) Intercultural operation

In thinning and gap filling operation it was observed that the farm women respondents (48.33%) sometime performed this farm activity followed by 38.33 per cent of them always performed and 13.33 per cent never performed this operation. Weeding of crops showed that more than half of farm women (58.33%) always performed this operation followed by little more than one fifth ( 22.50%) of farm women sometime performed this operation and little less than one fifth(19.16%) per cent never performed this operation.

In case of farm activity such as carrying of crops out of field was observed that farm women (39.16%) always performed this operation followed by 39.16 per cent of them sometime and 31.66 per cent of farm women never performed this operation.

With regard to irrigation of crop, it was observed that more than half farm women always (55.83%) performed this operation followed by exactly one fourth (25.00%) of them sometime performed this operation and 30.00 per cent were never performed

#### D) Plant protection operations:

Fetching water for preparation of insecticidal solution is one of the farm activity amongst plant protection measure. It was found that majority (64.16%) of farm women always performed this operation followed by 33.33 per cent of them sometime perform this operation and very few 2.50 per cent never performed this operation.

In case of scaring of birds in the field. It was observed that more than half of the (57.5%) farm women always performed this operation followed by little more than one fourth (26.60%) of farm women sometime performed this operation and 15.83 per cent of them never perform. In field supervision, it was observed that farm women (58.33%) never performed this operation followed by 23.33 per cent of farm women always performed and 18.35 per cent of the respondents sometime perform this operation. In spraying or dusting with sprayer or duster. It was observed that of farm women (41.66%) never performed this operation followed by 33.33 per cent farm women sometime perform this operation and exactly one fourth ( 25.00%) of the respondents always performed this operation.

#### E) Harvest and post harvest

In harvesting of crops, it was observed that farm women respondents (40%) sometime performed this operation followed by 36.66 per cent of them always performed and less than one fourth (23.33%) of farm women never performed this operation.

With regards to data about cutting of cobs it is show that (38.33%) of farm women always performed and 38.33 per cent never performed this operation followed by 23.33 per cent sometime performed

In case of picking of cotton and pods, it was observed that 46.66 per cent of farm women always performed this operation followed by 40.00 per cent of them sometime performed this operation and only 13.33 per cent of farm women never performed this operation.

In collection of harvested crop data showed that of farm women (48.33%) always performed this operation followed by 43.33 per cent of them sometime performed and 8.33 per cent never performed this operation. In case of carrying farm produce on head load, the data in this regard observed that (45.83%) of farm women always perform this operation followed by the 41.66 per cent of them sometime performed and only 12.50 per cent never performed this operation.

In threshing it was observed that 42.50 per cent of farm women always performed this operation followed by 35.00 per cent of them sometime performed and little more than one fifth (21.66%) never performed the activity of threshing .

With regards to winnowing the Table 2 showed that more than half of the respondent (58.33%) always performed this operation followed by exactly one fourth ( 25.00%) of farm women sometime performed this operation and only 16.66 per cent never performed this operation.

Storage of seeds showed that the relatively higher proportion of farm women (44.16%) always performed this operation followed by 31.66 per cent farm women sometime performed and little less than one fourth (24.16%) never performed the said operation.

Grain processing which was one of the farm operation showed that 41.66 per cent of farm women always performed this operation followed 33.33 per cent of them sometime performed this operation and 25 per cent of farm women never perform this operation.

Marketing of farm produce showed that about half of the farm women (50.83%) always performed this operation followed by 26.66 per cent of them sometime performed the same and little more than one fifth ( 21.66%) of farm women never performed this operation.

#### F) Allied activities

Amongst allied activities in watching the farm it was observed that little less than half of farm women (49.16%) always performed this operation followed by 28.33 per cent of them sometime performed and little more than one fifth (21.66%) of farm women never performed this operation.

With regards to feed and fodder collection the study showed that 49.16 per cent of farm women always performed this operation followed by 32.50 per cent of them sometime performed this operation and little more than one fifth (21.66%) never performed this operation.

In connection to feeding animal and poultry birds data showed that farm women sometime (66.66%) performed this operation followed by equal proportion(16.66%) of farm women always and never performed respectively. With regard to care of livestock: data showed that exactly half of farm women sometime performed this operation followed by 33.33 per cent of them always performed and very few (8.30%) never performed the care of livestock.

As far as milking and processing of milk is concerned from the finding in Table 2, it was observed that f farm women respondents (41.66%) sometime performed this operation and 33.33 per cent of them never performed and exactly one fourth always perform the operation of milking and processing of milk.

**Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their constraints faced by them while performing the role in agriculture.**

Sr. No	Constraints	Frequen- cy	Percent- age
1	Burden of family work	54	45.00
2	Lack of technical knowledge about improved farming activities	65	54.16
3	Health Problems	60	50.00
4	Working under unfavorable condition	88	73.33
5	Being human it is difficult to perform certain agriculture operations	67	55.83
6	Difficult to spent time for farm operations due to domestic work	33	27.50

It was revealed from Table 3 that maximum number of farm women (73.33%) had the constraints working under the unfavorable condition followed by 55.83 per cent of them who were faced constraint being human it is difficult to perform certain agriculture operation and 54.16 per cent of farm women had the constraint related to lack of knowledge about improved farming activities. Half of the farm women had suffer from the health problems.45.00 per cent of farm women had the problem of family burden and 27.50 per cent of farm women had difficult to spent time for farm operation due to domestic work.

#### Conclusion:

It can be concluded from the findings that majority of the respondents farm women (77.00%) were having medium level of role performance. While doing the farm activities/ operation working under unfavorable condition is important constraint as faced by most of the farm women. Hence it can be implied that training programmes should be given to farm women to manage the work

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