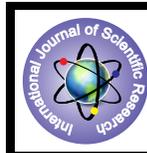


A Study on Variation in Nature of Participation in Work By Younger and Elderly Bodo Tribal Farm Women of Assam



Home Science

KEYWORDS : Drudgery index, difficulty score, performance frequency score, coefficient of difficulty score, coefficient of time score, mandays,

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ABSTRACT

Women in Assam, especially the rural people comprising of various communities are bounded by different customs and traditions and women take an active role in its preservations and help to transmit it from generation to generation. They perform the traditional roles of household and community management governed by socio-cultural aspects unique to each community. This rural population is mostly agriculturist and it is the base of their socio-economic security. An ordinary Bodo farm woman is the main player to sustain life activities at home, farm and animal husbandry like all other of her genre. Standard anthropological methods, personal interview and observations were used to elicit information from 500 randomly selected samples belonging to two age groups to see their variation in nature of participation in different activities with respect to age. The farmwomen were divided purposively and were categorized as younger (25-45 years) and elderly group (46-65 years) for the convenience of the present study. All together 250 respondents in each of the two age groups who were actively involved in household, farm and allied activities were purposively selected. A combined method of study was designed involving both qualitative and quantitative technique. Results show that performance frequency score of some activities were higher in younger group compared to elderly. Difficulty score of the two groups was almost similar for same type of activities. Time spent pattern was different. Involvement of elderly group was less compared to younger in home and farm activities but in allied activities involvement of the former group was comparatively higher. Systematic analysis of various aspects of performing a particular type of work helps to evolve easier and better means of doing work to create work simplification and higher efficiency. Economic quantification of involvement of younger and elderly respondents in home, farm and allied activities in terms of mandays spent amounted to Rs. 5,911.83 and Rs. 4190.66 per month respectively. Calculation of man-days helped to understand the incognito economic contribution of this section of population.

INTRODUCTION:

Farming is the main occupation of Indian ruralites. Vast majority lives in rural India and its economy is mostly agrarian. Indian rural women nonetheless are inevitable part of this agrarian economy and have multi faceted contributions to it. But in reality their contribution has gained very little recognition over the timeline in terms of both qualification and quantification. Rural farm women's heavy workload in India in various activities and their effect in health and wellbeing was asserted by Hasalker *et al.*, (2004), Kishitwaria *et al* (2007), Kumari *et al.*, (2009), Nagori *et al.*, (2011) in their research studies. Women in Assam (one of the 29 states of India) irrespective of caste and creed share abundant responsibilities in general and in the household in particular. Bodo women one of the major tribes of Assam are bounded by different customs and traditions and take an active role in its preservations and help to transmit it from generation to generation. Their contribution to agriculture is tremendous as this rural population is mostly agriculturist and it is the base of their socio-economic security. Bodo women's contribution to household economy and economy in general is needed to be quantified as till recently women's contribution was not considered and analysed. The activities like cooking, housekeeping, childcare, fuel and water collection, various on and off farm activities define the traditional role of women at the household level as well as agriculture and allied sector. Studies on the activity profile with time allocation give a comprehensive view of the multiple roles performed by women bringing to light their demands to be coped up due to survival needs on a daily basis.

OBJECTIVES: The present study was taken up with the following objectives:

- (A) Study of the working profile of Bodo farm women and variation in their nature of participation in different activities with respect to age
- (B) Quantification and economic assessment of the time spent in different activities by the respondents of younger age group and that of the elderly age group

METHODOLOGY:

A Total of six villages predominantly inhabited by Bodo Hindus were selected purposively situated at a distance of 12 to 20 kilometers north-west of Kokrajhar town. Standard anthropological methods, personal interview and observations were used to obtain information from 500 Bodo farm households inhabiting the six villages. An interview schedule was administered on the women to elicit information regarding their involvement in different household, farm and allied activities and drudgery involved in them after it was duly pretested. Data were processed, tabulated and presented after appropriately calculating the frequencies and percentages. The field work was carried out firstly through personal interview in the aforesaid villages comprising of 3162 population out of which 1644 were male and 1518 were female. Secondly, 500 farmwomen were selected from the above 1518 female population as target group belonging to the age group of 25-65 years. Female population of this age group in the area was found to participate actively in various home, farm and allied activities however; slight decreasing trend in participation in work was seen slowly beyond 45 years. Therefore 250 samples were randomly selected belonging to each of the two age groups. The farmwomen were divided purposively and were categorized as younger (25-45 years) and elderly group (46-65 years) for the convenience of the present study. A combined method of study was designed involving both qualitative and quantitative technique.

Analysis of the data was done on the basis of three parameters to identify their involvement and quantify their drudgery *viz.*, percentage of performers, time spent to perform particular activity (min day⁻¹), performance frequency, and difficulty score perceived by the respondents for the activities performed. Those activities which were performed commonly by at least twenty per cent of the respondents were identified and selected for further analysis

Calculated of the time score was done by considering the time taken to perform the activities by recall method in minutes per day. The above said scores were used to calculate the time co-efficient (X) as time taken in min day⁻¹ divided by total time spent under that domain.

$$\text{Coefficient of Time score (X)} = \frac{\text{Time taken in min day}^{-1}}{\text{Total time under that domain}}$$

And time spent (hrs year⁻¹) was calculated by

$$\text{Time spent (hrs year}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{\text{Time in min.} \times \text{Total no of days performed in a year}}{60}$$

To derive man-days, time spent (hrs year⁻¹) was used considering 8 hours equivalent to one man-day. Economic quantification was done by considering rupees 100 as daily wage multiplied with number of man-days in all the domains separately and also totaling the complete involvement.

Calculation of performance frequency score (Y) was done on the basis of frequency of performance i.e., daily, alternate day, weekly, fortnightly, and seasonally with relative scores of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The total score thus obtained was divided by the total performers for each activity to get the Performance Frequency Score. The highest performance frequency score thus obtained in each of activity domain was used to divide each score to determine the Coefficient of Performers Frequency Score (Y).

Calculation of Difficulty Score (Z) was done on the basis of most difficult, difficult, neutral, easy and very easy with relative scores of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The total score obtained was divided by the total performers for each activity to get the Difficulty Score. The highest Difficulty Score thus obtained in each activity domain was used to divide each score to determine Coefficient of Difficulty Score (Z). Finally drudgery index (DI) was calculated with the following formula.

Finally, Drudgery Index (DI) = $\{(X+Y+Z)/3\} \times 100$ Where, X = Coefficient of time score, Y = Coefficient of performance frequency score and Z = Coefficient of difficulty score. Among all the activities few highly performed activities in the home, farm and allied work domain were enlisted and analysed here.

The data enumerated and compiled below will focus at different aspects of involvement in activities of Bodo rural women in various work domains.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Home activities:

Cooking and allied activities (Table 1): Cooking being an imperative activity in every household, respondents in younger age group recorded much higher percentage of performer of 93 percent in it followed by 77 percent in grinding and pounding. On the other hand, respondents under elderly age group registered a high percentage of performers of 54 percent in cooking followed by 45 percent in bringing firewood and 42 percent in chopping fire wood. Average percentage of performers in these kitchen related activities was found to be higher (67 percent) in younger group compared to elderly (49 percent). This indicated that respondents under younger age group were more involved in these activities. Bringing firewood and chopping of fire wood was found to be 'difficult' in terms of difficulty score for both younger and elderly age group.

Household cleaning activities: It was revealed that involvement of respondents among elderly group in cleaning activities was lower than the younger (Table 1). As low as 44 percent of elderly respondents were involved in these activities compared to 68 percent of the younger. The frequency scores indicated that sweeping was a daily performed activity for both the age groups compared to mopping and dusting were not regular cleaning activity. Difficulty scores indicated that mopping was found to be 'difficult' by both the age groups.

Table 1: Percentage of Performers and Difficulty Scores of various household activities

Activities	Performers (pc)		Difficulty Score		Frequency score	
	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.
Bringing firewood	36	47	4.11	4.70	1.72	1.54
Chopping firewood	42	45	4.12	4.25	1.8	1.94
Grinding & pounding	77	38	3.67	3.54	2.55	4.55
Cooking Activity	93	54	2.18	2.41	5.00	4.92
Cleaning utensils	86	46	2.21	2.87	5.00	4.88
Serving food	89	72	1.12	1.00	5.00	4.69
Sweeping	76	48	2.25	2.28	5.00	4.68
Mopping	66	36	4.11	4.38	2.54	2.72
Dusting	62	47	2.14	2.00	2.55	2.00
Fetching water	85	47	3.14	3.11	5.00	4.75
Washing clothes	82	63	3.00	2.91	3.14	3.39
Child care	39	28	1.00	2.00	5.00	4.20
Personal care	94	69	1.00	1.00	5.00	5.00
Care of sick person	21	27	3.00	2.20	3.00	2.74
Weaving	91	39	2.57	4.52	3.41	2.98
Spinning	91	39	2.66	2.71	2.67	1.72
Mean	69.25	46.56	2.61	2.87	3.6	3.54

Fetching of water and washing clothes: The activity of fetching of water and washing clothes were performed by 47 and 63 percent of elderly respondents respectively while comparatively higher percentage of performers of 85 percent and 82 percent respectively were recorded in the younger age group. The frequency scores indicated that fetching water was a daily performed activity whereas washing clothes was not regular. Difficulty score of both the groups indicated the activities as 'neutral'.

Child care, personal care and sick persons care: The Percentages of performers of child care activity for younger and elderly age groups were found to be 39 and 28 percent respectively. Difficulty score indicated the activity as 'easy' for both the age groups. As high as 94 percent of younger age group showed high degree of their involvement in personal care practices compared to low involvement of only 69 percent of elderly group which included regular bathing, oiling and combing of hair. However, other personal care activities such as daily wearing of washed dress, care of nails, hands and feet, head bath, use of face cream, body lotion, talcum powder, threading of eyebrows, massage, use of perfume, nail polish etc. were rarely done by elderly group and lesser per cent of younger group. Care of sick person was done by 22 percent of elderly age group respondents compared to 19 percent of younger age group with difficulty score indicating 'easy' and 'neutral' respectively. Similar findings on home activities performed by farm women were reported by Bimla *et al.* (2006) in their study in Kaithal district of Haryana.

Weaving and Spinning: These activities being indispensable for the rural tribal women, 91 percent of younger age group performed weaving and its related sub-activities, while only 39 percent of elderly age group respondents showed their involvement in these. Difficulty score inferred the activities to be 'difficult' and 'easy' respectively by both elderly and younger age group.

Farm activities (Table 2): Wet land paddy cultivation is practiced by this population which is a very arduous activity and highly labour intensive. Amongst the farm activities, percentage performer of younger age group were highest in paddy transplanting followed by its harvesting, grain sundrying and

seedling uprooting. Whereas, high involvement of 74 percent of the respondents under elderly age group was recorded in grain sundrying followed by 68 percent in seedling uprooting, 65 percent in sieving and 56 percent in transplanting of rice. According to a study done in Gujarat Chauhan, (2011) revealed that participation of women in farm activities was highest in weeding and neeping/picking and threshing. Similar findings were also reported by Chayal *et al.*, (2010). Difficulty score of both the groups of women indicated the activities to range from 'difficult' to near 'very difficult'. These conformed to the findings of Bimla *et al.*, (2006); Arunachalam, (2006) and Choudhury *et al.*, (2004).

Table 2: Percentage of performers and Difficulty Score of various farm activities

Activities	Performers (pc)		Difficulty Score		Performance frequency score	
	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.
Transplanting of seedling	90	56	4.88	4.59	1.00	1.00
Uprooting of seedlings	74	68	4.38	4.79	1.00	1.00
Weeding	10	14	4.18	4.23	1.11	1.00
Threshing	24	14	4.00	4.19	1.11	1.00
Harvesting paddy	84	28	4.57	4.69	1.00	1.00
Sundrying of grains	78	74	4.52	4.65	1.23	1.35
Winnowing	44	37	4.11	4.20	1.00	1.64
Sieving	51	65	4.24	3.78	1.00	1.37
Cleaning	58	59	4.00	4.2	1.00	1.99
Carrying & storing grains	71.6	43.60	4.26	4.44	1.00	1.00
Mean	58.46	45.86	4.314	4.376	1.045	1.235

Allied activities (Table 3): Percentage of performers of younger age group in the allied activities were found to be 54 percent in cleaning cow shed followed by 47 percent in feeding pigs and 44 percent each in kitchen gardening/ planting fruits and 50 milking of cows. On the other hand,, the high percentage of performer of elderly age group in the allied activities was 65 percent each in feeding pigs and cleaning pig shed, 44, 33 and 48 percent each in cleaning cow shed, goat and poultry rearing and care. Difficulty score of both the groups indicated the activities to be 'neutral' and 'difficult'.

Table 3: Percentage of performers and Difficulty Score of various allied activities.

Activities	Performers (pc)		Difficulty Score		Performance frequency score	
	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.	Younger age gr.	Elderly age gr.
Cleaning of cow shed	54	44	3.14	3.85	3.14	5.00
Milking	50	35	3.54	3.60	3.54	1.00
Kitchen gardening/ planting fruits	44	47	4.00	3.16	4.00	3.88
Irrigation	24	43	3.85	3.92	3.85	1.00
Picking of veg/ fruits	43	47	2.06	1.77	2.06	2.69
Feeding pigs	47	65	3.60	3.40	3.60	3.36
Cleaning pig shed	46	65	2.95	2.85	2.95	4.57
Goat rearing and care	27	33	2.88	3.30	2.88	3.07
Poultry rearing and care	30	48	2.00	2.30	2.00	5.00

Silk worm rearing and care	9	34	4.00	4.40	4.00	2.10
Mean	37.4	46.1	3.20	3.25	3.20	3.17

Drudgery Index (DI):

Highest drudgery prone activity in home domain: It was revealed in Table 4 that fetching water was found to be the highest drudgery prone home activity for both elderly age group and younger age group with DI 52.74 and 53.16 respectively. It also revealed that weaving was found to be second highest drudgery prone activity for elderly age group with DI 51.91 but it was the cooking in case of younger age group with DI 53.09. Third highest drudgery prone activity for elderly age group was cooking with DI 51.29 % which was sweeping for younger age group with DI 52.45. The findings conformed to the report by Sadangi and Pattanaik, (2006) on drudgery level of farm activities as perceived by farm women.

Highest drudgery prone activity in farm domain: Highest drudgery prone farm activity was uprooting of seedlings for elderly age group with DI 55.17 which was transplanting for younger age group with DI 63.64. Harvesting of paddy was second most drudgery prone activity for elderly age group with DI 54.88 whereas; it was the uprooting of seedlings in case of younger age group with DI 63.43. Transplanting of paddy with DI 54.18 and harvesting of paddy with DI 59.55 were the third highest drudgery prone activities for elderly age group and younger age group respectively. Sadangi and Pattanaik, (2006) also reported transplanting, uprooting and harvesting of paddy to be of heavy drudgery status farm activities (Table 5).

Highest drudgery prone activity in allied domain: It was revealed in Table 6 that cleaning of cowshed and feeding pigs with DI 51.84% and 50.83% respectively were the highest drudgery prone allied activities for elderly age group which in case of younger age group was almost similar but with little higher DI scores. Milking of cow and cleaning of pig shed with DI 52.33% and 49.89% respectively were the third highest drudgery prone activities for younger age group and elderly age group respectively (Table 6). Kishtwaria *et al.* (2007) reported that Himachali rural women extensively involve in fodder collection for cattle and found it to be a highly drudgery prone activity while this activity was not usually done by the Bodo women.

Time spent in different activities:

Among home activities on the average, women of younger age group spent 135 min day⁻¹ in cooking activities which was 64.33 min day⁻¹ in case of elderly age group. Highest time spent in 'post-cooking' activities was on cleaning of utensils with 59.2 and 37.42 min day⁻¹ by younger age group and elderly age group respectively. Both younger age group and elderly age group took maximum time in mopping among cleaning activities with 62.21 and 51.06 min day⁻¹ spent respectively. Time spent in fetching water was almost same by both younger and elderly age group with 45.81 and 40.14 min day⁻¹ respectively.

Women regularly go to town or to the local *haat* for selling local vegetables, herbs, eggs etc. and occasionally for buying necessary commodities. Similar findings were reported by Bimla *et al.*, (2006) on the length of time spent in performing cooking and post-cooking activities. On the average, younger age group spent 196.06 min day⁻¹ and elderly group spent 209.4 min day⁻¹ in these activities respectively. In the weaving activity younger age group spent 228.3 min day⁻¹ whereas elderly group spent 93.06 min day⁻¹.

Table 4: Mean values of drudgery index, time spent (min day⁻¹) and number of man days involved in performing various household activities by the respondents.

Household Activities	Drudgery Index		Time spent (min day ⁻¹)		Man days	
	Younger group	Elderly group	Younger group	Elderly group	Younger group	Elderly group
Bringing firewood	45.45	46.63	90.75	85.67	5.97	5.37
Grinding and Pounding	47.44	47.08	18.32	17.41	8.91	6.77
Cooking Activity	53.09	51.29	135.03	64.33	88.84	28.06
Cleaning utensils	47.93	49.49	59.2	24.43	43.62	37.42
Sweeping	52.45	48.21	43.05	39.05	28.45	17.33
Mopping	51.50	50.30	62.21	51.06	7.98	5.28
Fetching water	52.74	53.16	45.81	40.14	32.93	22.33
Washing clothes	48.08	48.93	41.4	49.17	28.52	12.30
Weaving	49.54	51.91	228.28	93.06	56.75	21.79
Mean	49.53	49.94				

In farm activities, maximum time was spent on transplanting by both younger age group and elderly age group with 474.4 and 397.1 min day⁻¹ respectively. Second highest time of 455.7 and 396.2 min day⁻¹ were spent by younger age group and elderly age group on uprooting of seedlings and harvesting of paddy respectively. Both younger age group and elderly age group spent third highest time of 421.1 and 378.4 min day⁻¹ respectively on sundrying of grains.

In the allied domain, younger age group spent highest time of 127.2 min day⁻¹ on catching fish followed by 71.08 min day⁻¹ on picking of fruits and vegetables and 59.48 min day⁻¹ on kitchen gardening. Whereas, elderly age group spent the highest time of 68.44 min day⁻¹ on kitchen gardening followed by picking of fruits and vegetables with 60.12 min day⁻¹ and on feeding of pigs with 38.15 min day⁻¹.

Table 5: Mean values of drudgery index, time spent (min day⁻¹) and number of man days involved in performing various farm activities by the respondents.

Farm activities	Drudgery Index		Time spent (min day ⁻¹)		Man days	
	Younger age group	Elderly age group	Younger age group	Elderly age group	Younger age group	Elderly age group
Uprooting of seedlings	63.43	55.17	471.43	368.23	20.63	10.91
Transplanting	63.64	54.18	455.72	397.12	20.63	14.16
Threshing	52.54	47.96	70.00	87.37	1.76	3.49
Harvesting of paddy	59.51	54.58	420.88	396.23	15.92	12.47
Sun drying of grains	59.31	53.21	133.75	378.43	15.21	12.67
Winnowing	58.83	50.35	49.00	146.18	4.24	4.33
Cleaning	55.86	48.89	27.34	119.14	14.59	3.09
Mean	58.42	51.47				

Man – days per year on home domain (Table 4): The highest number of 37.42 man-days was spent on cleaning utensils by elderly age group followed by 28.06 man-days in cooking activity and 22.33 man-days in fetching water. Whereas, younger age group spent the highest number of 88.84 man-days on cooking activities followed by weaving with 56.75 man-days and cleaning utensils with 43.62 man-days.

Man – days per year on farm domain (Table 5): Elderly age group spent the highest number of 14.16 man-days on transplanting of paddy followed by on sundrying of grains with 12.67

man-days and on harvesting of paddy with 12.47 man-days. Whereas, younger age group also spent the highest number of 20.63 man-days on transplanting of paddy followed by on uprooting of seedlings with 16.31 man-days and on harvesting of paddy with 15.92 man-days. Similar findings were reported by Bimla *et al.*, (2006).

Table 6: Mean values of drudgery index, time spent (min day⁻¹) and number of man days involved in performing various allied activities by the respondents.

Allied activities	Drudgery Index		Time spent (min day ⁻¹)		Man days	
	Younger age group	Elderly age group	Younger age group	Elderly age group	Younger age group	Elderly age group
Cleaning of cow shed	53.09	51.84	38.67	21.24	21.76	15.72
Feeding of pigs	53.16	50.83	15.19	38.15	11.26	28.10
Cleaning of pig shed	51.19	49.89	18.16	14.47	11.59	13.21
Milking	52.33	37.93	27.6	24.11	6.01	7.55
Poultry rearing and care	42.71	44.84	21.02	10.71	8.16	5.21
Irrigation	46.13	44.28	70.00	60.00	4.39	3.18
Catching fish & cleaning	29.67	43.77	127.15	24.11	5.18	9.81
Milk processing/delivering	30.95	42.35	18.85	15.79	3.81	6.43
Total	43.84	46.83				

Man- days per year on allied domain (Table 6): Both elderly age group and younger age group spent the highest number of 28.1 and 21.76 man-days respectively in feeding pigs. On the other hand, elderly age group spent the second highest number of 15.72 and 14.5 man-days in cleaning of cowshed as well as picking of vegetables and fruits respectively. On the other hand, younger age group spent the second highest number of 12.22 and 11.59 man-days on picking of vegetables and fruits and cleaning pig shed respectively. Similar findings were reported by Borgohain *et al.*, (2011).

In order to see the relationship between the age of the respondents of two age groups and average time spent in all the work domains per day, correlation of coefficient was computed (Table 7).

Table 7. Relationship of Age of the Respondents of two age groups with Average Time Spent in Different Activities

Sl. No	Personal variables	Average time spent (min day ⁻¹)		Coefficient of correlations 'r'		Average age(years)	
		Younger	Elderly	Younger	Elderly	Younger	Elderly
1	Home	1022.73	635.84	0.154*	0.014NS	33.04	53.98
2	Farm	1869.69	1498.07	0.106NS	0.071 NS	-	-
3	Allied	231.36	167.69	-0.188**	0.029 NS	-	-

*Significant at 0.05 level, ** significant at 0.01 level, NS: non significant

Significant relationship at 0.05 level was found between age of younger group with time spent in home activities, it also indicated that with increase in age up to 45 years time spent in home activities increases. Where as in farm activities the relationship of age and time spent was non – significant.

Table 8. Comparison of Average Time Spent (min day⁻¹) of the Respondents' of Two Age Groups in Performing Activities by Z- test

Sl. No.	Personal variables	Average time spent (min day ⁻¹)		Z-test value
		Younger group	Elderly group	
1	Home	1022.73	635.84	8.22**
2	Farm	1869.69	1498.07	6.99**
3	Allied	231.36	167.69	4.48**

**Significant at 0.01 level

In allied activities the relationship was found to be highly significant and negative as it was observed that with increase in age time spent in allied activities seems to be lower upto 45 years, which could be due to more involvement of younger age group in home activities, child care etc. While a non-significant relationship of age and time spent the three work domains was observed in case of older group. The reason could be because elderly women's involvement was observed to be dependent more on economic condition or health rather than on age. Computation of Z-test indicated that the variation in relationship between the two age groups and their average time spent in three work domains was highly significant (Table 8).

Table 9: Economic contribution of the respondents performing various activities in home, farm and allied sectors of work

Work domain	Younger		Elderly	
	Man-days	Amount (Rs)	Man-days	Amount (Rs)
Home	505.45	50545.00	312.34	31234.00
Farm	99.75	9975.00	70.14	7014.00
Allied	104.22	10422.00	120.40	12040.00
Total man-days	709.42	-	502.88	-
Amount year ⁻¹		70942.00		50288.00
Amount month ⁻¹		5911.83		4190.66

Table 9 on economic quantification of involvement of Bodo farm women in various activities revealed that the total number of man-days in which elderly age group was involved at home, farm and allied activities was found out to be 502.88 days. If paid at rate of Rs.100 per man-day then the total monthly earning would amount to Rs. 4190.66. On the other hand, a total number of 709.42 man-days were spent by younger age group at household, farm and allied activities and thus an economic quantification at the aforesaid rate would amount to a monthly earning of Rs. 5911.83. This contribution of the women to the household economy remains in disguise, insignificant and never taken into consideration.

Conclusion:

The findings revealed that Bodo women's contribution is the integral part of a household. Enormous contribution of both younger and elderly group women of Bodo community of the area could be quantified through their accomplishment of different activities in the three domains - home, farm and allied. They undertook labour intensive work and are engaged throughout the day with less economic return for which most of them live in subsistence level. The reason could be due to improper work methods and time plan formulation on the part of majority of respondents. From the study it was observed that the Bodo women performed their activities in a completely traditional way without taking any aid of modern machine or tools. On the other hand, with regard to working pattern and participation profile, it was revealed that, frequency performance score of some activities were higher in younger age group compared to elderly age group and vice versa. Derivation of difficulty score of the two groups was almost similar for same type of activities. Time spent pattern was different. Involvement of women of elderly age group was less compared to younger in home and farm activities but in allied activities involvement of the former group of rural women was more. So, interventions related to livestock rearing could be targeted to this section of population as they were more involved in it. On the other hand, interventions related to farm and home activities can be targeted for the younger section. Calculation of man-days helped to understand the incognito economic contribution of this section of population. The economic contribution of women in household works which otherwise was never realized should be made aware of to the concerned section of people.

Adequate intervention and proper exposures are required to be given to the women for adaptation of proper work methods, proper postures to ease and reduce impact of work on body and conserve energy so that economic activities can be taken up efficiently and help them to become more productive. Proper interventions through awareness campaign on simple work simplifying techniques, tools and labour and time saving devices, and supplying these in subsidized prices would help to reduce fatigue and enhance work efficiency. These should be popularized to improve their levels of knowledge and aptitude based on the potentials of the womenfolk under study.

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