A Study On Empowerment Of Women Farmers In Pattukkottai Taluk - Thanjavur District

Ms. K. Sudha, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, STET Women’s College, Sundarakkottai, Mannargudi – 614 001, Tamilnadu, India
Ms. R. Buvaneswari, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce-Centre for Research, Srimad Andavan Arts & Science, Trichy, India
Ms. P.V. Pothigaimalai, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, STET Women’s College, Sundarakkottai, Mannargudi, Tamilnadu, India

Abstract
India is primarily an agricultural country. The importance of agriculture in Indian economy is evident. Agriculture is the largest and the most important industry in India, nearly 75 percent of the people depend on agriculture either directly or indirectly for their living. Agriculture is a predominant sector, which provides employment in the rural areas. The female population constitutes nearly half of the total population of our country. Agriculture still constitutes the main sources of livelihood and work for most people in Asia, Africa and Latin America, what is less known is the fact that a very large proportion of this work is done by women, particularly in Asia and Africa. The population of India as per 2001 census is 104 crores of which 33 crores are female which roughly crores to 48 percent. The percentage contribution of women in agriculture is higher than men as most of the key operation at farm is done by them. According to the recent studies 50-59 percent of all agricultural activities is carried out by women and produce 44 percent of world food. Women play a significant and crucial role in Agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production. It is a fact long asked for granted but also long ignored, by land large they have remained as “invisible workers” studies on women in agriculture conducted in India and other developing and under developed countries all point to the fact that women contribute for more to agriculture production that has generally been acknowledged. Recognition of their crucial role in agriculture not obscure the fact that farm women continue to be concerned with their primary functions as wives, mothers and home makers. The patriarchal system of family life, which has been in vogue since time immemorial has regulated women to the background.

Keywords: Agri farmers & Farmers problems

Introduction
Female agricultural farmers who work the “double day” that is work plus house work are also faced with a wide range of problems which often hinder their work, Participation poverty, lack of access to education and adequate health facilities are their major problems lack of training and suitable implements with respect of farm and home loans, low wage rates, lack of recognition for their problems. Apart from customs and traditions, blind beliefs, which are adverse to the good health and progress of women and to their drudgery, for a vast majority of those women, the questions is not of right but of basic requirements. It is a well-known fact that female agricultural farmers are among the poorest of the poor and their families ridden with problems. Further female agricultural farmers whole head their families are likely to face more problems than the female agricultural farmers from male headed families.

Women play a significant and crucial role in Agricultural development and allied fields including in the main crop production, Livestock production, horticulture post-harvest operation agro social forestry and fisheries. It is a fact long asked for granted but also long ignored, by land large they have remained as “invisible workers” studies on women in agriculture conducted in India and other developing and under developed countries all point to the fact that women contribute for more to agriculture production that has generally been acknowledged. Recognition of their crucial role in agriculture not obscure the fact that farm women continue to be concerned with their primary functions as wives, mothers and home makers. The patriarchal system of family life, which has been in vogue since time immemorial has regulated women to the background.

importance of Agriculture
Agriculture plays a crucial role in the life of an economy. It is the backbone of our economic system. Agriculture not only provides food and raw material but also employment opportunities to a very large proportion of population. The following facts clearly highlight the importance of agriculture in this country.

a) Source of Livelihood: In India the main occupation of our working population is agriculture. About 70 per cent of our population is directly engaged in agriculture. In advanced countries, this ratio is very small being 5 per cent in U.K., 4 per cent in USA, 16 per cent in Australia, 14 per cent in France, 21
per cent in Japan and 32 per cent in USSR. This high proportion in agriculture is due to the fact that the non-agricultural activities have not been developed to absorb the rapidly growing population.

b) **Contribution to National Income:** Agriculture is the premier source of our national income. According to National Income Committee and C.S.O., in 1960-61, 52 per cent of national income was contributed by agriculture and allied occupations. In 1976-77, this sector alone contributed 42.2 per cent while in 1981-82, its contribution was to the tune of 41.8 per cent. In 2001-02, it contributed around 32.4 per cent of national income. This was further reduced to 28 per cent in 1999-2000. Contrary to this, the proportion of agriculture in U.K. is only 3.1, in USA it is 3 percent, 2.5 per cent in Canada, 6 per cent in Japan, 7.6 per cent in Australia. The mere conclusion of all this is that more developed a country the smaller is the contribution of agriculture in national output.

c) **Supply of Food and Fodder:** Agriculture sector also provides fodder for livestock (35.33 crores). Cow and buffalo provide protective food in the form of milk and they also provide draught power for farm operations. Moreover, it also meets the food requirements of the people. Import of food grains has been very small in recent years, rather export avenues are being looked for.

d) **Importance in International Trade:** It is the agricultural sector that feeds country's trade. Agricultural products like tea, sugar, rice, tobacco, spices etc. constitute the main items of exports of India. If the development process of agriculture is smooth, export increases and imports are reduced considerably. Thus, it helps to reduce the adverse balance of payment and save our foreign exchange. This amount can be well utilized to import other necessary inputs, raw-material, machinery and other infrastructure which is otherwise useful for the promotion of economic development of the country.

e) **Marketable Surplus:** The development of agricultural sector leads to marketable surplus. As country develops more and more people are to be engaged in mining, manufacturing and other non-agricultural sector. All these people depend upon the food production which they can meet from the marketable surplus. As agricultural development takes place, output increases and marketable surplus expands. This can be sold to other countries. Here, it is worth mentioning that the development of Japan and other countries were made possible by the surplus of agriculture. There is no reason why this could not be done in our own case.

f) **Source of Raw Material:** Agriculture has been the source of raw materials to the leading industries like cotton and jute textiles, sugar, tobacco, edible and non-edible oils etc. All these depend directly on agriculture. Apart from this, many others like processing of fruits and vegetables, dal milling, rice husking, gur making also depend on agriculture for their raw material. According to United Nations Survey, the industries with raw material of agricultural origin accounted for 50 per cent of the value added and 64 per cent of all jobs in the industrial sector.

g) **Importance in Transport:** Agriculture is the main support for railways and roadways which transport bulk of agricultural produce from farm to the mantis and factories. Internal trade is mostly in agricultural products. Besides, the finance of the government, also, to the large extent, depends upon the prosperity of agricultural sector.

h) **Contribution to Foreign Exchange Resources:** Agricultural sector constitutes an important place in the country's export trade. According to an estimate, agricultural commodities like jute, tobacco, oilseeds, spices, raw cotton, tea and coffee accounted for about 18 per cent of the total value of exports in India. This shows that agriculture products still continue to be significant source of earning foreign exchange.

i) **Vast Employment Opportunities:** The agricultural sector is significant as it provides greater employment opportunities in the construction of irrigation projects, drainage system and other such activities. With the fast growing population and high incidence of unemployment and disguised unemployment in backward countries, it is only agriculture sector which provides more employment chances to the labour force. In this way, significance of agriculture emerges more and more.

j) **Overall Economic Development:** In the course of economic development, agriculture employs majority of people. This means raising the level of the national income and standard of living of the common man. The rapid rate of growth in agriculture sector gives progressive outlook and further motivation for development. As a result, it helps to create proper atmosphere for general economic development of the economy. Thus, economic development depends on the rate at which agriculture grows.

k) **Source of Saving:** Improvement in agriculture can go a long way in increasing savings. It is seen that rich farmers have started saving especially after green revolution in the country. This surplus amount
can be invested in agriculture sector for further development of the sector. Saving potentials are large in agriculture sector which can be properly tapped for the development of the country.

l) **Source of Government Income:** In India, many state governments get sizeable revenue from the agriculture sector. Land revenue, agricultural income tax, irrigation tax and some other types of taxes are being levied on agriculture by the state governments. Moreover, considerably revenue is earned by way of excise duty and export duty on agricultural products. Raj committee on Agricultural Taxation has suggested imposition of taxation on agricultural income for raising revenue.

m) **Basis of Economic Development:** Prof. Nurkse has laid sufficient emphasis on the improvement of agriculture for a balanced growth of an economy. The development of agriculture provides necessary capital for the development of other sectors like industry, transport and foreign trade. In fact, a balanced development of agriculture and industry is the need of the day. From the above, explanation it may be concluded that agriculture occupies an important place in the development of an economy. It is in fact, a pre-condition for economic upliftment.

**Significance of the Study**

Indian society is a developing society. It is passing through a transitional stage. The attitude to women is not as rigidly unfavorable as it was in the past. Social constraints and attitudes that inhibit the development of women entrepreneurs, the atmosphere in which they have to work and the attitude of the society they have to have, all together were keeping them away from the active of entrepreneurship. Modern technology has its significant impact on our economic development, because it suggests solution to all our problems of food shortage the standard of living of the rural economy is increasing and bargaining capacity of the farmers. Technological changes in agricultural leads to employment opportunity of the labourers in the long run, hence the study is very significant.

**Scope of the Study**

Agriculture is such vast area consisting of aspects, studying all of them would pose a lot of problems. So the researcher has decided to limit this study. First he has restricted his study to Sitheri village of Thiruvarur district, alone which will eliminate much of the inaccessible source of information, to study the problem of paddy growers and expectation from government and private concern. After the researcher has restricted his scope as above he has a clearly identifiable source of information and variables, which provide him direction and a useful purpose to proceed further.

**Statement of the Problem**

India is an agricultural country where 70% of our population is engaged in agriculture besides around 60% of the agricultural labour forces are women. Majority of the farm operations are carried out by women, with all their contribution to agriculture their conditions remains pathetic. Both socially economically the agricultural farmers are in a poor conditions. Due to several reasons their social and economic conditions is in an adverse state. The researcher study the several problems faced by the agriculturist.

**Objectives of the Study**

a) To know the socio- demographic of the farmers
b) To study the income and expenditure pattern of the farmers
c) The analyse the cultivating pattern of the farmers in sitheri village
d) To analyse the marketing problems faced by the farmers
e) To suggest solutions to the farmers problems.

**Hypothesis**

a) There is no significant association between the experience of the respondent and sources of borrowing.
b) There is no significant association between the cropping pattern of respondents and income from land.

**Methodology**

Research Methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It refers not only to the research methods but also the logic behind the methods used in the research study, why only particular methods are used, why certain methods and techniques are not particular methods are used, why certain methods and techniques are not used and so on. Why a research study has been undertaken, how the research problem has been defined, what data has been collected what method has been adopted and host similar questions are usually answered when it comes to research methodology. Data have been collected both through primary and secondary source. The primary data was collected by administering of interview schedule to the sample respondents to elicit the information required.

A total of 75 sample farmers of selected for purpose of the study out of 500 farmers in the Mannargudi Taluk convenient sampling methods has been adopted. The sample is taken from various study sources like text-
book, research monographs, journals, pamphlets and
women entrepreneur’s reports.

**Statistical Analysis:** The statistical technique CHI-SQUARE TEST was applied to draw meaningful inference the questionnaire was under stable.

**Tools of Analysis:** The collected data has been subjected to analyses by unit’s appropriate tools, 1.Percentage analysis and 2. Chi-Square analysis

**Percentage analysis:** The general purpose of percentage to serve relating measures that is indicating more clearly the relative size of two or more numbers.

**Chi-Square analysis:** Describes the magnetic of discrepancy between theory and observation.

\[
\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}
\]

O –Observed frequency, E – Expected frequency

**Limitations**
1. The data used in this analysis are collected directly from the agricultural farmers.
2. The study is confined to a period of only for want of time.
3. The study area has been limited to be validity of findings based on the honesty and sincerity of the respondents.
4. The selection of 75 families as sample, so the result will not be applicable to the entire village.
5. Some sensitive questions such as value of their land, assets has not been answered properly by the respondents.

**Table – 1: Association Between The Experiences Of The Respondent Attitude Towards Sources Of Borrowing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Local traders</th>
<th>Moneylenders</th>
<th>SHGS’S</th>
<th>Relatives</th>
<th>Statistical inference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Degree of freedom=12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CV=8.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TV=21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CV&lt;TV ACCEP TED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Degrees of freedom** = (r-1) (c-1) 
= (4-1) (5-1) 
= 3x4

**Inference**
From the table shows that there is no significant Association between the experience of the respondent and sources of borrowing, Hence, the Hypothesis is accepted.

**Table – 2: Association Between The Cropping Patterns Of The Respondent Attitude Towards Income From Land**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Local traders</th>
<th>Moneylenders</th>
<th>SHGS’S</th>
<th>Relatives</th>
<th>Statistical inference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Degree of freedom=12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CV=8.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TV=21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CV&lt;TV ACCEP TED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Degrees of freedom** = (r-1) (c-1) 
= (4-1) (5-1) 
= 3x4

**Inference**
From the table shows that there is no significant Association between the experience of the respondent and sources of borrowing, Hence, the Hypothesis is accepted.

**Null Hypothesis (Ho)**
There is no significant Association between the cropping pattern of the respondent and income from land.

**Alternative Hypothesis (Ha)**
There is no significant Association between the cropping pattern of the respondent and income from land.
Degrees of freedom = (r-1) (c-1) 
= (5-1) (3-1) 
= 4 x 2

Degrees of freedom = 8

**Inference**
From the table shows that there is no significant Association between the cropping pattern of the respondent and income from land. Hence, the Hypothesis is accepted.

**Findings, Suggestions and Conclusion**
After analysis and interpretation of data, the investigator can arrive at the following facts:

a) Majority (47%) of the respondents belong to the age group of 21-30 years.

b) Majority (58%) of the respondents are unmarried.

c) Majority (38%) of the respondents are experienced for 5-10 years.

d) Majority (48%) of the respondents have studied degree level.

e) Most of (52%) of the respondents’ lands are irrigated by open well system

f) Majority 52% of the respondents belong to joint family

g) 45% of the respondents are cultivated the crop of paddy.

h) 60% of the respondents spent the monthly expenditure of Rs. 10000

i) Majority 37% of the respondents borrowed from local traders

j) 39% of the respondents earn income half yearly.

k) Most of (32%) the respondents are expected to increase the loan subsidies.

l) Most of (25%) of the respondents viewed the problem in absence of marketing facilities for their product.

m) Most of 40% of the respondents collect the raw materials from Government.

n) Most of (38%) of the respondents avail loan from Government organisation.

o) Majority (60%) of the respondents are procure loan from commercial banks.

p) Majority (37%) of the respondents are not offered loan from commercial bank.

q) Majority (65%) of the respondents received subsidies from government.

r) Majority (47%) of the respondents are expect motivation from government for implement of new technology for agricultural operation.

s) Majority 60% of the respondents the hire land from outside the village.

t) Most of (52%) of the respondents under taking seasonal cultivation

u) Most of (53%) of the respondents viewed that shortage of labour is the main problem at the time of cultivation.

v) Most of (31%) of the respondents are used madras fertilizers brand

w) Most of (33%) the respondents used ATT45 brand of paddy for cultivation.

x) Most of (35%) of the respondents get the information from private dealers.
y) 65% of the respondents are aware of the bio-fertilizers

z) 47% of the respondents purchase the bio-fertilizers from Government agriculture department

aa) 37% of the respondents prefer outlet of the fertilizers for good quality

bb) Majority (57%) of the respondents viewed swarming caterpillar pest are mostly attack the crops.

c) Majority (52%) of the respondents answered that every year 2 times the crops are cultivated.

dd) Majority (64%) of the respondents viewed that they get adequate electricity supply for agricultural process.

Findings related to Hypothesis

(i) There is no significant between experience of the respondents and sources of borrowings.

(ii) There is no significant between the cropping pattern of respondents and income from land.

Suggestion

a) Agricultural women farmers are to some extent ignorant of adopting latest technology.

b) Financial organizational should come forward to advance loans to the women farmers without any delay.

c) Education of women should be encouraged

d) Illiterate agricultural women farmers should be given adult education

e) The wage difference between men and women should be corrected otherwise this led to a number of problems in the society

f) Loan facilities should be provided by the co-operative bank for farmers.

g) Full time electricity supply for agriculture process

h) To provide agriculture awareness programme given by the government for educated peoples.

i) Soil research should be conducted.

j) Farmers should avoid machinery for Agriculture use.

k) A Government provides more water sources to the farmers.

Conclusion

Heavy work for men compared to women, men has driven the tractor and other agriculture machine some of the health problem arises from fertilizer. The rural women labourer is reducing the burden of over dependence of population on agriculture and allied activities in rural areas, and providing solution to the problems of poverty, unemployment and disguised unemployment among the agricultural labours and the phenomenon as a result of high slandered of living in rural areas. In spite of the day to day problems like water scarcity, accommodation problem and social conflict, majority of the respondents intent to stay in their place of work than in their native place.

Bibliography

BOOKS


[17] www.agristat.com