

TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS OF RURAL WOMEN IN SELECTED DRUDGERY REDUCING TECHNOLOGIES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh. The purpose of the study was to find out the technological needs of rural women in animal husbandry activity. The sample of the study consisted of 240 randomly selected rural women from two panchayat samities. Personal interview technique was used for collecting data. Findings of the study reveal that the rural women lacked knowledge about the technologies related to animal husbandry.

INTRODUCTION

In India rural women besides their involvement in agriculture have been traditionally and predominately engaged in animal husbandry and dairy activities. This is highlighted by the fact that there are 75 million women in dairy as against 15 million men. Similarly the women engaged in animal husbandry accounts for 25 million as against only 1.5 million men. (Census of India 2001). The contribution of women in the field of animal husbandry has been substantial. In many places the entire management of livestock viz., chopping of fodder, feeding, milking, preparation of milk products, cleaning of cattle shed, collection of cow dung for manure pits and their storage is done by women alone. Most of the tasks performed by women are tedious as well as time consuming. As most of these operation are done manually (using hand, foot or head) or by using traditional tools, they are slow and cause considerable fatigue and drudgery. Also many of these operations are traditionally done in varying body posture some of which if done for long duration are not only inconvenient but also cause body pain. All these factors result in physical and mental fatigue, monetary hardship, exploitation, pain, economic stress etc. In India women still follow the age old method whether it be a farm or animal husbandry. A desired change in the life of rural

women, which is full of drudgery can be brought by the use of application of simple, scientific and appropriate technologies.

There are growing number of available technology which can enhance women's productivity and income in animal husbandry sector, but these technologies have not reached the women as lack of knowledge is one of the main barriers in transfer of appropriate technology to the farm women. Therefore it is necessary that women become technologically empowered in animal husbandry. It is possible to achieve this by up gradation of their knowledge and skills in technologies. Thus, the present paper attempts to explore the technological needs of farm women in selected drudgery reducing technologies related to animal husbandry.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two purposively selected panchayat samities of Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh State, namely Paraspur and Jhanjhari. Four village from each panchayat samiti and from each village, 30 rural women engaged in animal husbandry were randomly selected constituting the total sample of 240 women for the present study. Data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule.

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Table 1. Distribution of respondents on the basis of their personal variables **n=100**

S. No.	Categories	%
1.	Age	
	18	20.83
	31	62.50
2.	46	16.60
	Marital Status	
	Married	99.58
3.	Widow	0.42
	Caste	
	SC/ST	16.67
4.	Backward caste	6.25
	Upper caste	77.08
	Education	
5.	Illiterate	24.58
	Read and Write	8.75
	Primary	40
6.	Middle	26.67
	Occupation	
	Farming	100
7.	Land holding	
	Landless	0
	Upto 4.5 bighas(marginal)	0
	5-9.5bighas	16.67
	10-13 bighas(small)	20.83
8.	Above 13 bighas	62.55
	Housing	
	Mixed house	100
9.	Livestock Ownership	
	Small herd size (1)	37.5
	Medium herd size (4)	62.50
	Large herd size (Above)	0
	Organizational Membership	0

Table 2. Percentage distribution of the respondent by their awareness regarding selected drudgery reduction technologies related to animal husbandry **n=240**

S. No.	Items	Rake	Shovel	Wheel Barrow	Chaff cutter	Manger
1.	Heard	12.5	6.25	1.67	25	97.92
2.	Seen	12.5	6.25	1.67	25	97.92
3.	Name of technologies	6.25	4.7	0.83	18.75	97.92
4.	Cost	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Types of power required (Manual)	12.5	6.25	1.67	25	97.92

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

I. Background information- Data in Table 1 reveal that more than half of the respondents (62.50%) belonged to the age group of 31-45 years, whereas only 20.83 and 16.6 per cent belonged to the age group of 18-30 and 46-60 years respectively. Majority of the respondents (99.58%) were married

and belonged to upper caste (77.08%). Education is one of the most important determinants of a person's social status. Table 1 indicates that 40 percent of the respondents were educate up to primary level, whereas around one fourth of the respondents had middle level education (26.6%) and illiterate (24.58%). Table 1 portrays that all the respondents

Table 3. Percentage distribution of the respondent by their knowledge regarding purpose of using animal husbandry technologies n=240

S. N.	Purpose of technologies	%
1	Rake	
	Collect Fodder	12.5
	Collect Dung	10.42
2.	Shovel	
	Cleaning the cattle shed	8.33
	Collect Fodder	6.25
3.	Wheel barrow	
	Collect Dung	6.25
	Maintain Hygiene	0
4.	Chaff Cutter	
	Carry Fodder	1.67
	Carry Dung	0
5.	Manger	
	Carry waste	0
	Managing feed	97.92
	Cleanliness	97.92

Table 4. Percentage distribution of the respondent by their knowledge regarding parts of selected animal husbandry technologies n=240

S.N.	Parts of technologies	%
1.	Rake	
	Handle	12.5
	Combed shape blade	12.5
2.	Shovel	
	Handle	6.25
	Blade	6.25
3.	Wheel barrow	
	Wheels	0
	Trays	1.67
4.	Chaff cutter	
	Handle	0
	Wheel	25
	Large Blade	25
	Handle	16.6

(100%) were farmer, resided in mixed house and had no organizational membership. More than half of the respondents(62.5%) had land above 13 bighas and medium herd size.

II. Technological needs of farm women in selected drudgery reducing technologies related to animal husbandry activity

Data in Table 2 reveal that most of the respondents (97.92 %) were well aware of the manger, while one fourth of the respondents (25 %) had

heard and seen the chaff cutter and knew its name. The findings of the study are in conformity with Panwar (2004) that chaff cutter was known to very few of the respondents (5.83 %) of the study area. However few respondents (0.83 to 12.5 %) were aware about other animal husbandry technologies like, rake, shovel, wheel barrow. None of them knew the cost of the technologies.

Rake is a technology, which is mainly used for collecting fodder. It is clear from Table 3 that 12

Table 5. Percentage distribution of the respondent by their knowledge regarding advantages and care of animal husbandry technologies n=240

S. No.	Items	Rake	Shovel	Wheel Barrow	Chaff cutter	Manger
1.	Advantages					
A.	Save time/ faster work	12.5	6.25	1.67	25	0
B.	Save labour	12.5	4.7	1.67	25	0
C.	Easy to handle/operates	4.17	6.25	0	8.33	0
D.	Easily available in market	0	0.83	0	0	0
E.	Reduce health hazards	6.25	0	0	25	0
F.	Avoid wastage of fodder	-	-	-	-	97.92
G.	Facilitate cleaning of cattle shed	-	-	-	-	50
H.	Reduces fatigue	-	-	-	-	97.92
2.	Care					
A.	Holding the handle carefully	12.5	0	0	25	-
B.	Taking care of small parts	0	0	0	8.33	-
C.	Keep away from moisture	0	0	0	0	-
D.	Keep oiled and/or greased	0	6	0	6.25	-
E.	Wash after use	0	6.25	6.25	0	-
F.	Manger should be kept clean	-	-	-	0	95.83
G.	Manger should be kept dry	-	-	-	-	75

percent of the respondents knew its purpose for collecting fodder whereas other purpose like collecting dung and cleaning of the cattle shed was reported by 8 to 10 percent respondents. Knowledge regarding purpose of shovel shows that collecting fodder and dung as the main purpose was known to 6 percent of the respondents. In case of wheel barrow, carrying fodder as the main purpose was reported by 1.67 percent of the respondents. Table further reveals that purpose of using chaff cutter was known to 25 percent of the respondents. Majority of the respondents (97.92%) knew the purpose of manger i.e. managing feed and cleanliness of cattle shed.

Data in Table 4 regarding parts of technologies shows that the very few respondent (6.25 to 12.5%) knew the main part of rake and shovel i.e. handle and blade. However in case of wheel barrow only one part i.e. tray was known very few respondents (1.67 %). Regarding parts of chaff cutter table reveals that one fourth of the respondents (25 %) knew that wheel and large blade are part of technology, whereas only few of the respondents (16%) knew handle as a part of chaff cutter.

Data in table regarding advantages of the technologies shows that majority of the respondents (97.92 %) knew that manger helps in

avoiding wastage of fodder and reduce fatigue whereas 50 percent of the respondents mentioned that cleaning of cattle shed is facilitated by use of manger. In case of other technologies like rake, shovel, wheel barrow and chaff cutter, the main advantages i.e. it helps to save time, labour and easy to handle were reported by 8.33 to 12.5 percent respondents.

Regarding care of technologies, majority of the respondents (75-96 %) were aware about care of manger while, care of other technologies was not known to most of the respondents. Proper holding of handle of rake and chaff cutter was reported by 12-25 percent respondents. The similar finding was reported in NATP report on "Empowerment of women in agriculture" (2003) that knowledge about new equipment and technologies was almost nil among farm women. Chaff cutter was popular among farm women of Delhi, Ludhiana and Hisar.

CONCLUSION

It can be said that the rural women lacked knowledge about different drudgery reducing technologies related to animal husbandry. Thus there is a need to make them aware about these technologies and enhance the capabilities of farm women to use them for reducing strain and time .

This can be done by organizing training programme through government and non-government organization.

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