



## Research Article

### SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF TRIBAL FARM WOMEN AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR CONTRIBUTION IN AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

<sup>1,\*</sup>Dr. Mahesh R. Patel, <sup>2</sup>Dr. Arun Patel, <sup>3</sup>Shri Jaydip D. Desai and <sup>4</sup>Shri Vijay B. Patel

<sup>1</sup>Assoc. Ext. Educationist, EEI, AAU, Anand, Gujarat, India

<sup>2</sup>Director, EEI, AAU, Anand, Gujarat, India

<sup>3</sup>Senior Research Assistant, DoEE, AAU, Anand, Gujarat, India

<sup>4</sup>Assist. Research Scientist (Ext.), RRS, AAU, Anand, Gujarat, India

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#### ABSTRACT

Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. The tribal farmwoman shares with her husband the arduous burden of farm work in addition to her major responsibility as home maker, by helping in all other agricultural and animal husbandry activities. Keeping this fact in mind, the present study was carried out to find out Social participation of tribal farm women and its relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry. The result of the study revealed that Majority (85.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen have not taken part in any social organisation while 14.50 per cent respondents had membership in one organisation. It is also observed that there was highly significant relationship between social participation and overall contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations whereas there was highly significant relationship between social participation of tribal farmwomen and their overall extent of contribution in animal husbandry activities.

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## INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the largest industry in India contributing to the source of livelihood for over 70 per cent of population. Agricultural production plays a significant role in the Indian economy. In India, women and agriculture seem synonymous terms. One can not think of agriculture without women. There is hardly any activity in agriculture except ploughing, where women are not involved. In some of the activities, she is relatively more efficient than man. Dahod is one of the Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas of Gujarat State, where various administrative measures have been adopted through large number of tribal development and welfare programmes under Tribal Area Sub Plan (TASP). Since, independence huge fund have been diverted by the Central and State Government through different agencies with a view to uplift their living standard and bringing them into the main stream of nation. Even after lapses of more than 50 years of independence the progress of tribal farmwoman is not yet up to the level of expectation in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry as she is continued to be in a state of neglect.

A victim of man made system, she is hardly considered equal to man in wage and social status. Keeping in view the above said facts and information about the tribal farmwoman's situation and her multiple roles in agriculture and animal husbandry a study on "Social participation of tribal farm women and its relationship with their contribution in agriculture and animal husbandry" was undertaken.

## METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Integrated Tribal Development Project areas of Dahod district of Gujarat. Out of seven talukas of the district, five talukas namely (1) Dahod (2) Zalod (3) Limkheda (4) Garbada and (5) Dhanpur were selected purposively for this study. Out of total villages of each selected taluka, two villages were randomly selected comprising total ten villages from five selected talukas of ITDP Dahod. From each village, 20 respondents were selected randomly, thus, total sample of 200 respondents were selected for the present study.

### Method of Data Collection

The interview schedule was prepared keeping in view the objectives of the study. The interview schedule was translated in to Gujarati language and pre-tested

\*Corresponding author: Dr. Mahesh R. Patel,  
Assoc. Ext. Educationist, EEI, AAU, Anand, Gujarat, India.

In the field on a separate 20 non-sampled respondents. On the basis of pre-testing, necessary modifications were made in the final draft and used as the instrument for data collection.

### Social participation

Social participation refers to the degree of involvement of tribal farmwomen in formal organization either as a member or office bearer. The social participation of tribal farmwomen was quantified on the basis of SES scale developed by Trivedi (1963).

Sr. No.	Category	Score
1	No membership	0
2	Membership in one organisation	1
3	Membership in more than one organisation	2
4	Holding position in organisation	3

### Coefficient of correlation (r)

Coefficient of correlation was computed to find out the relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable by employing following formula.

$$r = \frac{\sum XY - \frac{\sum X \sum Y}{n}}{\sqrt{\left[ \sum X^2 - \frac{(\sum X)^2}{n} \right] \left[ \sum Y^2 - \frac{(\sum Y)^2}{n} \right]}}$$

Where,

- r = Coefficient of correlation
- X = independent variable
- Y = dependent variable
- n = number of observations

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Social participation

Social participation denotes the extent to which an individual is actively involved in the affairs of the community. It also plays an important role in influencing adoption behaviour of farmers/farmwomen. Those who have wider social contract are probably more knowledgeable, resourceful and hence they may help in diffusion of innovations and may adopt new practices, new ideas, new methods earlier than others. Having this in view, social participation of the tribal farmwomen was studied and data of which are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their social participation**

n = 200			
Sr. No.	Social participation	Number	Per cent
1	No membership	170	85.00
2	Member in one organisation	29	14.50
3	Member in more than one organisation	01	0.50
4	Holding position in organisation	00	0.00
Total		200	100.00

It is seen clear from the above Table 1 that majority (85.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen have not taken part in any social organisation. While 14.50 per cent respondents had membership in one organisation. Only one respondent had membership in more than one organisation. It can be concluded that majority (85.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen had no membership in any organisation.

The probable reason for above finding might be that tribal farmwomen are illiterate and hence they may not understand the importance of village organisations such as village Panchayat, school, co-operative society, community and service oriented organisations and that is why they might have not taken part in such organisation. The finding is in conformity with that of Shah (1997), Patel (1998) and partially confirms the finding of Toppo (2005).

### Relationship between social participation and overall contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations.

The 'r' value (0.33546) was found significant at 0.01 level. It indicates that there was highly significant relationship between social participation and overall contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations. It can be concluded that as the social participation of the tribal farmwomen increases, the extent of their contribution in agricultural operations significantly increases. The tribal farmwomen having more social participation in formal organisation like, co-operative society for tribal farmwomen, irrigation group, etc. have greater scope of interaction with extension workers and village level workers which motivate them for more contribution in agricultural operations. This may be the reason for above finding. This finding is in the line with the finding of Chauhan (1994).

### Relationship between social participation and overall extent of contribution of tribal farmwomen in animal husbandry activities.

The 'r' value (0.22662) was found to be significant at 0.01 level. It indicates that there was highly significant relationship between social participation of tribal farmwomen and their overall extent of contribution in animal husbandry activities. It can be concluded that the social participation of the tribal farmwomen increases significantly with increase in their overall extent of contribution in animal husbandry activities. Tribal farmwomen who was member in formal organisation like milk co-operative have more scope of interaction with veterinary officials which may turn into their more contribution in animal husbandry activities. This might be the reason for above said finding. The similar result is also observed by Toppo (2005).

### Conclusion

It is concluded from the study that Majority (85.00 per cent) of the tribal farmwomen have not taken part in any social organisation while 14.50 per cent respondents had membership in one organisation. It is also observed that there was highly significant relationship between social participation and overall contribution of tribal farmwomen in agricultural operations whereas there was highly significant relationship between social participation of tribal farmwomen and their overall extent of contribution in animal husbandry activities.

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