



Research Article

GENDER WISE ANALYSIS OF ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER ASSETS IN THE RURAL HOUSEHOLDS OF ANDHRA PRADESH (DRY AREAS)

*Venkata Sushma and Vijaya Lakshmi, V.

College of Home Science, PJTSAU, Saifabad, Hyderabad- 500 004

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ABSTRACT

In recent times, the rural households have come to occupy an important position in development studies. Because it was seen as the social mechanism through which, to at least some degree, all individuals' welfare and labour allocation decisions are determined based on asset availability. An asset refers to resources with economic value that an individual, owns or controls with the expectation that it will provide future benefit. Assets like land and dwelling, farm assets, farm structures, livestock, farm animals, domestic assets, jewellery and vehicles were available to the rural households. Access to assets like land and livestock can be crucial for livelihoods in rural areas. The availability of assets and their proper management is based on the social, economic and environmental conditions. However, in many cases women's access to assets like land, livestock, farm structures, jewellery and awareness of the outside world, as well as cash money for their needs is restricted. Proper management of assets is based on the accessibility and control over them. An exploratory research design was adopted to study the information related availability, accessibility and control over assets. A total of eighty households were purposively selected from each village i.e. 40 households from Jc Agraharam and 40 households from Pamidipadu. Statistical procedures like frequency, percentage were employed to analyze and interpret the data. Results revealed that majority the availability of assets to the rural households was agricultural land and domestic assets, vehicles and Jewellery. Accessibility to assets was there for both males and females but control was more for male members than female members.

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INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy and major portion of the population depend on it. However households that manage to secure a livelihood from their own land were less likely to be poor than those depend on agricultural wage labour. In most developing countries, stereotypes of male difference and privilege over women are dominant (Mosha, 1992). The difference is mostly reflected in the areas of work intensity, and access and control over assets. Men control most assets and decision making in the family. Different assets like houses, farm machinery, tractor, wells, agricultural land and domestic assets are available in rural areas. Access to, control over, and ownership of assets are critical components of well-being. Deeper analysis is needed to understand individuals' engagement with assets beyond ownership to realize its distribution equity as per gender, the rights on its use and decision making.

Such as understanding in access with reference to human, environmental and financial assets as three pillars of sustainable livelihoods in rural communities of developing countries. If an increase was observed that in land ownership among women within the communities due to an increased purchase of land by women and an increased receipt of land by women as gifts from parents, grandparents and spouses. Land ownership among women, however, was still an exception. In various studies, women's asset ownership were associated with an increased spending on food, housing, and durable goods, and children's schooling (Katz and Chamorro 2003; Quisumbing and Maluccio 2003; Doss 2006). Besides enhancing the well-being of women and their families, asset ownership was also found to empower women in their relationships and gave them a stronger to represent them strength voice in public forums.

METHODOLOGY

The present study provides the detailed information about the "gender wise analysis of access to and control over assets in rural households of Andhra Pradesh" (dry areas).

*Corresponding author: Venkata Sushma,
College of Home Science, PJTSAU, Saifabad, Hyderabad- 500 004.

An exploratory research design was adopted to study the information related availability, accessibility and control over assets. A total of eighty households (Pamidipadu – 40 households, J.C.Agraharam – 40 households) were selected from the two villages to study Gender wise analysis of access to and control over assets in the selected rural households. Eighty men and eighty women were selected from the two villages out of which forty men and forty women were selected from J.C.Agraharam village and forty men and forty women were selected from Pamidipadu village. The key informants for the study were the principal couple – head of the household and spouse within the household. The household inventory asked about the Availability of all assets. Respondents were asked to identify ownership status in the household. In addition, individual level questions were asked about access and control over assets.

availability of farm assets like farm machinery and tractor. More than one-third of the respondents owned their pump and storage shed (35 %) followed by cattle shed (18.75%). About 76 per cent of the households owned their agricultural land followed by 10 per cent of barren land. In both the villages it was found that more than half of the respondents owned buffaloes (51.25%) and cow (2.5%). Availability of farm animals was very less when compared to the milch animals i.e. poultry (26.25%) followed by goat (3.75%). Majority of the respondents have domestic assets like cell phone (92.50%), furniture (91.25%), electrical fan (77.5%), television (77.5%) and others like emergency light, inverter, and air conditioner etc (35%). Nearly two-third of the respondents (68.75%) had an availability of silver items and 75 per cent owned gold ornaments. While 33.75 per cent of respondents owned a cycle as their asset followed by two wheeler (20%).

Table 1. Distribution of sample according to the assets accessibility

S.No	Assets	Jc Agraharam (n=80)		Pamidipadu (n=80)		Total(N=160)	
		Men (n=40)	Women (n=40)	Men (n=40)	Women (n=40)	Men (n=80)	Women (n=80)
A	Land and Dwelling						
1	Plots	20 (50.00)	20 (50.00)	20 (50.00)	20 (50.00)	40 (50.00)	40 (50.00)
2	Houses	39 (97.50)	39 (97.50)	40 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	79 (98.75)	79 (98.75)
B	Farm assets						
1	Farm Machinery	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	0 (-)	1 (1.25)	1 (1.25)
2	Tractor	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	2 (2.50)	2 (2.50)
I	Farm structures						
1	Wells	2 (5.00)	2 (5.00)	0 (-)	0 (-)	2 (2.50)	2 (2.50)
2	Cattle shed	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	8 (10.00)	8 (10.00)
3	Pump and storage shed	25 (62.50)	25 (62.50)	3 (7.50)	3 (7.50)	28 (35.00)	28 (35.00)
4	Agricultural land	34 (85.00)	34 (85.00)	27 (67.50)	27 (67.50)	61 (76.25)	61 (76.25)
5	Barren land	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	8 (10.00)	8 (10.00)
C	Livestock						
i	Milch animals						
1	Cow	2 (5.00)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	2 (2.50)	0 (-)
2	Buffalo	28 (70.00)	28 (70.00)	12 (30.00)	12 (30.00)	40 (50.00)	40 (50.00)
ii	Farm animals						
1	Ox	2 (5.00)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	3 (3.75)	3 (3.75)
2	Goat	2 (5.00)	2 (5.00)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	3 (3.75)	3 (3.75)
3	Poultry	16 (40.00)	16 (40.00)	5 (12.50)	4 (10.00)	21 (26.25)	20 (25.00)
4	Pigs	0 (-)	0 (-)	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	1 (1.25)	0(-)
D	Domestic assets						
1	Television	23 (57.50)	7 (17.50)	39 (97.50)	39 (97.50)	62 (77.50)	46 (57.50)
2	Furniture	34 (85.00)	3 (7.50)	39 (97.50)	39 (97.50)	73 (91.25)	42 (52.50)
3	Refrigerator	3 (7.50)	0 (-)	15 (37.50)	15 (37.50)	18 (22.50)	15 (18.75)
4	Cell phone	35 (87.50)	0 (-)	39 (97.50)	40 (100.00)	42 (52.50)	40 (50.00)
5	Sewing machine	5 (12.50)	7 (17.50)	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	9 (11.25)	11 (13.75)
6	Stove	17 (42.50)	3 (7.50)	40 (100.00)	40 (100.00)	57 (71.25)	43 (53.75)
7	Electric fan	31 (2.50)	0 (-)	40 (100.00)	4 (100.00)	71 (88.75)	4 (5.00)
8	Radio	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	1 (2.50)	1 (2.50)	2 (2.50)	1 (1.25)
9	Others	3 (7.50)	7 (17.50)	21 (52.50)	21 (52.50)	24 (30.00)	28(35.00)
E	Jewellery						
1	Gold ornaments	25 (62.50)	25 (62.50)	36 (90.00)	36 (90.00)	61(76.25)	61 (76.25)
2	Silver items	22 (55.00)	22 (55.00)	32 (80.00)	32 (80.00)	54 (67.50)	54 (67.50)
F	Vehicles						
1	Cycle	7 (17.50)	7 (17.50)	20 (50.00)	20 (50.00)	27 (33.75)	27 (33.75)
2	Two wheeler	3 (7.50)	3 (7.50)	12 (30.00)	12 (30.00)	15 (18.75)	15(18.75)

(*Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the analysis of the data the results found that the whole it was observed that majority of the respondents had the availability of houses (98.75%) followed by plots (51.25%) as their assets. Only 2.5 per cent of the respondents had an

Regarding the accessibility to assets it was clearly indicated from the Table 1 that 98.75 per cent of the respondents i.e. both men and women had equal accessibility to houses whereas only 50 per cent of the respondents had accessibility to plots because the availability of plots to the respondents was less in both the villages.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to control over assets

S.No	Assets	JcAgraharam (n=80)		Pamidipadu (n=80)		Total (N=160)	
		Men (n=40)	Women (n=40)	Men (n=40)	Women (n=40)	Men (n=80)	Women (n=80)
A	Land and Dwelling						
1	Plots	12 (30.00)	1 (2.50)	19 (47.50)	9 (22.50)	31 (38.75)	10 (12.50)
2	Houses	23 (57.50)	3 (7.50)	37 (92.50)	16 (40.00)	60 (75.00)	19 (23.75)
B	Farm assets						
1	Farm Machinery	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)
2	Tractor	0 (-)	0 (-)	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	1 (1.25)	0 (-)
i	Farm structures						
1	Cattle shed	2 (5.00)	0 (-)	4 (10.00)	4 (10.00)	6 (7.50)	4 (5.00)
2	Pump and storage shed	15 (37.50)	2 (5.00)	3 (7.50)	3 (7.50)	18 (22.50)	5 (6.25)
3	Agricultural land	20 (50.00)	3 (7.50)	23 (57.50)	12 (30.00)	43 (57.50)	15 (18.75)
4	Barren land	4 (10.00)	0 (-)	2 (5.00)	0 (-)	4 (5.00)	0 (-)
C	Livestock						
i	Milch animals						
1	Cow	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)	0 (-)
2	Buffalo	20 (50.00)	20 (50.00)	11 (27.50)	2 (5.00)	31 (38.75)	22 (27.50)
ii	Farm animals						
1	Ox	2 (5.00)	0 (-)	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	3 (3.75)	0 (-)
2	Goat	2 (5.00)	0 (-)	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	3 (3.75)	0 (-)
3	Poultry	10 (25.00)	1 (2.50)	4 (10.00)	1 (2.50)	14 (17.50)	2 (2.50)
4	Pigs	0 (-)	0(-)	1 (2.50)	0 (-)	1 (1.25)	0 (-)
D	Domestic assets						
1	Television	17 (42.50)	3 (7.50)	36 (90.00)	10 (25.00)	53 (6.25)	13 (16.25)
2	Furniture	23 (57.50)	5 (12.50)	35 (87.50)	10 (25.00)	58 (72.50)	15 (18.75)
3	Refrigerator	2 (5)	0 (0)	15 (37.5)	4 (10)	17 (21.25)	4 (5.00)
4	Cell phone	27 (67.5)	4 (10)	35 (87.5)	9 (22.5)	62 (77.50)	13 (16.25)
5	Sewing machine	3 (7.5)	3 (7.5)	3 (7.5)	1 (2.5)	6 (7.50)	4 (5.00)
6	Stove	12 (30)	4 (10)	36 (90)	10 (25)	48 (60.00)	20 (25.00)
7	Electric fan	24 (60)	4 (10)	36 (90)	10 (25)	60 (75.00)	14 (17.50)
8	Radio	1 (2.5)	0 (0)	1 (2.5)	0 (0)	2 (2.50)	0 (-)
9	Others	2 (5)	0 (0)	20 (50)	7 (17.5)	22 (27.50)	7 (8.75)
E	Jewellery						
1	Gold ornaments	16 (40)	9 (22.5)	32 (80)	8 (20)	48 (60.00)	17 (21.25)
2	Silver items	13(32.5)	9 (22.5)	29 (72.5)	8 (20)	42 (52.50)	17 (21.25)
F	Vehicles						
1	Cycle	24 (60)	1 (2.5)	19 (47.5)	2 (5)	43 (53.75)	3(3.75)
2	Two wheeler	1 (2.5)	0 (0)	12 (30)	3 (7.5)	13 (16.25)	3 (3.75)

(*Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages)

Approximately 2.5 per cent of the respondents had an accessibility to farm assets like tractor followed by farm machinery (1.25%) for both men and women. The results obtained corresponds with the results of the study by Puri et al. (2006) which revealed that in majority of families male members had direct access over like houses, agricultural land and majority of women had direct control on jewellery. Regarding farm structural assets, more than one-third of the men and women respondents had accessibility to pump and storage shed (35%), cattle shed (10%), wells (2.5%) as their farm structures.

Equal proportion of (76.25%) the respondents had accessibility to agricultural land followed by 10 per cent of barren land from both the villages. The table revealed that 50 per cent of the respondents had accessibility to milch animals like buffalo. More than one fourth of the male respondents had accessibility to poultry (26.25%) while female respondents had accessibility to goat (25%) and ox (3.75%). Accessibility to the domestic assets like television, stove, cell phone, refrigerator, sewing machine fan etc. is more for men when compared to the women. Nearly 76.25 per cent of the male and female respondents had an equal accessibility to gold ornaments followed by silver items 67.5 per cent. About one-third of the respondents had accessibility to vehicles like cycle (33.75%)

followed by two-wheeler (18.75%) for both males and females. It could be vividly seen from the table 2 control over assets is more for male respondents when compared to the female respondents. Nearly 56.87 per cent of the respondents had control over lands and dwellings where as control was less among females (18.2%). A very negligible per cent of the respondents had control over farm assets like tractor, because the availability of farm assets was low. Nearly fifty five per cent of the male respondents had control over agricultural land followed by 18.75 per cent of the female respondents. Regarding barren land there is no control for females, only five per cent of male respondents had control, because the availability of barren land was very low. Both of the respondents have equal control over live stock except in poultry, where male respondents (17%) have control whereas only (2.5%) of females have controls over it. Nearly 78 per cent of male respondents had control over cell phone followed by female 16.25 per cent. More than fifty eight per cent of male respondents had control over furniture whereas only 18.75per cent of female respondents had control over it followed by television, stove and others like table fan, inverter, air conditioner and washing machine etc. Regarding jewellery sixty per cent of male respondents had control over gold ornaments followed by silver items (52.50 %), only 21.25 per cent of female respondents had control over gold and silver

items. Nearly 53.75 per cent of male respondents have control over vehicles like cycle followed by two wheeler (16.25%) whereas 3.75 per cent of females have control over both cycle and two wheeler.

Conclusion

An asset refers to resources with economic value that an individual, owns or controls with the expectation that it will provide future benefit. Assets like land and dwelling, farm assets, farm structures, livestock, farm animals, domestic assets, jewellery and vehicles were available to the rural households. Current study indicates that majority of the respondents had availability of houses, domestic and agricultural land as their assets from both the villages. More than one-third of the respondents owned their pump and storage shed. Availability of farm animals was very less when compared to the milch animals. Very less per cent of the respondents had farm assets like farm machinery and tractor. Nearly two-third of the respondents owned silver items and seventy five per cent owned gold ornaments. About one-third of the respondents vehicles like cycle and two wheeler. It was clearly indicated from the study that the equal accessibility to assets like houses was there for both men and women. Very less per cent of men and women respondents had an accessibility to farm assets like tractor followed by farm machinery. Accessibility to the domestic assets like television, stove, cell phone, refrigerator, sewing machine fan etc. is more for men when compared to the women. Accessibility to farm structure, live stock, jewellery and vehicles is there for both men and women.

It was observed that control over assets is more for male than of females. More than half of the respondents had control over lands and dwellings where as control was less among females. A very negligible per cent of the respondents had control over farm assets like tractor, because the availability of farm assets was low. Male respondents had control over agricultural land and vehicles. Regarding barren land there is no control for females, because the availability of barren land was very low. Both of the respondents have equal control over live stock except in poultry. Control over domestic assets is there for both men and women. Regarding jewellery male respondents had control over gold ornaments followed by silver items.

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