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## Relationship analysis of farm women with their extent of participation in agricultural activities

**Kavita Pichad, VG Patil, BN Bhangare and SM Gholape**

### Abstract

The present study was conducted in Mandangad Tehsil (Ratnagiri district) of Konkan region and Akole Tehsil (Ahmednagar district) from Western Maharashtra. The sample constituted 60 farm women from each region having maximum rice growing area. The respondents were personally interviewed with the help of a specially designed schedule. None of the selected personal and socio-economic characteristics of the farm women from Konkan had any impact on their participation in agricultural activities, while in case of western Maharashtra, education, extension contact, knowledge level and family type had a positive impact on their participation in agriculture.

**Keywords:** Farm women, participation, agricultural activities

### Introduction

Indian women, more specially the rural women play main roles in and outside the home. She shares abundant responsibilities and performs a wide spectrum of duties in running the household and the family at the same time attend various farm activities. They work daily about 14-16 hours. The nature and extent of participation in agricultural activities varies from region to region or even within the region. So, in order to find out relationship between personal and socio-economic characteristics of the farm Women from Konkan and Western Maharashtra and their extent of participation in agricultural activities, the study was undertaken with this specific objective.

### Materials and Methods

The rice growing villages from the selected Tehsil were enlisted and finally, six villages each from Mandangad and Akole Tehsil were selected having maximum area under rice cultivation. From each village, 10 farm women were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 120 farm women were selected, of which 60 were from Konkan and 60 were from Western Maharashtra. Extent of participation in agricultural activities of the farm women from Konkan and Western Maharashtra was the dependent variable for the present study.

### Correlation coefficient

The relationship of the independent variables (personal and socio-economic characteristics) with the dependent variable (extent of participation in agriculture), correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) were worked out.

### Results and Discussion

The selected characteristics and their relationships with their extent of participation in agricultural activities are shown in Table 1.

### Overall level

It is noticed from Table-1 that at overall level, age ( $X_1$ ), farming experience ( $X_7$ ) and extension contact ( $X_8$ ) had negative and non-significant relationship, while education ( $X_2$ ), family type ( $X_4$ ), land holding ( $X_5$ ), annual income ( $X_6$ ) and knowledge level ( $X_9$ ) had positive and non-significant relationship with the extent of participation in agriculture. This indicated that the participation of farm women in different farm activities was not affected by the age, farming experience, extension contact, education, family type, land holding, annual income and knowledge level of the respondents.

Only family size ( $X_3$ ) was positively related with the extent of participation in agriculture. It can be concluded that as the family size of the respondents increased; there was also increase in the participation of different farm activities.

### Konkan region

In respect of the respondents from the Konkan, the characteristics namely age ( $X_1$ ), education ( $X_2$ ), knowledge level ( $X_9$ ) and extension contact ( $X_8$ ) had negative and non-

significant relationship while family type ( $X_4$ ), family size ( $X_3$ ), land holding ( $X_5$ ), annual income ( $X_6$ ) and farming experience ( $X_7$ ) had positive and non-significant relationship with the extent of participation in agriculture. This indicated that the participation of farm women in different farm activities in the Konkan villages was not affected by their age, education, knowledge level, extension contact, family type, family size, land holding, annual income and farming experience.

**Table 1:** Relationship between personal and socio-economic characteristics of the farm women and their extent of participation in agricultural activities.

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Correlation coefficient (r) with the extent of participation in agricultural activities (Y)		
		Konkan (n=60)	Western Maharashtra (n=60)	Overall (N=120)
1.	Age ( $X_1$ )	-0.00594 NS	-0.02304 NS	-0.11795 NS
2.	Education ( $X_2$ )	-0.00977NS	-0.48823 *	0.11945 NS
3.	Family size ( $X_3$ )	0.14749 NS	-0.17526 NS	0.19550 *
4.	Family type ( $X_4$ )	0.21558NS	0.48708 *	0.09818 NS
5.	Land holding ( $X_5$ )	0.05284 NS	-0.17174 NS	0.02168 NS
6.	Annual income ( $X_6$ )	0.00605NS	-0.10311 NS	0.11887 NS
7.	Farming experience ( $X_7$ )	0.06387NS	-0.10446 NS	-0.03402 NS
8.	Extension contact ( $X_8$ )	-0.00855NS	0.34316*	-0.01715 NS
9.	Knowledge level ( $X_9$ )	-0.14685NS	-0.32616 *	0.08125 NS

\* : Significant at 0.05 level

NS: Non-significant

### Western Maharashtra

As regards the respondents from the Western Maharashtra, the correlation of the characteristics namely age ( $X_1$ ), family size ( $X_3$ ), land holding ( $X_5$ ), annual income ( $X_6$ ) and farming experience ( $X_7$ ) had negative and non-significant relationship with their extent of participation in agricultural activities. This indicated that the participation of farm women in different farm activities in the Western Maharashtra was least affected by their age, family size, land holding, annual income and farming experience. Other characteristics namely family type ( $X_4$ ) and extension contact ( $X_8$ ) had positive and significant relationship with extent of participation. It means that the family type and extension contact had remarkable influence on their extent of participation in agricultural activities. The characteristics namely education ( $X_2$ ) and Knowledge level ( $X_9$ ) had negative and significant relationship with extent of participation. It means that the education and knowledge level had definite impact on the extent of participation of farm women in agricultural activities and also that the farm women having less education and knowledge had higher participation in agricultural activities than those having more education and knowledge.

The findings of the study differ from the findings of Kalpana Mohod (2000) <sup>[2]</sup> and Jaishri Ekale *et al.* (2003) <sup>[1]</sup>.

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