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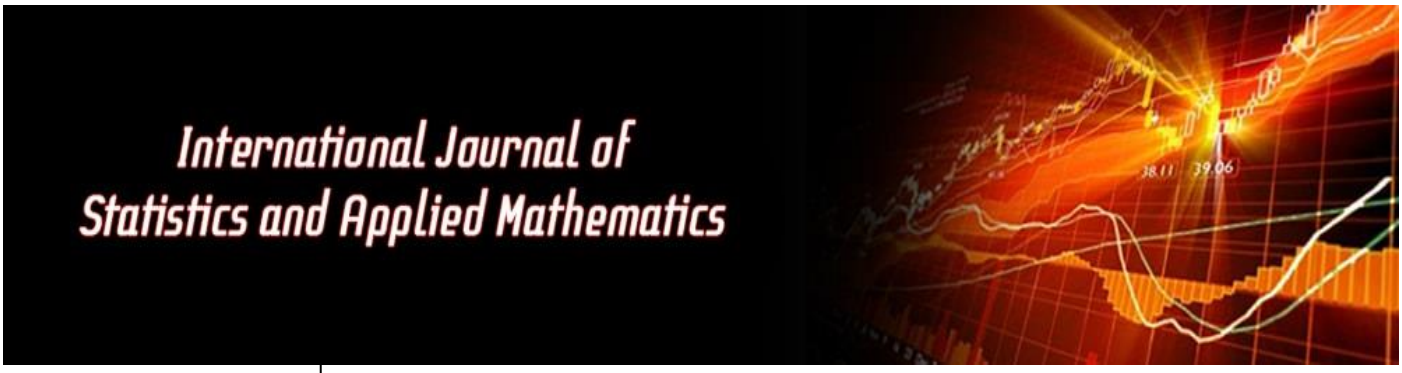

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Constraints as perceived by the rural women in their participation in rice-based farming system associated with non-adoption of crop production technology: A study of Samastipur district of North Bihar

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Abstract
The rural economy in India is traditionally based on Agriculture, livestock and household activities. Rice is the principal food crop of North Bihar. Farm women play an important role in rice-based farming system in different farms of work to generate employment and income. They play multiple roles and make productive inputs in terms of work hours and contribute equivalent income to the family. Therefore, they have multiple employment status, ranging from unpaid family worker to paid wage work in their home or village or outside in rendering services in exchange of goods and services (ILO Report, 1975).
In North Bihar, there is large scale seasonal or long-term migration of male members for outside jobs for service, business, construction work and wage labour in agriculture when the women folk become the sole architect of management of agriculture and household activities including decision making at the native place. Hence, any understanding of process of production would remain incomplete, unless the role of women and their participation in agriculture particularly in rice-based farming system is not analysed.

Keywords: Non-adoption, rural women, rice-based farming system, participation

Introduction
Women play crucial and distinctive role in rice-based farming system and they are significant contributors to sustain the household income. Women constitute 47% of agricultural work force in India, giving India the highest degree of participation of women in agriculture. They perform almost all the roles starting from seeding to harvest. Farm women also play an important role in decision making process relating to farm activities. Nearly 60 to 70% of women involve themselves in making decision and they took joint decision [1].
In human society both men and women are approximately in equal numbers and both have played complementary role in all aspects of human evolution and bringing social changes. Women have contributed their share equally to all the revolutions, be it the struggle for freedom or food and they have played a considerably equal role in socio –economic and national development. It is women who carryout most activities pertaining to agriculture and animal husbandry. But even in the new millennium we find that the condition of the women folk, particularly those in rural community is still very deplorable. They have been deprived and neglected in our society. Their deprivation become more acute in terms of employment, education, health, nutrition, political and various socio -economic aspects. Due to social pressure, traditions, cultural and historical factors women have been ignored and deprived of opportunities for participating in the process of development and sharing its benefits.
Since time immemorial women have played and continue to play significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including crop production, livestock, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro-forestry etc. Without total intellectual and physical participation of women we cannot achieve the goals of rural upliftment. Inspite of this it is unfortunate that because of inertia, ignorance and conservatism the actual and potential role of women in the society has been ignored preventing thwm from making rightful contribution in

social progress. In view of the same facts the present effort attempts to identify the major constraints involved in Non-adoption of crop production technology as perceived by rural women to rice based farming system.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Samastipur district of North Bihar. Out of 20 blocks two rice growing blocks were selected randomly for the field investigation. Two villages from each block making a sample of 4 villages were selected randomly. A sample of 40 farm families from each of the 4 selected villages were drawn by proportionate stratified random sampling technique on the basis of land holding possessed by them. Thus, the total sample consisted 160. The data were collected with the help of a well structured pre-tested interview schedule pertaining different variables selected for the study.

Results and Discussion

Efforts have been made to assess the rural women in their participation in rice based farming system associated with non adoption of crop production technology in rice based farming system. With this intention farm women folk responses were gathered to know the existing constraints associated with non adoption of crop production technology in rice based farming system.

For this purpose the rural farm women were asked through an open ended questions to mention three important constraints which in their opinion were associated with the non-adoption of crop production technology in rice based farming system. These women were also asked to rank these constraints according to their degree of importance. The constraints ranked 1, 2 and 3 were quantified by given scores 3, 2 and 1 respectively.

The total rank score for each constraints was obtained by multiplying the frequency with which the constraint was ranked first, second or third, with the respective scores. Thus, the constraints were ranked on the basis of total score obtained and is presented in table 1.

Table 1: Major constraints of rural women in their participation in rice-based farming system associated with non-adoption of crop production technology

Category	Frequency	Percent	frequency response in different rank			Total rank score	Rank
			I	II	III		

A. Agro-economic constraints

i) Difficulty in controlling 125 78.13 40 35 50 240 I
Bullock with safety specially in
Ploughing operation

1) Discomfort in movement in 118 73.75 32 46 40 228
2) Wet & water-logged field with puddler
3) Difficulty 0f women in bending 108 67.50 28 40 40 204
4) for long hours during transplanting operation
5) Low wages for female labour 102 63.75 28 35 39 193 IV
6) Lack of economic resources 99 61.87 25 30 44 179 V
7) Lack of pertinent knowledge & 96 60.00 23 25 48 167
8) Skill for seed treatment, Weedicide application, fertilizer application & other production related technology
9) Lack of capital & high cost of 90 56.25 20 22 48 152
10) farm
11) Lack of knowledge of irrigation 85 53.12 20 19 46 144 VIII schedule
12) Unavailability of farm inputs 80 50.00 18 20 42 136
13) like improved seeds, fungicides, fertilizer & pesticides in time

B. Socio-psychological constraints

1) Dual role of women in farm and 128 80.00 43 30 55 244
2) home activities
3) Dominance of male in decision 120 75 38 40 42 236
4) making process in farming
5) Social custom & tradition of 110 68.75 40 30 40 220
6) non-participation of women in
7) the farming operatons
8) Lack of command & confidence 106 66.25 38 37 31 219
9) in the implementation of a decision
10) making
11) Low educational status of women 100 62.50 35 23 42 193
12) Lack of motivation of farm women 98 61.25 32 20 46 182

C. Communicational constraints

1) Inability of women to have 124 77.50 40 33 51 237 I
2) personal contact with extension
3) agencies
4) Less participation of women 116 72.50 30 44 42 220
5) folk in crop production training

6) programmes
7) Low social mobility of women 106 66.25 26 38 42 196
8) In male dominated society

Agro-economic constraints associated with non-adoption of crop production technology

A perusal of Table 46 indicates the various agro-economic constraints and rank pattern experienced by the rural women for non-adoption of scientific crop production in rice-based farming system. Out of nine constraints perceived by them, first rank was assigned to the constraint "difficulty in controlling bullock with safety specially in ploughing operation (78.13%). The other constraints perceived by the farm women in order to their importance in descending order were discomfort in movement in wet and water logged field with puddler (73.75%), difficulty of women in bending during transplanting operation (67.50%), low wages of female labourers (63.75%), lack of economic resources (61.87%) and lack of pertinent knowledge and skiil for seed treatment, weedicide application, fertiliser application and other crop production related technology (60%). The other constraint lack of capital and high cost of technology (56.25%) ranked VIIth whereas lack of knowledge of irrigation schedule (53.12%) ranked VIIIth. However, lowest rank was assigned to the constraint's unavailability of farm inputs like improved seeds, fungicides, fertilizers and pesticides in time (50%). This finding was in conformity with the findings of [1-13].

Socio-psychological constraints associated with non-adoption of crop production technology

A perusal of data presented in Table 46 revealed six socio-psychological constraints experienced by the farm women for non-adoption of crop production technology in rice based farming system. The first rank was assigned to the constraints dual role of women in farm and home activities. The second and third rank was given to the constraints dominance of male in decision making process (75%) and social custom and tradition of non-participation of women in the farming operations (68.75%) respectively. The fourth rank was assigned to the constraints lack of command and confidence in the implementation in decision making, low educational status of women (61.25%) was ranked fifth. Though, lack of motivation for farm women was assigned last rank by farm women and it was also an important constraints perceived by them.
This finding was in an agreement with the findings of [1-3].

Communicational constraints associated with non-adoption of crop production technology

Table 1 revealed three communicational constraints experienced by farm women in respect of crop production technology. Inability of women to have personal contact with extension agencies (75.50%) was ranked first by rural women. The second rank was assigned to the constraints less participation of women folk in training programme for upgrading the knowledge (72.50%). Low social mobility of womem in male dominated society (66.25%) was assigned third rank by the farm women.
This finding was in line with the findings of [1-3].

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