

Analysis of Participation of Farm-Women in Sericulture Activities for Ahmednagar District

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Abstract: The study revealed that the women's overall participation was maximum in sericulture operations like, Weeding, Fertilizer application, Pruning of mulberry leaves, Preservation of mulberry leaves, Chopping the mulberry leaves are the major farm operations performed by the women respondents followed by planting and participation in silkworm rearing, storage of cocoons, observing larval growth, seed treatment, providing qualitative and quantitative leaves for larval growth, disinfection of rearing house. Regarding association between profile of farm women and their participation in sericulture, it was concluded that occupation and land holding were significantly associated with participation at 0.05 level, annual income and decision making were significantly associated with participation at 0.01 level while age, education, marital status, family type and mass media exposure were not significantly associated with participation.

Keywords: Participation of farm-women, Ahmednagar district, Sericulture.

INTRODUCTION

Central Silk Board and the State departments had adequate experience of implementing the women oriented programmes. The need for a new approach for empowering the women through their active participation in the various disciplines of the industry is the need of the hour. In response to the external funding of the United Nations Agencies, more and more departments attempt to focus the attention towards women and planning to place them in the center stage of development. However the gap between the planning, implementation and its impacts continue to exist. Women's participation is taken as "add-on" to existing programmes / schemes and also little attempt was made to provide some more subsidies in favour of women under various schemes. Many studies revealed that though the schemes are sanctioned in favour of women, in actual practice, men were in charge of the assets created and benefits accrued.

It is time that we must have a campaign approach for the participation of women in

sericulture industry. In the early 90's and in the new millennium, NGOs and Govt. departments led various campaigns on women's literacy, health and other social issues. Such campaigns have led to the formation of a large number of self-help groups / neighbourhood groups / thrift and credit groups and these groups are available almost in all the rural villages. Recurring droughts/ industrialization / globalization / liberalization and bountiful opportunities in the urban towns and cities perhaps are attracting men to migrate in search of better opportunities in the growing service sector. Women are compelled to stay back in the villages to care of the elderly people and children. Work burden due to migration of husbands and male member of the families and increased drudgery due to depletion of natural resources like ground water and biomass have an adverse effect on women's health.

Sericulture activities provide a perfect choice for the women because of the very nature of the activities that can take place close to their habitations.

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METHODOLOGY

Participation

In the present study, role performance is operationalized as the extent to which the women respondents performed the sericulture activities. The role performance of the respondents was measured by considering their actual participation in each activity.

Based on participation of the respondents in sericulture following scores were given.

Sr. No.	Category	Score
1.	Participation	1 Score
2.	No participation	0 Score

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Participation of farm women in sericulture activities

The participation of selected respondents in farm activities was analysed and presented in Table 1. The data in Table 1 revealed that Weeding, Fertilizer application, Pruning of mulberry leaves, Preservation of mulberry leaves, Chopping the mulberry leaves (100.00 per cent) are the major farm operations performed by the women respondents followed by planting and participation in silkworm rearing, storage of cocoons (96.66 per cent), observing larval growth (90.00 per cent), seed treatment (88.33 per cent), providing qualitative and quantitative leaves for larval growth (80.00 per cent), disinfection of rearing house (70.00 per cent), assessing quality of leaves and observing silkworm pest and disease control (53.33 per cent), whereas women participation was less in the operations like irrigation (40.00 per cent), mulberry pest and disease control (30.00 per cent), inter cultivation (20.00 per cent), plant protection measures (15.00 per cent), method of rearing house (13.33 per cent), selection of improved variety (10.00 per cent), preparatory tillage and transportation of cocoons (6.66 per cent), silkworm pest and disease control and (5.00 per cent), preparation of calendar operation for mulberry cultivation, preparation of 2% formalin and searching rate of cocoons (3.33 per cent).

Table 1
Distribution of the respondents according to their participation in sericulture activities

Sr. No.	Particulars of Practice	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Mulberry cultivation practices		
a.	Preparatory tillage	04	6.66
b.	Selection of improved variety	06	10.00
c.	Seed treatment	53	88.33
d.	Planting	58	96.66
e.	Intercultivation	12	20.00
f.	Weeding	60	100
g.	Fertilizer application	60	100
h.	Irrigation	24	40.00
i.	Plant protection measures	09	15.00
2.	Assessing quality of mulberry leaves	32	53.33
3.	Participation in preparation of calendar operation for mulberry cultivation	02	3.33
4.	Pruning of mulberry leaves	60	100
5.	Preservation of mulberry leaves	60	100
6.	Chopping the mulberry leaves	60	100
7.	Mulberry pest and disease control	18	30.00
8.	Participation in silkworm rearing	58	96.66
9.	Providing both qualitative and quant. Leaves for larval feeding	48	80.00
10.	Observing silkworm pest and diseases	32	53.33
11.	Silkworm pest and disease control	03	5.00
12.	Preparation of 2% formalin	02	3.33
13.	Method of rearing house	08	13.33
14.	Disinfection of rearing house	42	70.00
15.	Storage of cocoons	58	96.66
16.	Searching rate of cocoons in different market	02	3.33
17.	Observing larval growth	54	90.00
18.	Transportation of cocoons	04	6.66
19.	Sale of cocoons	06	10.00

CONCLUSION

The study revealed that women's overall participation was maximum in Weeding, Fertilizer application, Pruning of mulberry leaves, Preservation of mulberry leaves, chopping the mulberry leaves. From the study, it was inferred that

majority of the decisions regarding crop husbandry are jointly taken by the women respondents and their husbands. Regarding association between profile of farm women and their participation in sericulture, it was concluded that occupation, land holding, annual income and decision making were significantly associated with participation, while age, education, marital status, family type and mass media exposure were not significantly associated with participation. The major constraints faced by the farm women respondents were lack of knowledge, skill and proper training out sericulture technologies and majority of them suggested that training programmes for farm women, need of female extension workers and timely information about availability of sources of inputs to overcome the constraints.

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