

mothers, introduction of weaning foods at appropriate time, maintenance of good health and woman better cooking methods and nutrition education while conducting training for farm women.

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Association of Socio-Personal Characteristics with Knowledge and Participation of Rural Women in Paddy Cultivation

Farm women play a vital role in agriculture, spend more time than men and perform more tasks related to agriculture and animal husbandry. Tasks like sowing, transplanting, weeding, irrigation, harvesting, threshing, storage and processing are mostly done by them. But their contributions are not usually recognised and counted in formal statistics and are not seen important even when they produce food crops for family consumption and add to the family income. As paddy is one of the important food crops of malnad tract in Dharwad district, the study was designed to understand the association of socio-personal characteristics of farm women with their knowledge and participation with respect to paddy cultivation.

The data were collected from 155 randomly selected rural women of Mansoor, Managundi, Baad and Solokinokopp villages of Dharwad Taluk. The independent variables studied were education, education profile, family size, family type and extension contact and the dependent variables were participation and knowledge. Data were collected with the help of structured schedule by personal interview.

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It may be seen from Table that illiterate group had high participation and knowledge scores compared to other group. Because of the lack of education, the illiterate women were unable to get any occupation other than agriculture, wherein they find the jobs easily on their farms even at the young age. Thus, their participation was directly related to their knowledge. This supports the results of Sharma and Tej Ratan Singh (1970) and Ganesh (1975).

Respondents in low family education profile group had high participation scores. Those in high family education profile group attended to other occupations than agriculture for their livelihood. Hence, their participation and knowledge in agricultural operations were relatively low.

From the Table it is clear that small families had high participation and high knowledge scores compared to big families. Nuclear families had high participation score range with high knowledge score as most of the nuclear families were small families. The reason could be that in the case of small families, the earning members

Table Association between the personal characteristics of rural women and participation and knowledge level of agricultural operations with respect to paddy crop

Respondent's category	Respondents		Participation		Knowledge	
	number	per cent	Mean score	Remarks	Mean score	Remarks
1. Education						
a) Literate	27	17.4	172	F = 1.54 **	12.8	F = 1.69 *
b) Illiterate	128	82.5	26.89	U = 3.8 **	16.04	U = 2.28 *
2. Family Education profile						
a) High	63	40.6	20.9	F = 1.52 **	14.7	F = 1.32 **
b) Low	92	59.4	28.14	U = 3.97 **	15.7	U = 0.36 NS
3. Family Size						
a) Big	64	41.3	24.19	F = 1.6 **	14.1	F = 1.00 NS
b) Small	91	58.7	28.68	U = 2.81 **	17.6	U = 3.18 **
4. Family type						
a) Nuclear	94	60.6	29.0	F = 1.07 NS	17.1	F = 1.27 NS
b) Joint	61	39.4	24.9	U = 2.93 *	13.7	U = 2.6 **
5. Extension contact						
a) Contact	19	12.3	21.3	F = 2.28 **	15.7	F = 1.27 NS
b) Non-contact	136	87.7	25.6	U = 2.26 *	14.0	U = 0.79 NS

NS = Non-significant

*, ** = Significant at 5% and 1% respectively.

will be less and each member had to go for cultivation.

As regards extension contact the high score range was for non-contact group. The reason for this might be the focus of extension personnel is very much limited for rural women since, the extension machinery is male dominated. The local extension agency has to initiate separate and specific extension programmes for farm women.

Farm women need training programme with regard to important agricultural practices so as to make them receive scientific knowledge on various aspects of paddy cultivation. The landless agricultural labourers whose contributions are high in the cultivation of paddy need special extension programme.

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