SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS IN WOMEN PARTICIPATION FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN SHIWALIK HILLY REGION, HARYANA, INDIA

PRATIMA SINGH
pratima.s.jattan@gmail.com

Natural Resources Management Group

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Low hills, elevation from 365 to 1500 m, adjoining Himalayas
STUDY AREA - SHIWALIK REGION IN HARYANA

- Sub-tropical climate with hot summers & mild winters
- Precipitation variable, 600-1600 mm, July-September
- Dry period from December to June, streams seasonal
- Agriculture, mostly rain-fed, low productivity
- Livestock rearing, mostly milch animals
- Dairying mainly handled by women, agricultural work by both men and women
Hill Resource Management Society (HRMS) constituted in each village

Aims of HRMS include development of the village through full utilisation of locally available resources including water

Low cost earthen dams constructed across streams to store water to be used for irrigation
Study conducted in 50 villages having 582 households

Effect of provision of irrigation

Irrigated agriculture area increased from 8.7% to 81.3%

Area under *Rabi* crops increased by 8%

Wheat yield increased by 33.6%

Milk yield increased by 227%
SOCIAL CONSTRAINTS IN WOMEN PARTICIPATION

- Study conducted in 10 villages covering 150 women respondents
- Information collected on women participation in general body meetings of HRMS using questionnaire
- Husbands discourage their wives to attend such meetings
- *Parda* (veil) system coupled with hesitation in mixing with men
- Inconvenient time and place of meetings
- Women feel that their presence in such meetings is not appreciated
Women Participation in Decision Making

- 85% women did not attend meetings
- Out of those who attended meetings 3% sat only for some time and 12% sat throughout
- Only 7% of those who sat throughout took part in discussions
- Thus only 0.8% of women members took part in discussion
- Women participation in decision making in HRMS was nominal
CONCLUSIONS OF STUDY

- Greater improvement in milk yield was because women were mainly responsible for this activity.
- Family’s income improved considerably from milk sale, but money handled by men, depriving women of credit.
- Quantum of agricultural development could be better if women participation in decision making is improved.
TO ENHANCE WOMEN PARTICIPATION

- Capacity building through awareness creation and training
- Encourage women to express their views
- Appointment of female extension workers
- Separate meetings for women
- Motivate men to let women participate
Thank You