

Constraints faced by farm women in the adoption of PRA techniques during daily work

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Abstract

PRA is a means of collecting different kinds of data, identifying and mobilizing intended groups and evoking their participation and also opening ways in which intended groups can participate in decision making, project design, execution and monitoring. It provides an alternative framework for data collection and analysis. Because of its participatory nature, it is an useful methodology focus attention on people, their livelihoods and their inter-relationships with socio-economic and ecological factors.

Key words : Constraints, adoption, technique etc.

Introduction

PRA constitutes a process of involvement with rural people for indigenous knowledge building exercises. It is a way of learning from and with villagers to investigate, analyse and evaluate constraints and opportunities. It helps to make informed and timely decisions regarding development projects. The participation of rural people can be facilitated through PRA for planning, implementing and monitoring of rural development programmes.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Kanpur district. Two blocks namely Kalyanpur and Sarsaul were selected. 10 villages were randomly selected Total 240 respondents were selected in this study. Dependent and independent variables such as age, caste, education, PRA technique, constraints etc. were used. The statistical tools such as 't' test, X² test and weightage mean were used.

Table 1. Distribution of farm women according to land holding

Land holding	Frequency	Per cent
Landless	75	31.2
Marginal	96	40.0
Small	58	24.2
Large	11	4.6
Total	240	100.0
χ^2	65.434***	P < 0.001

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Results farming. 24.2 per cent women have small land while 40.0 per cent women possessed marginal land whereas 31.2 per cent farm women have no land for 4.6 per cent farm women have large land whether they have belonged to high economic status. Farm

Table 2. Involvement of farm women in agricultural activities according to season

Agricultural activity	Rabi	Kharif	Zaid
Time line	5.0	6.0	4.0
Seasonal food calendar	4.0	8.0	2.0
Seasonal analysis pest diseases and crop	7.0	6.0	2.0
Land use map	4.0	3.0	3.0
Resource map	4.0	3.0	1.0
Food protection benefits	6.0	4.0	2.0

Table 3. Constraints faced by farm women in adoption of PRA technique

Problem	Yes	No	Scores	Rank
Social problems				
(a) Cruelty and repression	160 (66.7)	80 (33.3)	1.67	V
(b) Divorce by husband	114 (47.5)	126 (52.5)	1.47	X
(c) Re-marry	95 (39.6)	145 (60.4)	1.39	XII
(d) Dowry	215 (89.6)	25 (10.4)	1.89	I
(e) Wife beating	147 (61.2)	93 (38.8)	1.61	VII
(f) Large number of children	132 (55.0)	108 (45.0)	1.55	IX
Economic problems				
(a) Shortage of land	174 (72.5)	66 (27.5)	1.72	III
(b) Shortage of cash	204 (85.0)	36 (15.0)	1.85	II
Infrastructure problems				
(a) Drinking water	138 (57.5)	102 (42.5)	1.57	VIII
(b) Problem of latrine	68 (28.3)	172 (71.7)	1.28	XIV
(c) Problem of transport	152 (63.3)	88 (36.7)	1.63	VI
(d) Problem of medical treatment	168 (70.0)	72 (30.0)	1.70	IV
(e) Shortage of housing	88 (36.7)	152 (63.3)	1.37	XIII
Religious problem				
Harassment by fundamentalists	111 (46.2)	129 (53.8)	1.46	XI

(Figures in parentheses denotes per cent values)

Table 4. Constraints of the farm women according to PRA activities during daily work

Constraints	Agriculture	Dairy	Household
Social factor			
(1) Patriarchial factor	58 (24.2)	76 (31.7)	22 (9.2)
(2) Purda system	102 (42.5)	86 (35.8)	142 (59.2)
Educational factor			
(1) Illiteracy	56 (23.3)	79 (32.9)	200 (83.3)
(2) High rate of dropout	48 (20.0)	52 (21.7)	99 (41.2)
Economic factor			
(1) Low status	88 (36.7)	67 (27.9)	168 (70.0)
(2) Lack of decision power	133 (55.4)	62 (25.8)	192 (80.0)
(3) No right in economic	188 (78.3)	51 (21.2)	96 (40.0)
Cultural factor			
(1) Caste system	94 (39.2)	64 (26.7)	108 (45.0)
(2) Gender discrimination	212 (88.3)	112 (46.7)	42 (17.5)
(3) Dominant group	162 (67.5)	81 (33.7)	40 (16.7)
(4) Open society	48 (20.0)	50 (20.8)	74 (30.8)
(5) Conservative and traditional society	72 (30.0)	41 (17.1)	92 (38.3)
Environmental factor			
(1) Less transportation	158 (65.8)	66 (27.5)	6 (2.5)
(2) Weather dependency	207 (86.2)	12 (5.0)	2 (0.8)
(3) High rate of pregnancy	6 (2.5)	19 (7.9)	173 (72.1)
(4) Work burden	89 (37.1)	27 (11.2)	158 (65.8)
(5) Malnutrition & ill health	26 (10.8)	63 (26.2)	136 (56.7)

(Figures in parentheses denotes per cent values)

women have engaged in seasonal food growing in terms of food availability, rice reaches a peak in 'Magh' (mid January to mid February) after which it declines until 'Chaitra' (mid March to mid April) to remain stationary until 'Aswin' (mid September to mid October) whereas wheat reaches a peak in 'Baisakh' (mid April to mid May) after which it declines until 'Jyaistha' (mid May to mid June). Seasonal analysis helps in understanding seasonal cyclic variations in the selected parameters such as rainfall, temperature, humidity, cropping systems, crop rotations, labour

availability, fodder availability, disease occurrence etc. The resource map of a village can show different kinds of natural resources. In a resource map, the villagers depict different kinds of rivers, ponds, trees, crop, animal species and the land utilization pattern. The rural women play a crucial role in most rural activities and their participation can be solicited to learn about their knowledge gained in the process of performing such activities.

The social problems within households and those relating to fundamentalists arise because the

women feel repressed and are not in a position to assert their rights and privileges. The economic problems of finding cash (1.85 %) and owing land are related to poverty and can be resolved through appropriate packages of poverty reduction programmes. Religious problem harassment by fundamentalist (1.46 %) were found in rural areas due to literacy.

Many of the problems of rural women relate to social problems within households. These are their priority problems and most of them relate to interpersonal relationship arising from inequitable power structure within households. There are couple of problems relating to infrastructure, some of which directly affect the work-load of women and indirectly the physical and psychological well being of herself and her family. Shortage of cash of manifestation of low income and poverty and problem of land is a factor causing poverty. To top it all, the harassment by fundamentalists which is in the nature of a religious problem is also of much consequence to the women who perceive it as a form of repression.

Conclusion

Rural women face different problems either on a regular basis or at different times, many of which

are not easy to resolve on account of societal perceptions and other factors. The problems can be of different kinds and they reveal them if they find opportunities for doing so. Given a chance, the rural women can describe their problems and prioritize them according to their perception.

Recommendations

1. PRA is powerful methodology for rural development and it is important that its limitation are recognized and understood so as to use PRA for bringing about maximum benefit to the society.
2. Women should be sensitized to their rights, opportunities, services and programmes. Media should play a critical role to sensitize the community to women related issues.

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