

Role of Women in Decision-Making process in Agriculture Sector: A Case Study of District Fatehabad

Abhey Singh Godara¹, Usha Poonia² and Usha Jyani³

¹ Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa-125055

² Teaching Associate, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa-125055

³ Scholar, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa-125055

Abstract- Decision-making is a fundamental process that incorporates all the functions of family resource management. Rural women perform all the duties of household, attending to farm labour, caring of domestic animals but in spite of discharging all the duties of household, no recognition is given to her immense contribution. But her involvement in decision-making process of household remained in a very low position as all important decisions are made by head of the family or the male members because majority of the females have not provided opportunities to get education due to have the policy of discrimination against the females of the family. Inferior educational status keeps women in secluded position because of the less access to information about their rights. So, women's suggestions often do not get much credit in agriculture sector and important family matters. So, the main purpose of this study is to collect information regarding women's participation in decision-making process related to agriculture sector of Fatehabad district of Haryana State. In order to analyse the decision-making power of women, a total of 100 respondents have been selected from two blocks of district Fatehabad during 2011-12 to 2012-13. For the purpose of analyses, logical tools, percentage, average has been employed. The study revealed that women's participation in different aspects of decision-making process of agricultural sector have not recorded up to the mark. The situation has become more badly in case of the decisions related to opting the measures to increase the production, buying activities, expenditure activities. It is suggested on the basis of the results that there is an urgent need to motivate the females to have the accurate knowledge about their legal rights. The high level of education and workshops, extension lectures can work for the betterment of women in the direction of increasing the decision-making power of females in the regions.

I. INTRODUCTION

The role of women has always been a multi-dimensional and significant as women have performed well in case of agricultural activities, domestic activities, marketing activities as far as labour requirement is considered. The decision-making process is an important segment of every household because the functioning of family resource management depends on the efficiency of decision-making progress. So, women's involvement in decision-making process has been of great importance because women play an important role in every household activity and gives excellent performance most of the time. It may be related to household activity or for the decision-

making at household or any other level. In rural society, there has been noticed a considerable fluctuation regarding the decision-making power of women. The state like Punjab and Haryana show positive role of women in decision-making process in many of the families. But it has become insignificant and negligible in rural families due to illiteracy of women. The contribution of rural women has not taken seriously because it is considered very disgraceful to accept the decision of women. This is because the abilities of women have been neglected and undermined as the responsibility of forming the policies is always regarded the job of male traditionally. How far, the role of women in decision-making process has been noticed in positive manner is the major concern of our study. To know the actual situation of women, their role in decision-making in different agricultural activities need to be properly looked into. So, women's involvement in decision-making process related to agricultural activities have assessed by taking-up following objectives:

II. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To assess the contribution of women in the decision-making related to different expenditure activities of agriculture sector.
- 2) To observe the role of women in decision-making process of buying activities of agriculture sector.
- 3) To measure the extent of decision-making power of women related to opting measures to increase production.
- 4) To examine the role of women in decision-making in respect of livestock management and storage activities.

III. METHODOLOGY

In order to achieve the objectives, two blocks i.e., Block-1 and Block-2 of the district named Fatehabad have been selected randomly. village Bhodia Khera has been selected from Block-1 and Thuian has been selected from the Block-2. A total number of 50 respondents from each village has been selected randomly. So, A total of 100 agricultural women labourers has been selected by using the multistage random sampling during the time period from 2011-12 to 2012-13 through out scheduled questionnaire and interview and high sampling procedure. For the purpose of analysis, logical tool and techniques tools have been used as follows:

IV. ANALYTICAL TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

For the purpose of analysis, logical tool and techniques such as per centage, average and other required method tools has been used. The formula for calculating the simple arithmetic mean is as follows:

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum x}{N}$$

Where, \bar{X} = sum of the values of the variables considered
 N= number of observations

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The furnished results related to decision making power of rural women in respect of the Expenditure activities, Buying Activities, Opting measures to Increase the production, livestock management activities and Storage activities have been analyzed and presented through following heads:

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Expenditure Activities

Table: 1 Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Expenditure Activities in Block-1

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Money to be spend on purchase of machines	17(34)	13(26)	17(34)	3(6)
Money to be spent on purchase of seeds	16(32)	16(32)	15(30)	3(6)
Money to be spent on purchase of implements	26(52)	14(28)	10(20)	0(0)
Paying wages to labourers	21(42)	21(42)	7(14)	1(2)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Expenditure Activities in Block-2: Table 2 shows the distribution of the respondents according to the participation of women in decision making process in the family related to the expenditure activities in block -2. The position of women in rural Fatehabad’s Block-2 has once again found very worse as very minimal proportion of women’s accepted the fact that they have been able to convert their views

in Block-1: Extend of rural women's participation in decisions related to the expenditure in Block-1 of fathehabad district is presented through the table1. The role of women related to the spend of money on purchasing of machines has been found quite minimal as 6% women have found taken decision independently regarding the purchase of machine .The role of women regarding the money spend to be on purchase of seeds, money to be spending on purchase of implements and paying wages to labour can also not be appreciated. In respect of the money spent on the purchase of implements and paying money to the laboures, 42 percent women have accepted the fact that they have not even consulted while making decision related to this item. The results also show that 34 percent, 30 percent, 20 percent, and 14 percent women have agreed to the fact that their opinion are considered while making decisions related to the money spending on the purchase of machines, money to be spent on purchase of seeds, money to be spent on purchase of implements and paying wages to labourers respectively.

into final decision in the family regarding expenditure aspects of different items in the family. 22 percent , 32 percent, 30 percent and 56 percent women have only consulted regarding the decision making process about the spending of money on purchase of machines, seed, implements and paying wages to labours. So, the minority of the respondents have reported to have strong decision –making power in the spending of money in Block-2 of district Fatehabad.

Table 2: Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation Decision related to the Expenditure Activities in Block-2

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Money to be spend on purchase of machines	21(42)	11(22)	15(30)	3(6)
Money to be spent on purchase of seeds	26(52)	16(32)	7(14)	1(2)
Money to be spent on purchase of implements	15(30)	15(30)	16(32)	4(8)
Paying wages to labourers	5(10)	18(36)	18(36)	9(18)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Expenditure Activities in district Fatehabad: The extent of rural women participation in various decision making activities related to expenditure in Fatehabad is presented through the table 3. The role of rural women of district Fatehabad once again noticed insignificant as only 6 percent of the respondents have reported that they have taken the final decision regarding money to spend on purchasing machines whereas 32 percent, 31 percent, 17 percent, 16 percent

have key role in the decision making process as their opinion have been considered while making decision related to the spending money on machines ,seeds ,implements and paying wages to labour but as far as considered to the money spend to be on purchase of implements, the respondent's role has been considered quit minimal. So, almost same picture has been emerged at district Fatehabad as found earlier in table for Block-1 and Block-2

Table 3: Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation Decision related to the Expenditure Activities in district Fatehabad

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Money to be spend on purchase of machines	38(38)	24(24)	32(32)	6(6)
Money to be spent on purchase of seeds	31(31)	31(31)	31(31)	7(7)
Money to be spent on purchase of implements	52(52)	30(30)	17(17)	1(1)
Paying wages to labourers	44(44)	39(39)	16(16)	1(1)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation Decision related to the Buying Activities in Block-1: Table 4 shows furnished results related to the major decisions related to the buying and selling activities in Block-1 of Fatehabad district. It is observed that 4 per cent women have observed to take final decision regarding purchase of lands independently, 2 per cent women have taken final decision in

respect of the purchase of land independently. In case of decision related to the purchase of small type of agricultural implements and purchase of insecticides and weedicides, no respondent has observed to take final decision independently. 70 per cent respondents replied that they have nil decision making power in making decisions regarding purchase of insecticides and weedicides.

Table 4 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Buying Activities in Block-1

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Purchase of lands	18(36))	19(38)	11(22)	2(4)
Purpose for which land is to be purchased	20(40)	18(36)	11(22)	1(2)
How much land to be purchased	21(42)	16(32)	12(24)	1(2)
Type of machine to be purchased	21(42)	13(26)	15(30)	1(2)
Purchase of type of small agricultural implements	26(52)	12(24)	12(24)	0(0)
Purchase of insecticides and weedicides	35(70)	13(26)	2(4)	0(0)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Buying Activities in Block-2: Table 5 shows the distribution of the respondents according to the decisions related to buying activities in Block-2. Purchase of insecticides and weedicides has been recognized as the area in which nil women's participation has been noticed. No single woman has to be noticed to taking final decision regarding purchase of insecticides and weedicides. As far as the purchase of lands is considered of Block-2 in Fatehabad district, 52 per cent women have no decision making power, 22 per cent women

have consulted only while making decision to the related component, 12 per cent respondents accepted that their opinion have considered and the rest of the 10 per cent have full authority to take final decision related to the purchase of lands. Table also reveals that decision regarding to the purchase for which land to be purchased have taken by only 10 per cent women independently and majority of the respondent have not involved in the decision related to the quantity of land to be purchased, type of machine to be purchased and type of small agricultural implements.

Table 5 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Buying Activities in Block-2

Activity	nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Purchase of lands	28(56)	11(22)	6(12)	5(10)
Purpose for which land is to be purchased	29(58)	10(20)	6(12)	5 (10)
How much land to be purchased	32(64)	9(18)	5(10)	4(8)
Type of machine to be purchased	22(44)	15(30)	9(18)	4(8)
Purchase of type of small agricultural implements	19(38)	15(30)	13(26)	3(6)
Purchase of insecticides and weedicides	37(74)	11(22)	2(4)	0(0)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Buying Activities in fatehabad district: Table 6 reveals that decision-making power regarding purchase of land, machine, small agricultural implements, insecticides and weedicides. 68 per cent of the respondents have nil decision making power related to purchasing of insecticides and weedicides and the same holds true for the purchase of land, machine and small agricultural

implements. 30 per cent women have been consulted while making decision related to purchase of land in fatehabad district. So, the respondents have given no importance especially making decisions related to buying activities in both of the blocks selected for the study and also in the rural fatehabad district of Haryana presented the worst and devastating situation of rural women in the district.

Table 6: Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Buying Activities in fatehabad district

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Purchase of lands	47(47)	30(30)	17(17)	6(6)
Purpose for which land is to be purchased	49(49)	28(28)	7(7)	6(6)
How much land to be purchased	53(53)	25(25)	17(17)	5(5)
Type of machine to be purchased	43(43)	28(28)	24(24)	5(5)
Purchase of type of small agricultural implements	45(45)	27(27)	25(25)	3(3)
Purchase of insecticides and weedicides	68(68)	24(24)	6(6)	2(2)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to opting Measures to Increase Production in Block-1: The analysis of the data related to opting measures to increase production presented in table 7. It is revealed from the figures that only 4 per cent women have shown their right to take final decision in the family related to level of crop production, 44 per cent have been consulted during the decision-making process. Regarding cropping pattern to be followed, once again, 4 per cent women have taken the

independent final decision, 54 per cent respondents have accepted the fact that they have been consulted during the decision making process but the position in rural area got worsened noticeably as no women have been found to take independent decisions regarding the method of sowing, using plant protection measures, type of fertilizers to be used, installation of tube wells. So, the male dominants in decision making process related to opting different measures of increasing production in agriculture sector in Block-1 of Fatehabad District.

Table 7 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to opting Measures to Increase Production in Block-1

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Level of crop production	10(20)	22(44)	16(32)	2(4)
Cropping pattern to be followed	7(14)	27(54)	14(28)	2(4)
Method to be used for sowing	13(26)	28(56)	9(18)	0(0)
Using plant production measures	28(56)	18(36)	4(8)	0(0)
Type of fertilizers to be used	32(64)	15(30)	3(6)	0(0)
Installation of tube well	26(52)	14(28)	10(20)	0(0)
New implements to be used for Production	23(46)	16(32)	9(18)	2(4)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to opting Measures to Increase Production in Block-2: The women's participation in decision-making related to the opting measures to increase production in Block-2 is presented through table 8. The figures present a very depressed picture of women related to the decision-making power in agriculture sector of Block-2 in fatehabad district. No women have shown power to take final decision independently regarding all the components except for the new implements to be used for production. But in decision-making process related to the implements to be used for

production, only 2 percent women have found themselves sufficient able to take final decision independently. 72 per cent women have no say in the decision for the type of fertilizers have used. 56 percent women have shown nil decision-making power for the installation of tubewell. 58 per cent respondents have no involvement in the decisions regarding the new implement to be used for production. 48 per cent women have accepted the fact that their opinion has been considered while making decisions related to the cropping pattern of the agriculture sector of the Block-2 of Fatehabad district.

Table: 8 Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to opting Measures to Increase Production in Block-2

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Level of crop production	10(20)	18(36)	22(44)	0(0)
Cropping pattern to be followed	8(16)	18(36)	24(48)	0(0)
Method to be used for sowing	15(30)	27(54)	8(16)	0(0)
Using plant production measures	25(50)	23(46)	2(4)	0(0)
Type of fertilizers to be used	36(72)	13(26)	1(2)	0(0)
Installation of tube well	13(26)	15(30)	12(24)	0(0)
New implements to be used for production	29(58)	15(30)	5(10)	1(2)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to opting Measures to Increase Production in district fatehabad: The distribution of the respondents according to the participation in decision related to different variables of opting measures is reflected through table 9. The level of the crop production has shown nil decision making power of 21 per cent respondents. 40 per cent women have been consulted during the decision-making process. 38 per cent respondents have noticed as a group of women whose opinion have been considered by their husbands regarding

making decisions related to the level of crop production. Almost same picture has emerged in case of the cropping pattern, method of sowing but the situation have become more depressed in case of plant production measures, type of fertilizers to be used and new implements to be used for production as 53 per cent, 68 per cent and 52 per cent women have nil power to take decisions related to above three types of components. However, 55 per cent respondents have accepted the fact that they have only consulted during the adoption of method for the sowing in fatehabad District.

Table 9 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to opting Measures to Increase Production in district fatehabad

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Level of crop production	20(20)	40(40)	38(38)	2(2)
Cropping pattern to be followed	15(15)	45(45)	38(38)	2(2)
Method to be used for sowing	28(28)	55(55)	17(17)	0(0)
Using plant production measures	53(53)	41(41)	6(6)	0(0)
Type of fertilizers to be used	68(68)	28(28)	3(3)	1(1)
Installation of tube well	49(49)	29(29)	22(22)	0(0)
New implements to be used for production	52(52)	31(31)	14(14)	3(3)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Livestock Management Activities in Block-1: The women's role in the activities related to the livestock activities is presented in table 10. A better situation has been observed in this area of decision making. More than 50 per cent of the respondents have shown full control on the decision regarding the number of livestock to be kept, selling of livestock. Only 12 per cent and 8 per cent respondents have no

involvement in the decision related to the same variables. But cultivation of fodder for livestock has been the area in which only 6 per cent women have been seen taking final decision independently. 40 per cent respondents have consulted during the decision-making process in respect of cultivation of fodder for livestock but 38 per cent women opinion's has also given consideration for their decision-making ability.

Table 10 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Livestock Management Activities in Block-1

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Buying of livestock	4(8)	6(12)	18(36)	22(44)
Number of livestock to be kept	3(6)	5(10)	16(32)	26(52)
Selling of livestock	4(8)	10(20)	20(40)	26(52)
Cultivation of fodder for livestock	5(10)	20(40)	19(38)	6(12)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Livestock Management Activities in Block-2: The women's decision-making power in agriculture sector can be analyzed with the help of the data presented in the table 11. The picture has become positive in Block-2 as no woman has found in Block-2 who have "no say" in respect of buying of livestock, number of livestock to be kept,

selling of livestock, only cultivation of fodder for livestock has been registered the area in which 5 per cent women replied that they have no say in the decision-making process. But 50 per cent women accepted that they have taken independent decisions related to buying of livestock and decisions related to the number of livestock to be kept. So, Block-2 of the district gets a better representative of rural women of the fatehabad district.

Table 11 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Livestock Management Activities in Block-2

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Buying of livestock	0(0)	6(12)	19(38)	25(50)
Number of livestock to be kept	0(0)	4(8)	21(42)	25(50)
Selling of livestock	0(0)	6(12)	24(48)	20(40)
Cultivation of fodder for livestock	5(5)	23(56)	16(32)	6(12)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Livestock Management Activities in fatehabad district: The distribution of the respondents related to their decision-making power in livestock management activities is depicted through table 12 and reveals the position of women regarding livestock management activities as far as the buying of livestock is considered, 47 per cent women have the right to take independent final decision. In relation to buying of livestock, 37 per cent have reported to be considered by the husband while making decisions. In respect of the number of livestock to be kept, 51 per cent respondents have shown full involvement in the decision-making process. 37 per

cent respondent's opinions have also been considered during the decision-making process. Only 44 per cent respondent's opinion has considered by their husband at the time of selling of livestock. But the decision-making power of rural women have depreciated as only 12 per cent of the respondents have to be observed to having taking decision without the interruption of the husband related to the cultivation of fodder for the livestock. So, the main conclusion can be drawn for the decisions regarding livestock management activities that women have performed well under this head, in comparison to the decision-making in respect of different crops production activities.

Table 12 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to the Livestock Management Activities in fatehabad district

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
buying of livestock	4(4)	12(12)	37(37)	47(47)
number of livestock to be kept	3(3)	9(9)	37(37)	51(51)
selling of livestock	4(4)	16(16)	44(44)	36(36)
cultivation of fodder for livestock	10(10)	43(43)	35(35)	12(12)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to Storage Activities in Block-1: Decision-making power of women related to storage activities is reflected through the furnished results presented in table 13. It is found that male once again have dominated in comparison to females as Only 18 per cent women of rural area have found participated actively in the decision making process related to the quality to be stored. 54 per cent respondents have

considered while making decisions related to the quantity to be sold but the percentage of the respondents who have only been consulted has been estimated at 18 per cent when decision in respect of crop to be stored is taken. So, the decision has once again been taken by males and the same holds true for the place selection where the crop should be stored and the decision related to the method of the storage has been no exception of it.

Table 13 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to Storage Activities in Block-1

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Quantity to be stored	5(10)	9(18)	27(54)	9(18)
Crop to be stored	13(26)	14(28)	15(30)	8(16)
Place where the quantity should be kept	1(2)	21(42)	18(36)	10(20)
Method of the storage	4(8)	18(36)	12(24)	6(12)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to Storage Activities in Block-2: Distribution of the respondents according to their participation level is presented in table 14. A little bit improved scenario has been shown by the figures in the representative table. Regarding quantity, place, crop and method of storage, 24 per cent, 20 per cent, 26 per cent and 10 per cent respondents have treated themselves independent to take final decisions for

the same activity. 50 per cent, 36 per cent and 24 per cent respondent's opinion has been noticed to be considered by their male partners. Regarding the quantity, crop and place of storage, only 2 per cent in each category replied that they have no power to take decisions related to the relevant area. But the per centage of the respondents has increased in case of the adoption of the method related decision as 20 per cent women have found no say in this regard in Block-2

Table 14 : Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to Storage Activities in Block-2

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
Quantity to be stored	1(2)	12(24)	25(50)	12(24)
Crop to be stored	1(2)	14(28)	25(50)	10(20)

<i>Place where the quantity should be kept</i>	1(2)	18(36)	18(36)	13(26)
<i>Method of the storage</i>	10(20)	18(36)	12(24)	5(10)

Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to Storage Activities in district Fatehabad: The data presented in the table 15 depict that 21 per cent, 18 per cent, 23 per cent, and 11 per cent respondents have been observed full engaged in the decision-making power related to the quantity to be stored, crop to be stored, about the place and method of the storage. Per centage of the respondents has been recorded as 52 whose opinion has been considered in

the decision making in respect of quantity to be stored. But this per centage has been decreased in case of crop to be stored as 50 per cent women's views have been considered while selecting the crop which has to be stored, the number has fallen by more margin for the third variable i.e., place as only 36 per cent women have accepted the fact that their opinion has been considered by their spouse.

Table: 15 Distribution of the Respondents according to the Participation in Decisions related to Storage Activities in district fatehabad

Activity	Nil	Only consulted	Opinion considered	Final decision
<i>Quantity to be stored</i>	6(6)	21(21)	52(52)	21(21)
<i>Crop to be stored</i>	4(4)	28(28)	50(50)	18(18)
<i>Place where the quantity should be kept</i>	2(2)	39(39)	36(36)	23(23)
<i>Method of the storage</i>	14(14)	46(46)	29(29)	11(11)

VI. CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

On the basis of the study, conclusion can be drawn that the women's participation as a planner and managers in the agriculture sector of the district fatehabad has not recorded up to the mark. The situation has noticed worse in some area like making decision related to opting measures to increase production and buying activities. So, some steps should be taken up to upgrade the managing power of agricultural women. Some suggestions are given for this as under:

Policy Implications:

- 1) The educated women from the rural background should be involved in the training programme, workshops to motivate the rural agricultural women labourers for enhancing their role in decision making and management of the farm.
- 2) Efforts should be made to make the male of our society sufficient open-minded to accept the ability of the women in the field of planning and managing in case of farm related activities.
- 3) Financial institutions should provide credit facility on concessional terms so that women can invest her managing skill in the different allied activities of agriculture.
- 4) The efforts in the direction of legal rights of women on land holdings can be instrumental to increase their decision-making power on the farm.
- 5) The involvement of females should be increased at every level of planning and decision-making to exploit the potential of the full population of India.

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AUTHORS

First Author – Abhey Singh Godara, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa-125055

Second Author – Usha Poonia, Teaching Associate, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa-125055

Third Author – Usha Jyani, Scholar, Department of Economics, Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa-125055