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Impact of male migration on extent of role performance of rural women in agriculture

Archana Kumari, Meera Singh and Satya Prakash

Abstract

The study was conducted in Samastipur district of Bihar state. There are altogether 20 blocks in Samastipur district. Out of which two blocks Pusa and Kalyanpur were selected purposively. A total number of 4 villages were selected purposively from the selected blocks. Total 30 respondents from each of migrants and non-migrants family were randomly selected. It accomplished a total of sixty (60) respondents were taken for study to know the "Impact of male migration on extent of role performance of rural women in agriculture". The data revealed that respondents of migrants family had always engaged in pre-harvest activities such as weeding (33.33) and kitchen gardening (23.33%). In case of non-migrants family respondents were always participated in only two pre-harvest activities such as kitchen gardening (33.33%) and transplanting (6.66%). Regarding post-harvest activities, respondents of migrants family had always participated in activities such as winnowing (36.66%), storage of food grains (26.66%) and harvesting (16.66%). In case of non-migrants family respondents had always participated in activities like storage of food grains (26.66%), winnowing (20%). In t-test analysis it was found that the role performance of migrants family respondents was positive and significantly better than non-migrants family respondents.

Keywords: migration, extent, participation

Introduction

Migration is the flow of people over shorter or longer distances from place of their origin to a destination either for temporary or permanent settlement. Migration of male in Bihar is common, both within the state and from the state to other parts of the country. Male migration from the rural areas may make heavy demand on women who are left behind and are required to shoulder all household responsibilities and production activities. As a result of male-migration participation of women in skilled agricultural activities has been found to increase. In the absence of their husbands, women have been found to perform agricultural work like preparation of land for cultivation, irrigation, pesticide application, harvesting, processing, packaging and storing agricultural product etc. Datta and Mishra (2011) ^[1] have found that immediate effect of male-migration is that women have to take on tasks and responsibilities, especially in agriculture. Singh *et al.* (2011) ^[2] found that "As a result of male out-migration, the woman left behind in the villages assumes a major role in various farm activities resulting in the so-called 'feminization of agriculture'. Singh *et al.* (2013) ^[3] observed that Migration of male labour force from Bihar has increased during last two decades which promoted us to analyze its consequences on efficiency of input in agricultural production, livelihood through remittances and also the empowerment of women left behind at place of origin. Keeping this in view, the study has been planned to see the "Impact of Male Migration on Extent of Role Performance of Rural Women in agriculture" in order to have quantitative data for policy-makers and planners to design future development strategies of the nation accordingly.

Research Methodology

The study on impact of male migration on role of women in rural society has been carried out in the Samastipur District of Bihar state. There are altogether 20 blocks in Samastipur district. Out of which two blocks Pusa and Kalyanpur were selected purposively. From the two selected blocks two villages from each block were selected. A total number of 4 villages were selected purposively from the selected blocks. Fifteen migrants family from Dighra and 15 non-migrants family from Birauli Khurd were selected from Pusa block. From Kalyanpur block 15 sample respondents from migrants family were selected from Ladaura and 15 non-

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migrants family selected from Fulhara. Thus total 30 respondents from each of migrants and non-migrants family were randomly selected, further making a total of sixty (60) samples selected from the villages for study. Extent of participation of women was measured on a three continuum, *i.e.* always, sometimes and never for which score 3, 2, 1 respectively were assigned.

Results and Discussion

Extent of participation of respondents in pre-harvest activities

Table 1 it is observed that respondents of migrants family had always engaged in pre-harvest activities such as weeding (33.33) and kitchen gardening (23.33%), more than (40%) respondents had sometimes participated in activities such as

transplanting (50%), application of pesticide and kitchen gardening (43.33%).whereas more than (70%) and respondents had never participated in pre-harvest activities such as land preparation (83.33%), application of fertilizer and irrigation (73.33%).Thus the findings reveals that women had low participation in pre-harvest activities due to after getting remittances they had not need to worked in a field as a labour.

In case of non-migrants family respondents were always participated in only two pre-harvest activities such as kitchen gardening (33.33%) and transplanting (6.66%).More than half of the respondents were sometimes participated in kitchen gardening, whereas more than (90%) had never participated in activities such as land preparation and irrigation *i.e.* (93.33%) and (90%) respectively.

Table 1: Results related with extent of participation of women in pre-harvest activities (N=60)

Sl. No.	Type of activities	Migrants family (n=30)			Non-migrants family (n=30)		
		Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
1.	Land preparation	-	5 (16.66)	25 (83.33)	-	2 (6.66)	28 (93.33)
2.	Application of fertilizer	-	8 (26.66)	22 (73.33)	-	4 (13.33)	26 (66.66)
3.	Sowing	-	9 (30)	21 (70)	-	5 (16.66)	25 (83.33)
4.	Transplanting	-	15 (50)	15 (50)	2 (6.66)	8 (26.66)	20 (66.66)
5.	Weeding	10 (33.33)	12 (40)	8 (26.66)	-	6 (20)	24 (80)
6.	Application of pesticides	-	13 (43.33)	17 (56.66)	-	6 (20)	24 (80)
7.	Irrigation	-	8 (26.66)	22 (73.33)	-	3 (10)	27 (90)
8.	Kitchen gardening	7 (23.33)	13 (43.33)	10 (33.33)	3 (10)	17 (56.66)	10 (33.33)
	Total	2.12 (7.06)	10.37 (34.58)	17.5 (58.33)	0.62 (2.083)	6.37 (21.25)	23 (76.66)

* Figures in parentheses indicates percentage

Extent of participation of respondents in post-harvest activities

The data pertaining to the extent of participation of respondents in post-harvest activities are depicted in the Table 2.Regarding post-harvest activities, respondents of migrants family had always participated in activities such as winnowing(36.66%), storage of food grains (26.66%) and harvesting (16.66%).whereas more than half of the respondents sometimes participated in winnowing

(56.66%).More than (70%) respondents had never participated in threshing and sale of produce (76.66%),storage of seeds (73.33%).In case of non-migrants family respondents had always participated in activities like storage of food grains (26.66%), winnowing(20%).More than (30%) respondents had sometimes participated in winnowing (36.66%) and grain processing (33.33%).Whereas cent percent of the respondents were never performed the threshing activity.

Table 2: Results related with extent of participation of women in post-harvest activities (N=60)

Sl. No.	Type of activities	Migrants family (n=30)			Non-migrants family (n=30)		
		Always	Sometimes	Never	Always	Sometimes	Never
1.	Carrying the produce from field at home	5 (16.66)	11 (36.66)	14 (46.66)	2 (6.66)	5 (16.66)	23 (76.66)
2.	Harvesting	5 (16.66)	14 (46.66)	11 (36.66)	3 (10)	-	27 (90)
3.	Threshing	2 (6.66)	5 (16.66)	23 (76.66)	-	-	30 (100)
4.	Winnowing	11 (36.66)	17 (56.66)	2 (6.66)	6 (20)	11 (36.66)	13 (43.33)
5.	Storage of food grains	8 (26.66)	14 (46.66)	8 (26.66)	8 (26.66)	7 (23.33)	15 (50)
6.	Storage of seeds	-	8 (26.66)	22 (73.33)	3 (10)	9 (30)	18 (60)
7.	Grain processing	2 (6.66)	14 (46.66)	14 (46.66)	1 (3.33)	10 (33.33)	19 (63.33)
8.	Sale of produce	-	7 (23.33)	23 (76.66)	-	5 (16.66)	25 (83.33)
	Total	4.12 (13.75)	11.25 (37.5)	14.62 (48.75)	2.87 (9.58)	5.87 (19.58)	21.25 (70.83)

* Figures in parentheses indicates percentage

Table 3: Differences in the extent of participation of migrants and non-migrants family respondents

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Mean		SD		t-value
		Migrants family respondents	Non –migrants family respondents	Migrants family respondents	Non –migrants family respondents	
1.	Extent of participation	1.8737	1.6633	.24164	.29100	2.761*

* Significant at 5% level of probability

The Table 3 revealed that differences with respect to extent of participation between respondents of migrants and non-migrants family were found to be significant at 5% level of probability. As the migrants family respondents have

significantly higher mean (1.8737) than non-migrants family respondents (1.6633). So it can be concluded that migrants family respondents had more extent of participation in different activities than non-migrants family respondents.

Conclusion

Respondents of migrants family had always engaged in pre-harvest activities such as weeding and kitchen gardening), more than (40%) respondents had sometimes participated in activities such as transplanting application of pesticide and kitchen gardening. whereas more than (70%) and respondents had never participated in pre-harvest activities. In case of non-migrants family respondents were always participated in only two pre-harvest activities such as kitchen gardening and transplanting. More than half of the respondents were sometimes participated in kitchen gardening, whereas more than (90%) had never participated in activities such as land preparation and irrigation. Regarding post-harvest activities, respondents of migrants family had always participated in activities such as winnowing, storage of food grains and harvesting. More than half of the respondents sometimes participated in winnowing. More than (70%) respondents had never participated in threshing and sale of produce, storage of seeds. In case of non-migrants family respondents had always participated in activities like storage of food grains), winnowing. More than (30%) respondents had sometimes participated in winnowing and grain processing. Whereas cent percent of the respondents were never performed the threshing activity. In t-test analysis it was found that the role performance of migrants family respondents was positive and significantly better than non-migrants family respondents. Thus the migrants family women more involved in agricultural activities then non-migrants family women.

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