PARTICIPATION OF FARM WOMEN ON THEIR RELATIVE EMPOWERMENT IN SELF DECISIONS IN RURAL AREAS OF TELANGANA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Women empowerment is giving legitimate power or authority to perform the tasks. If women were empowered they would be able to participate in the planning and decision making tasks, and contribute to the development programmes and activities individually. The participation of women in work and social life has put heavy demand upon them to make adjustments between their traditional role in their families and outside their home. The study was conducted on 120 farm women from rural areas of Telangana, in-depth interview method was used to collect the data from the respondents. Empowerment scale was used as tool to collect the data from the sample. In all the self decisions related to personal, children and household affairs, farm women were disempowered suppressed by the society. Lack of education and low levels of decision making skills in all the aspects related to empowerment such as resources available, access to resources, decision making and action taking, resulted in disempowered women.

KEYWORDS: Empowerment, self decisions, personal affairs, children affairs, household affairs. Farm women, rural areas. Education. Life skills

Received: Feb 18, 2021; **Accepted:** Mar 08, 2021; **Published:** Mar 13, 2021; **Paper Id.:** IJASRAPR20217

INTRODUCTION

Women are the backbone of agricultural workforce but worldwide their hard work has mostly been unpaid. They do the most tedious and back-breaking tasks in agriculture, animal husbandry and in homes. Due to various problems that are being faced by the women farmers, they are not able to contribute more to the agriculture of our country. The major obstacles start at their homes in the form of gender inequality, not able to decide by themselves in farm activities and lack of awareness about the latest technologies of agriculture. When a women empowers themselves in agriculture, the nation starts developing faster and more widely. In extension activities the women is now the centre point and active. This empowerment initiates a global level support for humanists thinking. Her enlightenment will change the face of rural India.

Women's empowerment is a process in which women get power or authority to challenge certain situations (Basu and Basu, 2001). Empowerment of women is a prerequisite and a necessary requirement in order to make the process of personal development and development of a country stable and sustainable; and it generally takes place when women challenge the prevailing customs and culture to improve their well-being. The campaign for women's empowerment has two-fold objectives: a. Social justice, a significant facet of human well-being, which is inherently worth following and b. It's a means to additional ends (Sridevi, 2005).

Operational Definitions

Self Decisions: The decisions that were exclusively taken by the women.

Personal Affairs: Aspects of decisions related to only self of the women.

Children's Affairs: Aspects of decisions related to children's

House hold Affairs: Aspects of decisions related to general household.

Resources Available: Resources available to the family for a particular task.

Access to resources: Women's access to resources in the family to person a particular task.

Decision making: Women's decision making capacity for a particular task to be achieved.

Action taken: Women's action in getting a particular task done.

Studies Related to Empowerment

Raazia Hassan Naqvi and Muhammad Ibrar (2015) elicited that in majority of the rural family most of the decisions regarding household and agricultural matter are taken up by the family head alone. Wife is consulted for only households matter and not being involved for taking independent or joint decision in the agricultural matters. In a negligible proportion, the wife takes independent decisions.

Kavita Baliyan (2014) observed that women's role was found prominent in petty household issues only. In most of the cases women acted as initiators in deciding about some major household affairs but final decisions were being taken ultimately by men. In rural India, even though women participate in economic activities, they have little role in decision making, particularly in matters related to agriculture and financial matters.

Sabina Bano (2014) stated that participation of women in decision making is likely to be affected by socio-economic status of women. Gender differences led women to suppress in the decision making on various issues occurring in their daily activities. Roles and responsibilities of women and their choices are restricted to specific sphere.

Sharma Rao and Sharma (2013) research stated that men dominated in majority of the farm decisions in rural families. Decisions related to buying and selling of land, machines and other agricultural implements; improvements of harvest and livestock management were mainly taken by head of the family or husbands.

Gupta and Yesudian (2006) considered four dimensions of women's empowerment: household autonomy, mobility, and attitudes toward gender and towards domestic violence.

Devi and Rayalu (2003) findings suggested that working women perceived higher levels of empowerment in all the aspects related to self-decision than non-working women.

Minaxi and Lopamudra (2000) showed that women are considered neither knowledgeable nor competent enough to participate in the process of decision making. Major decisions about farming are mainly taken by the male family head. The influence of women in decision making about farming affairs was found to be only supportive in nature.

Zaman, et al. (2000) find out the level of empowerment of women in household decision making process in some purposively selected rural and urban areas of Bangladesh. It has considered 18 variables in household domain, namely, freedom of purchase saris, freedom of purchasing cosmetics, opinion for children's admission in school, opinion seeks for child birth, opinion for family planning, freedom of purchase children's clothing, treatment autonomy for children, treatment autonomy for own, freedom for expenditure, knowledge about inheritance law, freedom of expenditure for own, freedom of saving money, freedom of purchasing ornaments, free to move outside, opinion for land dispute, freedom to travel, freedom to purchase of properties for own and whether a microcredit holder. Using these variables, a composite level of women's empowerment was assessed by Principle Component Analysis. After getting the score, they categorized empowerment as poor with score 1-82, fair with score 83-122 and good with score above 123. The authors showed that 40% had poor, 19% had fair and 41% had good level of women's empowerment. Using bivariate analysis this study has revealed that level of women's empowerment is high among the respondents living in the urban areas, having less number of children, religion in Islam, having higher level of education of both husband and wife, engaged in jobs, having higher monthly income contributed to family and living in pacca house ($p < 0.05$). It also shows that there are no significant association with current age of both husband and wife, age at marriage and spousal age difference ($p > 0.05$). This study does not clarify how the scores were given to assess empowerment and it considers only individual factors at household level.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in rural areas of Telangana State by using an experimental research design. A total of 120 farm women were selected by purposive sampling technique. Data was collected by administering standardized empowerment scale which collects information regarding self decisions of women in their personal, child and house hold affairs.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Self Decisions on Personal Affairs.

S. No.	Items	Resource Available			Access to resource			Decision making			Action		
		A	S	N	A	S	N	A	S	N	A	S	N
1	Freedom to pursue own hobbies	6 (15%)	68 (57%)	46 (38%)	7 (6%)	71 (59%)	42 (35%)	3 (3%)	71 (59%)	46 (38%)	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)
2	Freedom to pursue own religious activities	7 (6%)	89 (74%)	24 (20%)	5 (4%)	91 (76%)	24 (20%)	6 (5%)	90 (75%)	24 (20%)	3 (3%)	88 (73%)	29 (24%)
3	Personal movement to shorter distance	4 (3%)	77 (64%)	39 (33%)	3 (3%)	78 (65%)	39 (33%)	6 (5%)	71 (59%)	43 (36%)	7 (6%)	74 (62%)	39 (33%)
4	Personal Movement to longer distances	7 (6%)	43 (36%)	70 (58%)	3 (3%)	42 (35%)	75 (63%)	5 (4%)	36 (30%)	79 (66%)	2 (2%)	39 (33%)	79 (66%)
5	Buying sarees/dresses	3 (3%)	32 (27%)	85 (71%)	6 (5%)	49 (41%)	65 (54%)	5 (4%)	38 (32%)	77 (64%)	2 (2%)	52 (43%)	66 (55%)
6	Buying less expensive jewellery	7 (6%)	64 (53%)	49 (41%)	7 (6%)	61 (51%)	52 (43%)	4 (3%)	68 (57%)	48 (40%)	5 (4%)	63 (53%)	52 (43%)
7	Buying expensive jewellery	4 (3%)	65 (54%)	51 (43%)	5 (4%)	68 (57%)	47 (39%)	7 (6%)	68 (57%)	45 (38%)	4 (3%)	69 (58%)	47 (39%)
8	Freedom to express emotions freely	4 (3%)	60 (50%)	56 (47%)	3 (3%)	57 (48%)	60 (50%)	6 (5%)	64 (53%)	50 (42%)	3 (3%)	62 (52%)	55 (46%)
9	Freedom to project own personality in a group	5 (4%)	56 (47%)	59 (49%)	3 (3%)	58 (48%)	59 (49%)	3 (3%)	67 (56%)	50 (42%)	3 (3%)	66 (55%)	51 (43%)
10	Planning for no. of children	6 (5%)	62 (52%)	52 (43%)	4 (3%)	67 (56%)	49 (41%)	1 (1%)	55 (46%)	64 (53%)	2 (2%)	62 (52%)	56 (47%)
11	Spacing the children	7 (6%)	60 (50%)	53 (44%)	2 (2%)	59 (49%)	59 (49%)	7 (6%)	56 (47%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	61 (51%)	56 (47%)
12	Freedom to use contraceptive according to own choice	5 (4%)	59 (49%)	56 (47%)	2 (2%)	59 (49%)	59 (49%)	2 (2%)	70 (58%)	48 (40%)	1 (1%)	60 (50%)	59 (49%)
13	Freedom to spend own money	4 (3%)	54 (45%)	62 (52%)	4 (3%)	58 (48%)	58 (48%)	3 (3%)	57 (48%)	60 (50%)	3 (3%)	56 (47%)	61 (51%)
14	Inviting friends home	5 (4%)	64 (53%)	51 (43%)	4 (3%)	68 (57%)	48 (40%)	6 (5%)	57 (48%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	64 (53%)	53 (44%)
15	Freedom to save money according to own choice	4 (3%)	69 (58%)	47 (39%)	4 (3%)	59 (49%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	58 (48%)	59 (49%)	6 (5%)	61 (51%)	53 (44%)
16	Freedom to attend social functions	4 (3%)	63 (53%)	53 (44%)	--	54 (45%)	66 (55%)	3 (3%)	59 (49%)	58 (48%)	3 (3%)	69 (58%)	48 (40%)
17	Have control of one's own time	5 (4%)	58 (48%)	57 (48%)	2 (2%)	65 (54%)	53 (44%)	5 (4%)	58 (48%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	70 (58%)	47 (39%)
18	Can do things according to one's own interests	4 (3%)	59 (49%)	57 (48%)	2 (2%)	63 (53%)	55 (46%)	4 (3%)	62 (52%)	54 (45%)	4 (3%)	57 (48%)	59 (49%)
19	Freedom to concentrate on office work/personal work wholly	4 (3%)	64 (53%)	52 (43%)	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)	1 (1%)	59 (49%)	60 (50%)	2 (2%)	60 (50%)	58 (48%)
20	Freedom to comeback from office/shopping whenever the work is over	11 (9%)	61 (51%)	48 (40%)	1 (1%)	69 (58%)	50 (42%)	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)	2 (2%)	63 (53%)	55 (46%)
21	Freedom to grow up professionally / personally	5 (4%)	61 (51%)	54 (45%)	2 (2%)	50 (42%)	68 (57%)	4 (3%)	68 (57%)	48 (40%)	6 (5%)	65 (54%)	49 (41%)
22	Freedom to leave the place on transfer/holiday trip/religious trip	5 (4%)	57 (48%)	58 (48%)	4 (3%)	66 (55%)	50 (42%)	4 (3%)	66 (55%)	50 (42%)	6 (5%)	69 (58%)	45 (38%)
23	Freedom to decide on your role/ role performance	4 (3%)	70 (58%)	46 (38%)	3 (3%)	68 (57%)	49 (41%)	2 (2%)	62 (52%)	56 (47%)	4 (3%)	64 (53%)	52 (43%)
24	Freedom to watch television whenever you want	3 (3%)	58 (48%)	59 (49%)	5 (4%)	59 (49%)	56 (47%)	4 (3%)	63 (53%)	53 (44%)	4 (3%)	67 (56%)	49 (41%)
25	Freedom to choose one's own leisure time activity	2 (2%)	59 (49%)	59 (49%)	4 (3%)	69 (58%)	47 (39%)	7 (6%)	66 (55%)	47 (39%)	5 (4%)	59 (49%)	56 (47%)
26	Buying cosmetics / fancy things	5 (4%)	63 (53%)	52 (43%)	3 (3%)	63 (53%)	54 (45%)	6 (5%)	65 (54%)	49 (41%)	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)
27	Spending on own transport	3 (3%)	71 (59%)	46 (38%)	4 (3%)	62 (52%)	54 (45%)	6 (5%)	59 (49%)	55 (46%)	4 (3%)	59 (49%)	57 (48%)
28	Participating in social gatherings	6 (5%)	57 (48%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	74 (62%)	43 (36%)	3 (3%)	75 (63%)	42 (35%)	3 (3%)	59 (49%)	58 (48%)
29	Going for higher education/training	7 (6%)	65 (54%)	48 (40%)	2 (2%)	66 (55%)	52 (43%)	2 (2%)	67 (56%)	51 (43%)	4 (3%)	64 (53%)	52 (43%)
30	Freedom to donate one's own money	6 (5%)	60 (50%)	54 (45%)	2 (2%)	61 (51%)	57 (48%)	5 (4%)	62 (52%)	53 (44%)	7 (6%)	68 (57%)	45 (38%)
31	Choose to work outside the home if necessary / shift job if needed	6 (5%)	56 (47%)	58 (48%)	3 (3%)	72 (60%)	45 (38%)	4 (3%)	63 (53%)	53 (44%)	6 (5%)	63 (53%)	51 (43%)

According to resource availability, it is evident from Table 1 that more than half of the respondents sometimes had freedom to pursue own religious activities (74%), personal movement to shorter distance (64%), spending on own transport (59%), freedom to decide on his/her role/role performance (58%) and freedom to pursue own hobbies. Less than half of the respondents sometimes had taken self decisions on personal affairs were buying sarees/dress (27%), personal movement to longer distances (36%), freedom to spend own money (45%), freedom to project own personality in a group and choose to work outside the home if necessary/shift job is needed (47%).

With regard to access to resource, majority of the respondents was found to be sometimes freedom to pursue own religious activities (76%), personal movement to shorter distances (65%), Participating in social gatherings (62%), Choose to work outside the home if necessary / shift job if needed (60%), freedom to pursue own hobbies (59%), freedom to concentrate on office work/personal work wholly, freedom to comeback from office/shopping whenever the work is over and Freedom to choose one's own leisure time activity (58%), invites friends home and Freedom to decide on your role/role performance (57%). Sometimes least percentage of the respondents had taken self decisions on personal movement to longer distances (35%), buying sarees/dresses (41%), Freedom to grow up professionally / personally (42%), freedom to attend social functions (45%), freedom to express emotions freely, freedom to project own personality in a group freedom to spend own money (48%), spacing the children, freedom to use contraceptive according to own choice, freedom to save money according to own choice, freedom to watch television whenever you want (49%).

As per decision making, maximum percentage of respondents was found, sometimes freedom to pursue own religious activities (75%), participating in social gatherings (63%), freedom to pursue own hobbies (59%), freedom to use contraceptive according to own choice and Freedom to comeback from office/shopping whenever the work is over (58%), Buying less expensive and expensive jewellery, freedom to grow up professionally / personally (57%). Minimum percentage of respondents was found sometimes personal movement to longer distance (30%), buying sarees/dresses (32%), Planning for no. of children (46%), spacing the children (47%) and freedom to spend own money, inviting friends home, save money according to own choice and having control of one's own time (48%).

With respect to action in personal affairs, highest percentage of respondents was found sometimes freedom to pursue own religious activities (73%), personal movement to shorter distance (62%). Fifty eight percent of the respondents found sometimes freedom to pursue own hobbies, buying expensive jewellery, freedom to attend social functions, having control of one's own time, freedom to leave the place on transfer/holiday trip/religious trip, buying cosmetics / fancy things. Lowest percentage of respondents had taken sometimes decisions on personal Movement to longer distances (33%), buying sarees/dress (43%), freedom to spend own money (47%), freedom to choose one's own leisure time activity, can do things according to one's own interests (48%) and spending on own transport, participating in social gatherings (49%).

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to self Decisions on Children's Affairs

S. No .	Items	Resource Available			Access to resource			Decision making			Action		
		A	S	N	A	S	N	A	S	N	A	S	N
1	Buying school requirements	4 (3%)	68 (57%)	48 (40%)	5 (4%)	67 (56%)	48 (40%)	2 (2%)	63 (53%)	55 (46%)	7 (6%)	65 (54%)	48 (40%)
2	Buying clothes for children	6 (5%)	95 (79%)	19 (16%)	--	87 (73%)	33 (28%)	2 (2%)	87 (73%)	31 (26%)	2 (2%)	95 (79%)	23 (19%)
3	Freedom to discipline the children	1 (1%)	69 (58%)	50 (42%)	1 (1%)	62 (52%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	64 (53%)	53 (44%)	2 (2%)	70 (58%)	48 (40%)
4	Power to inculcate values in children	2 (2%)	39 (33%)	79 (66%)	3 (3%)	42 (35%)	75 (63%)	2 (2%)	50 (42%)	68 (57%)	3 (3%)	40 (33%)	77 (64%)
5	Bring up the children the way you want	5 (4%)	65 (54%)	50 (42%)	5 (4%)	71 (59%)	44 (37%)	1 (1%)	73 (61%)	46 (38%)	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)
6	Power to attend children's needs at school	4 (3%)	78 (65%)	38 (32%)	3 (3%)	69 (58%)	48 (40%)	2 (2%)	58 (48%)	60 (50%)	--	70 (58%)	50 (42%)
7	Encourage children to pursue different hobbies	3 (3%)	54 (45%)	63 (53%)	3 (3%)	47 (39%)	70 (58%)	2 (2%)	70 (58%)	48 (40%)	4 (3%)	64 (53%)	52 (43%)
8	Bring up the children the way you want	5 (4%)	65 (54%)	50 (42%)	5 (4%)	71 (59%)	44 (37%)	1 (1%)	73 (61%)	46 (38%)	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)
9	Buying minor things for children	2 (2%)	53 (44%)	65 (54%)	3 (3%)	60 (50%)	57 (48%)	2 (2%)	76 (63%)	42 (35%)	2 (2%)	59 (49%)	59 (49%)

It is clear from the Table 2, resource availability revealed that the respondents was found high in buying clothes for children (79%), power to attend children's needs at school (65%), freedom to discipline the children (58%), buying school requirements (57%) and bring up the children the way you want (54%) whereas least was found sometimes in power to inculcate values in children (33%), buying minor things for children (44%) and encourage children to pursue different hobbies (45%).

In access to resource was found high in buying clothes for children (73%), bring up the children the way you want (59%), power to attend children's need at school (58%), buying school requirements (56%), freedom to discipline the children (52%) and buying minor things for children (50%). Lowest percentage of respondents had taken sometimes self decisions on power to inculcate values in children (35%) and encourage children to pursue different hobbies (39%).

In decision making, highest percentage was found in buying clothes for children (73%), buying minor things for children (63%), bring up the children the way you want (61%), encourage children to pursue different hobbies (58%), buying school requirements and freedom to discipline the children (53%). Least percentage had taken sometimes on power to inculcate values in children (42%) and power to attend children's needs at school (48%).

In action to children's affairs, minimum percentage was found in buying clothes for children (79%) and minimum percentage was found in power to inculcate values in children (33%). Equal percentage (58%) of the respondents was found sometimes freedom to discipline the children, bringing up the children the way you want and power to attend children's needs at school.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Self Decisions on Household Affairs

S. No.	Items	Resource Available			Access to resource			Decision making			Action		
		A	S	N	A	S	N	A	S	N	A	S	N
1	Buying miscellaneous things for the household management	6 (5%)	71 (59%)	43 (36%)	3 (3%)	75 (63%)	42 (35%)	2 (2%)	80 (67%)	38 (32%)	4 (3%)	67 (56%)	49 (41%)
2	Decorating the house according to own choice	2 (2%)	82 (68%)	36 (30%)	4 (3%)	86 (72%)	30 (25%)	3 (3%)	87 (73%)	30 (25%)	3 (3%)	81 (68%)	36 (30%)
3	Engaging the paid help according to own choice	4 (3%)	82 (68%)	34 (28%)	5 (4%)	86 (72%)	29 (24%)	2 (2%)	78 (65%)	40 (33%)	6 (5%)	71 (59%)	43 (36%)
4	Keeping parents or relatives at home	--	52 (43%)	68 (57%)	4 (3%)	38 (32%)	78 (65%)	--	46 (38%)	74 (62%)	3 (3%)	44 (37%)	73 (61%)
5	Freedom to choose to live with in-laws or without in-laws	2 (2%)	61 (51%)	57 (48%)	3 (3%)	40 (33%)	77 (64%)	1 (1%)	49 (41%)	70 (58%)	4 (3%)	44 (37%)	72 (60%)
6	Maintain the household according to own choice	5 (4%)	64 (53%)	51 (43%)	2 (2%)	72 (60%)	46 (38%)	1 (1%)	69 (58%)	50 (42%)	3 (3%)	70 (58%)	47 (39%)
7	Engaging friends at home	2 (2%)	69 (58%)	49 (41%)	1 (1%)	74 (62%)	45 (38%)	2 (2%)	67 (56%)	51 (43%)	2 (2%)	68 (57%)	50 (42%)
8	Supporting natal family through kind	2 (2%)	59 (49%)	59 (49%)	3 (3%)	66 (55%)	51 (43%)	1 (1%)	73 (61%)	46 (38%)	3 (3%)	63 (53%)	54 (45%)
9	Supporting natal family financially	4 (3%)	61 (51%)	55 (46%)	5 (4%)	72 (60%)	43 (36%)	6 (5%)	68 (57%)	46 (38%)	7 (6%)	55 (46%)	58 (48%)
10	Supporting in-laws through kind	3 (3%)	61 (51%)	56 (47%)	2 (2%)	62 (52%)	56 (47%)	2 (2%)	78 (65%)	40 (33%)	2 (2%)	67 (56%)	51 (43%)
11	Supporting in-laws family financially	5 (4%)	62 (52%)	53 (44%)	7 (6%)	66 (55%)	47 (39%)	2 (2%)	60 (50%)	58 (48%)	2 (2%)	61 (51%)	57 (48%)
12	Go out of the house when needed for shopping	2 (2%)	67 (56%)	51 (43%)	4 (3%)	69 (58%)	47 (39%)	3 (3%)	62 (52%)	55 (46%)	3 (3%)	68 (57%)	49 (41%)
13	Buying groceries for the household	3 (3%)	57 (48%)	60 (50%)	2 (2%)	71 (59%)	47 (39%)	2 (2%)	85 (71%)	33 (28%)	2 (2%)	62 (52%)	56 (47%)
14	Buying vegetables for the household	4 (3%)	63 (53%)	53 (44%)	--	70 (58%)	50 (42%)	4 (3%)	65 (54%)	51 (43%)	4 (3%)	57 (48%)	59 (49%)
15	Buying outside food for the family	2 (2%)	59 (49%)	59 (49%)	3 (3%)	55 (46%)	62 (52%)	2 (2%)	56 (47%)	62 (52%)	4 (3%)	53 (44%)	63 (53%)

According to resource available, majority of the respondents sometimes takes self decisions on household affairs viz., decorating the house according to own choice and engaging the paid help according to own choice (68%), buying miscellaneous things for the household management (59%), engaging friends at home (58%), go out of the house when needed for shopping (56%), maintain the household according to own choice and buying vegetables for the household (53%), supporting in-laws family financially (52%). Five per cent of the respondents had taken self decisions always on household affairs and four per cent of the respondents had taken self decisions always on maintain the household according to own choice and supporting in-laws family financially (Table 3).

As per access to resource, equal percentage of respondents sometimes (72%) had taken decisions on decorating the house and engaging the paid help according to own choice followed by buying miscellaneous things for the household management (63%), engaging friends at home (62%), maintains the household according to own choice and supporting

natal family financially (60%). Only six per cent of the respondents had taken joint decisions always on supporting in-laws family financially (Table 3).

While in decision making, seventy three per cent of the respondents had taken decision on decorating the house according to own choice followed by buying groceries for the household (71%), buying miscellaneous things for the household management (67%), engaging the paid help according to own choice and supporting in-laws through kind (65%), supporting natal family through kind (61%). Five per cent of the respondents had taken self decisions always on supporting natal family financially (Table 3).

With regard to action, sixty eight per cent of the respondents had taken self decisions on decorating the house, engaging the paid help (59%), maintains the household (58%). Fifty seven per cent of the respondents had taken sometimes self decisions on engaging friends at home, go out of the house when needed for shopping. Six per cent of the respondents had always taken decisions on supporting natal family financially (Table 3).

Major Findings

Majority of the respondents according to self decisions on personal affairs were found high in freedom to pursue own religious activities, in resource available, access to resource, decision making and action of self decisions on personal affairs.

Nearly three-fourth of the respondents according to self decisions on children affairs were found high in buying clothes for children in resource availability and action, access to resource and decision making and less was found in power to inculcate values in children in resource availability and action, access to resource, decision making.

Majority of the respondents according to self decisions on house hold affairs had taken self decisions sometimes on decorating the house and engaging the paid help according to their own choice.

CONCLUSIONS

Findings of the study inferred that there are women who are still disempowered, suppressed by the society. Lack of education and low levels of decision making skills women might dominated by men in majority of the farm decisions in rural families. There is a need for life skills education to enhance their self decisions in their personal, child and house hold affairs aspects of farm women. These life skills education will help women be aware of their rights and have contribution to society, get employment in formal sectors, reduce poverty and help in household expenditure. Well educated women can better utilize resources for a sustainable positive change in the society.

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