

GENDER WISE STATUS OF FARM LAND – A STUDY OF RURAL AREA OF SIKKIM IN NORTH- EASTERN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The present study has analyzed the existing information about female farmer's status of farm land in the rural area of Sikkim in North- Eastern India and suggested some points to improve the socio-economic condition of the stakeholders. In the region despite majority of the population is dependent on agriculture sector, still it is in the evolving shape and poses a variety of challenges. The contribution of women in this noble sector is although enormous yet invisible and does not get counted for much. Social science research in the state of Sikkim is inadequate despite several incentives provided by the state government. Nowadays, with voluminous amount of public expenditure on women empowerment schemes, we cannot ignore this issue thus making it unavoidable to empower them also with the intention to fully utilize their caliber in this field. Keeping this in mind, data was collected from 230 female farmers through interviews using a pre-designed schedule from 24 circles from all the four districts of Sikkim State. Based on their subjective judgments, female farmer's status of farm land has been measured and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS). Some descriptive statistics, such as percentage as well as one sample t-test of inferential statistics is used to interpret the data. The findings of the study revealed the male ownership of land and the possession of small sized landholdings by women. As far as type of land holdings are concerned, the findings revealed more number of cultivators rather than agriculture labourers in the study area. Results pertaining to these findings have been discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Agriculture labourers, cultivators, gender-wise farm land status, land ownership, Sikkim.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Women play a distinctive role in shaping the rural economic activities and earning a livelihood. India is a agriculture dominated country and most of manual operations like sowing, weeding, transplanting, harvesting, threshing and winnowing and even marketing of agricultural produce are being done by women. Their contribution to the rural economy is enormous. But the role of women in economic and social development has not received due recognition so far in our society. But, efforts are being made by the Government to give due recognition to their participation by making various laws time to time in favour of women.

Contrary to the common perception about women in India, a large percentage of them work (Women of India, 2006). The National data collection agencies accept the fact that there is a serious under-estimation of women's contribution as workers. However, there are far fewer women in the paid workforce than there are men (Kalyani and Kumar2001). In urban India Women have impressive number in the workforce and they are at par with their male counter parts in terms of wages, position at the work place (Singh and Hoge 2010). In rural India, agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5% of the total female labour (Asia's women,2006). In overall farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55% to 66% of the total labour. According to a 1991 World Bank report, women accounted for 94% of total employment in dairy production in India. Women constitute 51% of the total employed in forest-based small-scale enterprises (Asia's women, 2006).

Actuality, the social, economic and cultural conditions of the area determine women's participation in home and farm activities. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture, no doubt, varies greatly from region to region and within a region, their involvement varies among different farming systems, castes, classes and socio- economic status. But regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production, except ploughing in which women are not actively involved (Swaminathan, 1985). In some of the farm activities like processing and storage, women predominate so strongly that men workers are numerically insignificant.

However, the Indian Himalayan region (IHR) displays a different picture in land use pattern and its dependency on agricultural land. The Himalayan people have traditionally practiced integrated agriculture, balancing cultivation, agro-forestry, animal husbandry and forestry. Mountain geography and inaccessibility have helped maintain agro-biodiversity; yet commercial agriculture is not as high-yielding and profitable as in the plains. Here forest is the major land use pattern, which covers over 52% of total reporting area followed by

wastelands and agricultural land. However, the dependency on its limited arable land is marginally higher in the IHR as cultivators and agricultural labourers together comprise about 59% of total workforce in the region (Nandy and Samal, 2005).

Some historians believe that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fiber and fuel (Prasad and Singh 1992). Women have protected the health of the soil through organic recycling and promoted crop security through the maintenance of varietal diversity and genetic resistance. Therefore, without the total intellectual and physical participation of women, it will not be possible to popularize alternative systems of land management to shifting cultivation, arrest gene and soil erosion, and promote the care of the soil and the health of economic plants and farm animals.

2. FARMING STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE

The state has a target of converting it into a fully organic state by 2015. In this regard, the Department has started a lot of measures to replace the chemical fertilizers by using bio fertilizers and organic manures. Effective Microorganism (EM) technology in production of compost and bokashi and bio-pesticide is being propagated among the farmers in technical collaboration with MAPLE ORTECH, Dehradun to give boost to organic farming in Sikkim. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology is being practiced to control the pests. Predators are produced in Sikkim State IPM Lab and are released in the farmers' field as and when required. The Government has set up a livelihood school also on organic farming at Tadong, Gangtok .This is first of its' type in the country. Participants will be given 3 months training on organic farming processes. Trained youths will go to villages and assist farmers at village level. Popularization of HYV seeds, production of quality seeds, mixed cropping, pest management through Farmers Field Schools (FFS), recycling of farm waste for compost production, soil reclamation by liming, seed treatment campaign and integrated farming through watershed approach are some of the strategies adopted by the Department in the state.

Mechanization has varied connotations. While in the developed world it tends to be synonymous to automation but in developing countries, like India especially in hilly areas, mechanization means any improved tool, implement, machinery or structure that assists in enhancement of workers' output, multiplies the human effort, supplements or substitutes

human labour, avoids drudgery or stresses that adversely affect human mental activities leading to errors, imprecision and hazards and eventually loss of efficiency. It also means automation and controls that assure quality, hygiene. Agricultural mechanization in a limited sense relates to production agriculture.

Farming with machinery in Sikkim is almost nonexistent. However Power operated Thresher, Hand Winnower, Hand Maize Sheller, Iron Plough and other gender friendly machineries have been introduced on experimental basis. Sprinkler and drip irrigation has been taken up on demonstration basis. Agriculture in the state is mainly rain fed. Farm mechanization here in Sikkim is meant for increasing the production and productivity, comfort and safety, return and profitability to farmer.

3. DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

According to (Census 2011), Sikkim has a total population of 607 688 persons (which is 0.05 percent of total population of India) of which 321661 are males and 286 027 are females. From the year 1991-01 to 2001-11, decadal population variation recorded was 33.07 to 12.36 percentages, while India's figure for the same is 17.64. In 2011 rural population consists of 480,981 people while urban population consists of 59,870 people. Sex ratio (females per 1000 males) also known as Gender Ratio, in the same decade has shown a little improvement i.e. from 875 to 889 but still lags behind India's, which is 940. Though population density per sq. km. has increased in the same decade from 76 to 86 but is much less than national population density per sq. km. which is equal to 382. Literacy rate in 2001 was 68.81 which rose to 82.20 in 2011 which is above national average of 74.04 percent. This decade has seen an increase in male literacy rate from 76.04 to 87.30 as against all India's rate which is 82.14 and female literacy rate also shows increased figures i.e. from 60.41 to 76.43 as against all India's rate of 65.46.

3.1 Workers Profile

According to (Census 2001), there are 37,936 cultivators (About 26,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 19,725 are males and 18,211 are females in East district. Of them 37,889 live in rural and only 47 live in urban area. In rural area 19,701 are males and 18,188 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers 8,143 out of which 4,076 are males and 4,067 are females. Of them 8,110 live in rural and only 33 live in urban area. In rural area 4,056 are males and 4,054 are females.

There are 35,764 cultivators (About 16,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 20,634 are males and 15,130 are females in West district. Of them 35,762 live in rural and only 02 live in urban area. In rural area 20,632 are males and 15,130 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers in the district are 4,112 out of which 2,389 are males and 1,723 are females. Of them 4,110 live in rural and only 02 live in urban area. In rural area 2,389 are males and 1,721 are females.

There are 9,180 cultivators (About 6,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 4,831 are males and 4,349 are females in North district. Of them 9,173 live in rural and only 07 live in urban area. In rural area 4,824 are males and 4,349 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers in the district are 2,051 out of which 1,045 are males and 1,006 are females. Of them 2,038 live in rural and only 13 live in urban area. In rural area 1,033 are males and 1,005 are females.

There are 48,378 cultivators (About 20,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 24,917 are males and 23,461 are females in South district. Of them 48,377 live in rural and only 01 live in urban area. In rural area 24,917 are males and 23,460 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers in the district are 2,694 out of which 1,252 are males and 1,442 are females. All of them live in rural and no one live in urban area. In rural area 1,252 are males and 1,442 are females.

The above data, showed that in all the districts more than half of the cultivators are small/medium farmers. It was also observed that almost all of them live in rural areas and equal number of female participants was sighted as that of men.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1 Universe or population

The universe or population for the study consisted of total number of married females in rural areas who are employed in farming in the state of Sikkim. This formed the pivotal point of the present research.

4.2 Sampling method for selected area of study

Multi-stage stratified random sampling technique of probability method is used to distribute the population into circles, revenue blocks and villages, then a combination of Judgment and Convenience sampling techniques of non-probability methods is decided upon for this study. Non-probability methods are of three types, namely Judgment sampling, Convenience sampling and Quota sampling. The state has only four districts; so, all of them have been taken for the study. Initially, under the multistage stratified random sampling technique- a

selection of a tentative list of circles and revenue blocks from all the four districts was made followed by a selection of villages to be visited at the second and a selection of respondents at the final stage. A final list of the respondents from different farm households was prepared based on convenience and their accessibility to the researcher by stratified random sampling.

4.3 Sample size

Rural areas from all 4 districts of Sikkim were selected. As is clear from the table 1 below, though North district contains maximum area of the State i.e. almost 60%, but it holds only 7-8% of the population. On the contrary East district contains only 13% area of the State, but it holds maximum i.e. 45% of the population. So, for this study, maximum no. of females for data collection is from East & minimum are from North. Here, the size of the sampling female farmers from each district is neither proportional to the minimum size of the sampling female farmers of the district nor in the same ratio as is the percentage ratio of each district to the total population of the state. But the sample size of each district is just an indicative of the reason of taking maximum/minimum sampling units from that area.

Table 1:- Selection of Sample Size

| District/ State | Total area(sq.km) | %of total area | Population Concentration | % Of total Population | Total no. of circle | Total no. of circles sampled | No.of female sample farmers |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| East | 954 | 13.5 | 2,45,040 | 45.3 | 21 | 06 | 80 |
| West | 1166 | 16.5 | 1,23,256 | 22.8 | 21 | 06 | 60 |
| North | 4226 | 59.5 | 41,030 | 7.6 | 07 | 04 | 30 |
| South | 750 | 10.5 | 1,31,525 | 24.3 | 23 | 08 | 60 |
| Sikkim | 7096 | 100 | 5,40,851 | 100 | 72 | 24 | 230 |

Source- figures extracted from census 2001.

A data collected from a total of 24 circles from all the four districts in Sikkim has been analyzed. The district wise i.e. (East, West, North & South) distribution of circles selected is 6, 6, 4 & 8 respectively. A total of 80 females of farming community from East, 30 from North and 60 each from West & South districts have been interviewed. Data for 115 samples (50% of 230), was collected by the researcher herself, while for rest of 115 samples (40, 30, 15 & 30 from East, West, North & South respectively), was collected with the active help and participation of all the village heads. Data thus collected from 230 married females in rural

areas in the state of Sikkim, employed in farming sector has become the basis of the Primary Data analysis in this Study.

4.4 Data collection and analysis

In order to collect qualitative data, three group discussion sessions were arranged separately in three villages (Syari, Sichey and Rawtey rumtek); each group contained 10 participants. During these group sessions, several open-ended questions were asked from the respondents in order to collect deeper information about their accessibility to resources and their participation in different farms and the related activities along with many hidden facts and factors. Based on this information, the research instrument i.e. questionnaire containing dichotomous, multiple choice and open end questions was designed and a pre-test was conducted with 18 respondents for its necessary modification. It was then translated into Nepali also for the convenience of the farm population. Primary data was collected by researcher by visiting the farming females of rural area in Sikkim, using questionnaires. The primary data was collected between March to September 2011 from all districts of Sikkim. Books, journals, reports and internet documents were used as secondary sources of data supporting or supplementing the empirical findings of the study.

4.5 Data analysis

Data has been analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) and some descriptive statistics, such as percentage, mean, standard deviation (SD) were used to interpret the data.

There is only one sample in the study. Ordinal and nominal level data can be analyzed using parametric statistics; therefore One-Sample t-test for inferential interpretation of the data has been run to understand the nature of relation between the variables. For the inferences of the hypotheses, Information from literature survey is taken to support some assumptions. Below are given the few hypotheses.

For gender-wise ownership of land –

Hypothesis Statement – There is discrimination in ownership of land by women.

Ho – Ownership of land by women is not more than that of men.

Ha - Ownership of land by women is more than that of men.

For possession of farms sizes with women

Hypothesis Statement – No more farming females of rural area possess large landholdings.

Ho – Possession of large landholdings by women is not more than that of smaller one.

Ha - Possession of large landholdings by women is more than that of smaller one.

For type of land holdings with women

Hypothesis Statement – More no. of females cultivators rather than agriculture labours are there.

Ho – Females cultivators are not more than agriculture labours.

Ha - Females cultivators are more than agriculture labours.

To test these hypotheses, one-sample t-test has been conducted. The t column displays the observed t statistic for each sample, calculated as the ratio of the mean difference divided by the standard error of the sample mean.

The column labeled Sig. (2-tailed) displays a probability from the t distribution with 229 degrees of freedom df, calculated as (n-1). The value listed is the probability of obtaining an absolute value greater than or equal to the observed t statistic, if the difference between the sample mean and the test value is purely random. The Mean Difference is obtained by subtracting the test value, from each sample mean.

The 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference provides an estimate of the boundaries between which the true mean difference lies in 95% of all possible random samples of 230 females. At this level if value of ‘t’ is less than 1.96 and is also negative, then our null hypothesis is accepted else alternate hypothesis is accepted.

5. Results and Discussion

Land Status

5.1 Gender wise ownership of land

- **Ownership of land details:**

Statistics for Ownership of land by Female Farmers is shown in the Table-2 below. From the table we find that there are 230 valid scores and a value of mean it is 1.55. Standard deviation is 0.623 and standard error of mean 0.041.

| Table-2-One-Sample Statistics | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|----------------|-----------------|
| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
| Q.1.2A2 | 230 | 1.55 | .623 | .041 |

Frequency table for gender wise ownership of land in table-3 below shows that out of total 230 female sample farmers, 120 of them admitted for male ownership of land, 94 for joint ownership and a very meager number i.e. only 16 female farmers acknowledged that land is on their name. The percentage column of the table gives the clearer picture of the data. It shows that more than 50% replied in favour of male ownership of land, 41% for joint ownership and

almost negligible i.e. only 7% of female sample farmers confessed the ownership of land on their name.

| Table-3-Frequency table for gender wise ownership of land | | | | | |
|--|--------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Male | 120 | 52.2 | 52.2 | 52.2 |
| | Both | 94 | 40.9 | 40.9 | 93.0 |
| | Female | 16 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 230 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

- Inferential analysis of the gender wise ownership of land**

From the table 4 we find that value of 't' for gender wise ownership of land is -11.002 which is negative. This is further confirmed by significance levels which are 0.00 and also by confidence intervals, both limits of which lie entirely below 0.0 for it. Mean difference column for it also shows negative values. Thus there are valid reasons for null hypothesis to be accepted, which says that Ownership of land by women is significantly not more than that of men i.e. not more than 2 on the average.

| Table-4 -One-Sample Test | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|
| | Test Value = 2 | | | | | |
| | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| Q.1.2A2 | -11.002 | 229 | .000 | -.452 | -.53 | -.37 |

5.2 Possession of farms sizes with women

- Possession of size of farm land details:**

Statistics for Possession of farms sizes by Females Farmers is shown in the Table-5 below. From the table we find that there are 230 valid scores and a value of mean it is 1.44. Standard deviation is 0.636 and standard error of mean 0.042.

| Table-5-One-Sample Statistics | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|------|----------------|-----------------|
| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
| Q.1.2AA | 230 | 1.44 | .636 | .042 |

Frequency table for possession of size of farm land in table-6 below shows that out of total 230 female sample farmers, 147 of them admitted for small size of farm land, 65 for medium

size of farm land and a very less number i.e. only 18 female farmers acknowledged that size of farm land is the larger one. The percentage column of the table gives the clearer picture of the data. It shows that a huge 64% replied in favour of small size of farm land, 28% for medium and almost negligible i.e. only 8% of female sample farmers confessed that size of farm land is the larger one.

Table-6- Q.1.2AA Frequency table for possession of size of farm land

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|---------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Small | 147 | 63.9 | 63.9 | 63.9 |
| | Medium | 65 | 28.3 | 28.3 | 92.2 |
| | Large | 18 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 230 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

- Inferential analysis of the possession of farms sizes by female farmers**

From the table 7 we find that value of 't' for Possession of farms sizes by Female Farmers is -13.373 which is negative. This is further confirmed by significance levels which are 0.00 and also by confidence intervals, both limits of which lie entirely below 0.0 for it. Mean difference column for it also shows negative values. Thus there are valid reasons for null hypothesis to be accepted, which says that Possession of large farms by women is significantly not more than that of smaller one i.e. not more than 2 on the average. This proves that most of the females possess small land holdings.

Table-7-One-Sample Test

| | Test Value = 2 | | | | | |
|---------|----------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|
| | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| Q.1.2AA | -13.373 | 229 | .000 | -.561 | -.64 | -.48 |

5.3 Type of land holdings with women

- Type of land holdings with women details:**

Statistics for Type of land holdings with Female Farmers is shown in the Table-8 below. From the table we find that there are 230 valid scores and a value of mean it is 1.90. Standard deviation is 0.301 and standard error of mean 0.020.

Table-8-One-Sample statistics

| | N | Mean | Std. Deviation | Std. Error Mean |
|---------|-----|------|----------------|-----------------|
| Q.1.2A1 | 230 | 1.90 | .301 | .020 |

Frequency table for type of land holdings with female farmers in table-9 below shows that out of total 230 female sample farmers, 23 of them are possessing it but do not own and 207 of them own the farm land. The percentage column of the table gives the clearer picture of the data. It shows that only 10% of sample female farmers are agriculture labours. On the other hand, a massive i.e. 90% of female sample farmers are cultivators.

Table-9- Frequency table for type of land holdings with women

| | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | Possess but not own(agri. labours) | 23 | 10.0 | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| | Own(cultivators) | 207 | 90.0 | 90.0 | 100.0 |
| | Total | 230 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

- Inferential analysis of the type of land holdings with female farmers**

From the table 10, we find that confidence intervals lie entirely above 0.0 and also it is positive. Value of 't' for type of land holdings with women is 20.177 which is higher than 1.96, mean difference column for it also shows positive values. This is further confirmed by significance level which is 0.00 and also by confidence intervals, both limits of which lie entirely above 0.0 for it. We can safely say that null hypothesis for it is rejected and thus alternate hypothesis for it is accepted, which says that cultivators are more than agriculture labours. Further, we conclude it by saying that significantly more number of sample females cultivators are there than agriculture labours.

Table-10-One-Sample Test

| | Test Value = 1.5 | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|---|-------|
| | t | df | Sig. (2-tailed) | Mean Difference | 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference | |
| | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| Q.1.2A1 | 20.177 | 229 | .000 | .400 | .36 | .44 |

6. CONCLUSION

On the basis of the data collected and analyzed, we can conclude that women in the area are subjected to discrimination in land ownership and are in possession of small size of landholdings. In some pockets of the State, though awareness level of women is good, still the data did not show the female ownership and control of the land, not only because they are unaware of their rights but because of socioeconomic and geographic constraints such as lack of capital, illiteracy, scattered land and hilly terrain.

The findings also revealed more number of cultivators rather than agriculture labourers. The main reason behind it is the development of tertiary, secondary and a lot of other developmental activities which are going on in the State. As a result, they get more gainful employment at these places rather than working as agricultural labourers. (Chandrakala Diyali) also holds the similar view.

However sample female farmers were asked to share their views if they are given the right to own an animal and property.

- The reasons given by them as to why this right should rest with them are-
 - (i) Because of the ancestral property, we will feel proud in owning it.
 - (ii) When it is in our name, extra pain will be taken to look after it
 - (iii)Till today, we have been fulfilling the responsibility of looking after it nicely and will keep on doing it for ever.
 - (iv)We can make use of it independently the way we feel like (for the family, animal as well as agriculture).
 - (v) We can improve our socio- economic condition with the money which we have earned.

Female farmers in the study area were also asked to share their views about handing over the landed property to their daughter-in-law. For this question a massive 84% of the respondents replied in favour of handing over the property to their son. Only 10% of them want to hand it over to their daughter-in-law.

- Reasons given by sample female farmers for handing over the property

In favour of son

- (i) This tradition is going on since ages.
- (ii) During life time as well as after death, it is he who has to perform all the rituals.
- (iii)He is our blood, so, we can trust him.
- (iv)We are sure that he is capable of handling it, which daughter-in-law may not be.
- (v) Whatever is son's property, ultimately that becomes daughter-in-law's also.

(vi) He is the legal heir.

7. SUGGESTIONS

Keeping in view the above mentioned problems/needs of the area and conclusions derived there from, the researcher has made a fair endeavor to suggest some points for the upliftment of the beneficiaries.

Development of secondary and tertiary sector is leading to a spurt in urbanization in the State. This is consequently triggering the demand for milk/milk products/ and poultry/meat. Increase in the demand has led to increase in their prices. While milk is sold at rupees 32/Kg in the urban markets, the resource poor female farmers, unknowing about the worth of their produce, still selling milk locally at almost half the prices i.e. rupees 17-20/Kg in remote and inaccessible areas. Since most of the maintenance needs of the cattle of the farmers are managed at their own farm level, so, this much price of the milk is also making some amount of profit to them. In view of the fact that cattle rearing is neither seasonal like farming, nor it gets affected by drought or floods thus making dairy farming the second or third largest economic activity in the country along with farming. (Parthasarathy Rao et al, 2004) studied the same issue and is also in agreement with the above mentioned view. Along with organically producing the agriculture products, it ensures sustained source of income to small and medium land holders. Hence, it is very important to suggest that market accessibility to the female farmers is of utmost importance to make them aware about the prevailing prices, so that they can get the best of their produce which sequentially will help in improving their socio-economic condition. In this context, creation of infrastructure in the form of better roads/tracks connectivity and milk co-operative societies for milk collection in rural inaccessible areas is also the suggestive activity, which will help immensely in getting the correct rates of their product. However, streamlining is required to enable women to have equal access to production resources, extension, education and other services to gain skills on modern livestock production technologies.

The data showed that a very few of them want to hand over the property rights to their daughter-in-law. In support to this, it becomes very important to suggest here that the landed property should be handed over to their daughter-in-law. If not independently then at least should be handed over jointly (both son and daughter-in-law). The logic behind such an act is that having gained the landed property rights, farm women left behind in farming will feel even extra motivated to work harder on the piece of land they themselves own.

These suggested steps will help in making a way to improve the socio economic condition of the females.

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