
PHYSICAL PROBLEMS OF FARM WOMEN DURING WEEDING IN ROSE FIELD

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ABSTRACT

Weeding of rose flower field is very mind-numbing work mostly done by women workers during summer season. Physical weeding consumes a lot of energy and time full of exhaustion. The objective of the study was to find out the physical problems of women laborers while engaged in weeding of rose field activity. Total fifty one women were selected for the study. They were aged between 20-60 years. A set of Interview schedule was designed and a body map was used to identify women problems in weeding activity. The findings showed that the cent percent farm women experienced tiredness and pain in all body parts. The 52.9 percent farm women reported pain in body during weeding of rose flower field whereas 29.4 percent farm women felt pain in body during weeding of rose flower field and very minimum 17.6 percent farm women felt pain in body during weeding of rose flower field. 50.9 percent farm women felt moderate pain due to scratches whereas 29.4 percent farm women felt light pain due to scratches and very minimum 19.7 percent farm women felt severe pain due to scratches.

Keywords: Weeding, Rose, Injuries, Impact, Scratches, Fatigue

INTRODUCTION

Rose is the most ancient and popular flower grown the world over. It is a versatile plant adapted to varying climatic conditions. In India, it is cultivated commercially for cut flowers, both for traditional flower market and contemporary florist shops. Rose flowers without stem and loose flower petals are used in traditional markets for making garlands, for offering in temples, while the florist shops sell cut roses with stems mainly for bouquets and floral arrangements. Weeding operation is a major problem for farm women. Majority of the farm women do weed control using hand tools like sickle, khurpi and so on. Therefore, timely weeding is very much essential for a good yield; this can only be achieved by using mechanical weeders which perform simultaneous job of weeding and hoeing and can reduce the time spent on weeding (man hours), cost of weeding and drudgery involved in manual weeding (Goel et al, 2008). Women in India play a major role in shaping the economy of the country. The women work force in agriculture and allied sectors is estimated to be around 92 million which

amounts to 40 per cent of the total rural workers in the country (Singh et al, 2007). As per Census 2011, women constitute 25.51% of the total workforce in the country. The percentage share of women as cultivators, agricultural labourers, workers in household industry and other workers stood at 24.92, 18.56, 2.95 & 47.20%, respectively. Women play pivotal role in agriculture as female agricultural labour, as farmers, co-farmers, female family labours, as farm managers and farm entrepreneurs (Prakash et.al, 2014). Weed control is a major problem for farm women. Majority of the farm women do control weed using hand tools like sickle, khurpi and so on. Though, this method proves useful yet it demands labour and is full of drudgery. During these activities they adopt bending and squatting body posture due to which their physiological workload increases and also they face many types of musculoskeletal problems as a result of which the efficiency of women to work decreases to a great extent.

JUSTIFICATION

Weeding of rose flower field is very unsafe for the farm women because it contains thorn. When women engaged in weeding activity of rose flower field their saree were got damaged, their hand and feet got unbearable pain by scratches. Pain depends upon intensity of scratches. They need to protection from thorn of rose flower. Throughout the day farm women engaged in weeding activity from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. they were taking lunch break for one hour 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. then again they start weeding 2 p.m. to till 5 p.m.in squatting position. Thus the farm women felt joints pain in all body parts.

OBJECTIVE

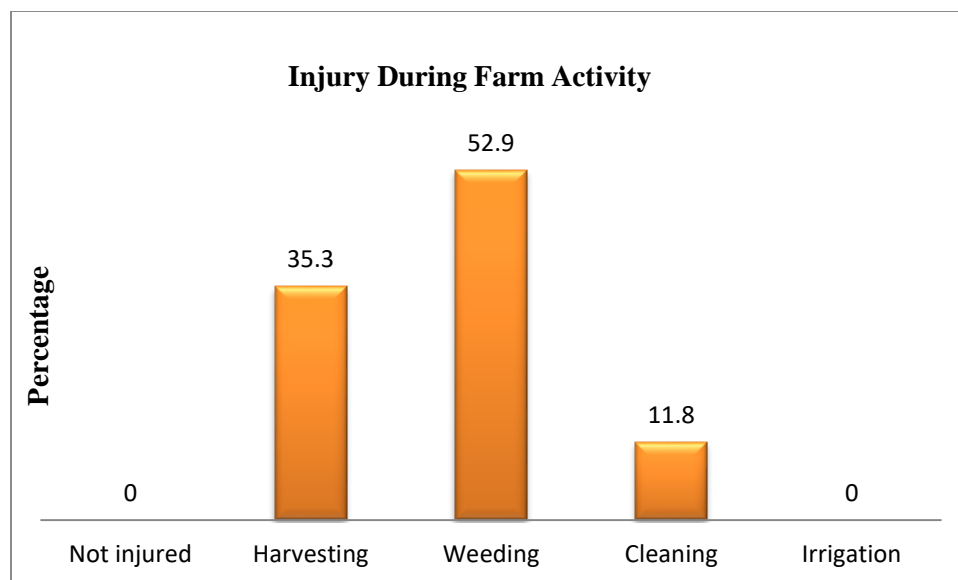
To find out physical problems of farm women during weeding of rose flower field.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study entitled, "Physical problems of farm women during weeding in rose field" was undertaken to study economic status of women labourers. Total 51 farm women were selected from Chaka Block. An interview schedule was used for the data collection as interview involves face to face contact between the subjects and interviewer. An interview schedule is flexible, allowing new questions to be brought up during the interview as a result of what the interviewer says. Keeping this in mind an interview schedule was prepared with both open and closed ended questions for women labour. Questions were arranged in sections as per the objectives of the study. The women labour share their problems related economical status during weeding of rose field. Frequency percentage was calculated for data interpretation.

RESULTS DISCUSSION

Physical injuries are common while performing farm activities. The following table shows the frequency of injuries in harvesting weeding cleaning and irrigation.

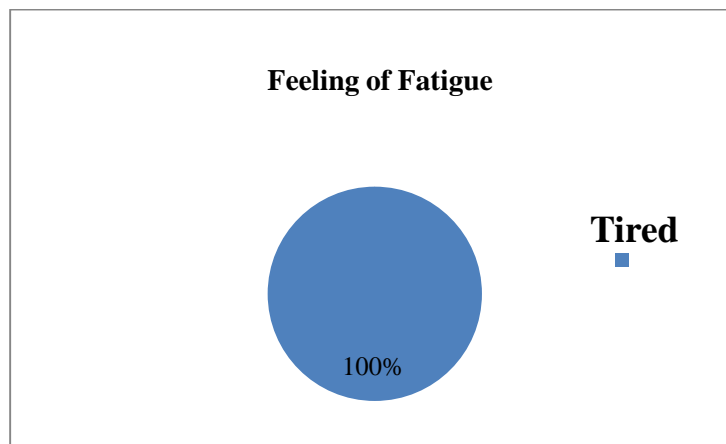


Distribution of farm women according to the frequency of injuries during farming activity

Figure 1- The data presented in Figure 1 reveals that the majority 52.9 percent farm women were injured during weeding activity, 35.3 percent farm women were injured during flower harvesting activity whereas 11.8 percent farm women were injured during cleaning.

Fatigue

The farm women experienced of fatigue during weeding of rose field.

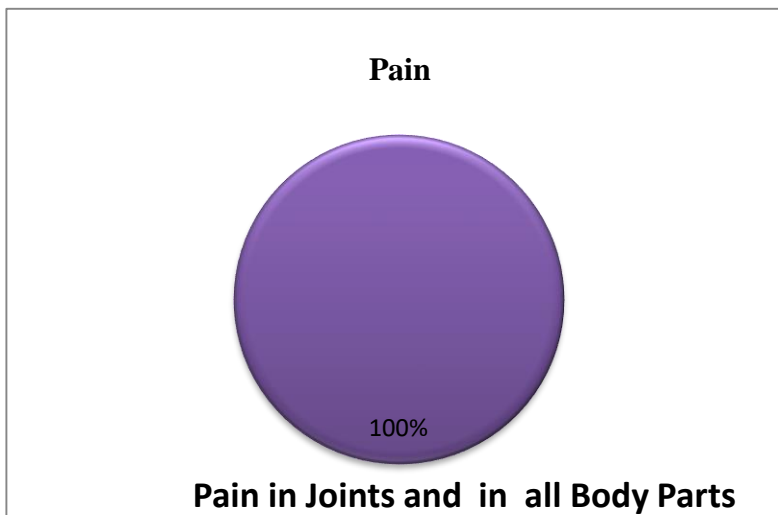


Distribution of farm women according their extent of tiredness due to bending posture weeding activity

Figure 2- The data presented in above Figure 2 reveals that the cent percent farm women felt fatigue while weeding in rose flower fields.

Pain

The farm women felt pain during weeding of rose field.

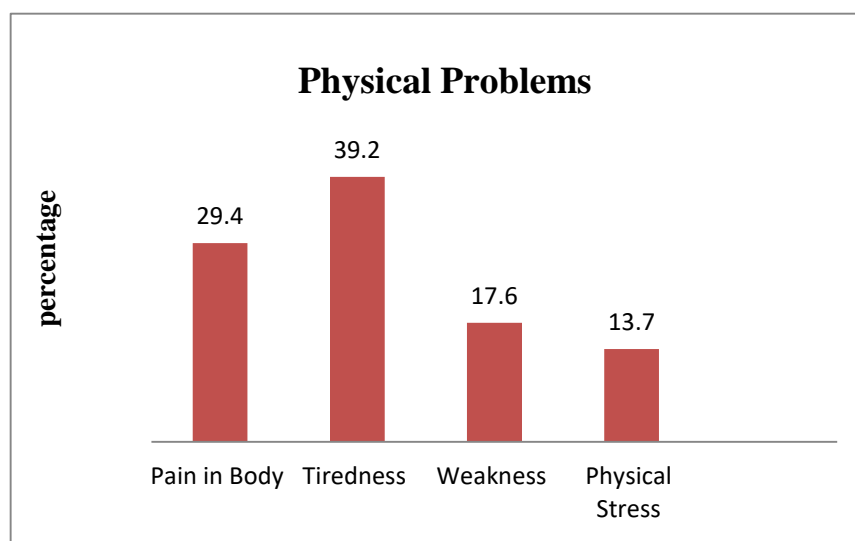


Distributions of women farmer According to Problem in their joints during weeding

Figure 3- The data presented in Figure 3 reveals that cent percent farm women felt pain in joints and in all body parts. No one reported the pain in single joint. Weeding is done in sitting posture and women farmers use to sit and do weeding at 4-5 continuously and reported pressure on their shoulder wrist hands and feet.

Physical Problem

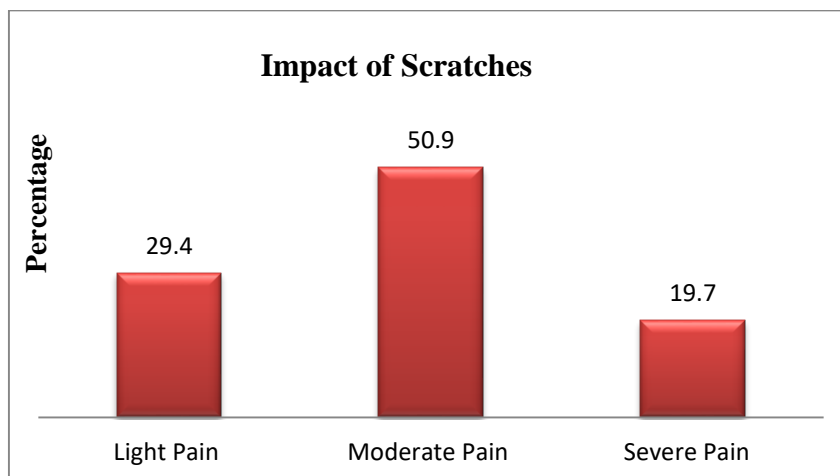
The physical problems were assessed in terms of body pain tiredness, weakness and physical stress.



During weeding of rose field the women farmer were getting scratches in hand and feet

Figure 4 - The data presented in Figure 4 reveals that the 39.2 percent farm women felt tiredness during weeding of rose field whereas 29.4 percent farm women felt pain in body during weeding of rose field and very minimum 13.7 percent farm women felt Physical Stress during weeding of rose field.

Impact of Scratches



Distributions of farm women according to impact of scratches on their feet and hand

Note: pain depends upon number and density of scratches

Figure 5- The data presented in figure 5 reveals that the majority of 50.9 percent farm women reported moderate pain due to scratches whereas 29.4 percent farm women reported light pain and very minimum 19.7 percent farm women reported severe pain due to scratches occurred during weeding activity.

ATCHES IN HAN SCRATCHES IN LEG

TEAR SAREE BY ROSE THORN



Plate - 1



Plate-2



Plate -3

CONCLUSION

The women farmers were facing critical problems during weeding in rose fields. Throughout the day they were weeding the rose fields in squatting posture and facing lots of problem with rose thorns which torn their sarees, and they were getting scratches as well on their hands and legs. Thus they showed the urgent need of protection from all these problems. This also leads to the economic problem, women farmer reported that they used to tear 4-5 Sarees 5 to 6 months. Therefore, there was an urgent need protect them from all these problems during weeding in rose flower field.

ABBREVIATIONS

% Percentage

F Frequency

Fig. Figure

Pt. Plate

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