

**MANAGERIAL ROLE AND STATUS
OF RURAL WOMEN OF KANGRA DISTRICT OF
HIMACHAL PRADESH**

THESIS

By

PRATIBHA PATHAK

Submitted to



**CHAUDHARY SARWAN KUMAR KRISHI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
PALAMPUR-176 062(H.P.) INDIA**

IN

Partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree

OF

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN HOME SCIENCE

(FAMILY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)

(2001)

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**TO
MY
MOST
PRECIOUS
PARENTS**

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CERTIFICATE I

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “**Managerial role and status of rural women of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh**” submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of **Master of Science (Home Science)** in the subject of **Family Resource Management** of Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur is a bonafide research work carried out by **Ms. Pratibha Pathak (H-98-30-06)** daughter of **Shri Ramesh Pathak** under my supervision and that no part of this thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.

The assistance and help received during the course of this investigation have been fully acknowledged.

Kishtwaria 31.5.2001
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Chairperson
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Place : Palampur
Date : May 31, 2001.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*It is my pleasure to express deep sense of gratitude and profound personal regard to my esteemed teacher and Chairperson **Dr. (Mrs.) J. Kishtwaria** (Associate Professor, FRM, College of Home Science) for her excellent and praiseworthy guidance, pertinent criticism, juvenil encouragement and parental affection during whole course of my study and particularly at times of research and preparation of this manuscript.*

*I extend my loyal and venerable thanks to the worthy members of my advisory committee namely **Dr. R.K. Sharma** (Prof. Agril. Economics), **Dr. S.K. Chauhan** (Assistant Prof., Agril. Economics) and **Dr. (Mrs.) Avinash Sharma** (HOD, FRM, College of Home Science) for their inspiring guidance and invaluable suggestions.*

The cooperation provided by the official staff members of College of Home Science are duly acknowledged.

*I seize this opportunity with the personal touch of emotions to express my heartiest and affectionate gratitude to my reverend **Mummy-Papa** and **Chachaji** for their best wishes moral support, constant inspiration which framed the backbone of my life. Really my feelings are incapable in translating the deep indebtedness to them.*

*No expression of thanks will be sufficient without recognition of aid and stimulus provided by friends, I acknowledge them namely **Poonam Singh, Rinku Sharma, Namita Bindu, Raj, Smriti and Uksha**. Finally I feel pleasure to mention the name of a very cute fellow '**Ashu**' for his good wishes, prayers and selfless devotion.*

*The painstaking efforts of **Om Prakash Vashisht** for computerising and critically editing the manuscript are sincerely acknowledged.*

I cordile my thanks to all respondents of the study area for their kind and sincere cooperation without which the study could never have been possible.

Needless to say errors and omissions are mine.


(Pratibha Pathak)

Place : Palampur

Date : May , 2001.

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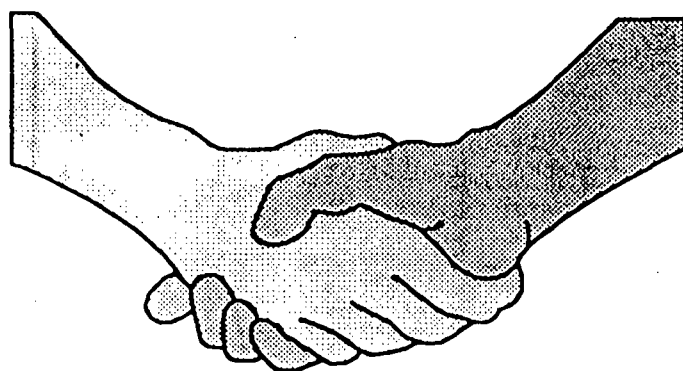
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INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Status is the term used to designate the comparative amount of prestige and respect accorded to persons who have been assigned different roles in groups or community (Lundberg *et al.*, 1958). The managerial responsibilities are duties performed collectively or individually by the family members. Decision-making plays a dominant role in attaining it. The role represents the dynamic aspect of status and both role and status are inseparable (Merton, 1957).

Generally the status of women is measured in terms of levels of income, employment, education, as well as the role played by them in the family and society. The extent of participation in decision-making could alone be the indicator of women's status (Mohanty, 1994). Women's participation in decision-making shall explain their control over household resources. In order to measure the role of women in decision-making process, it is important to know their patterns of participation in decision-making as whether or not they deal it alone or frequently consulted others for making important decisions. A shift from male dominated decisions to joint decisions is a good sign for changing the status of women. It has been observed that women's low rate of participation in decision-making process is responsible for low status (Mann and Mann, 1988). The overall status do not involve a single role but an array of roles termed as role set, which is the compliment of role relationship in which persons are involved by virtue of occupying a particular social status (Merton, 1957). In India, social status of women is resultant of an enormous variety of social conditions and

multiplicity of factors. Since time, women have been subjected to depression, neglect and demoralisation in the society. Their right place was considered to be in the home, attend to kitchen work and rear-up children. However, with the change in their role, status has been accelerated, the women got opportunities to raise their voice against exploitation and discrimination on the basis of sex which hindered their progress and automatically the status. As far as the traditional and cultural values are concerned, no independent status of women has been recognised by Indian society. For assessing their status, various factors like marriage, birth, dowry, multiplicity of spouses and divorce etc. need to be examined. Various research studies report that there is gender discrimination towards females right from their birth, feeding, rearing practices, education, marriage, employment etc.

The percentage of married females in Himachal Pradesh in lower age of 15-19 years is 31.54 as compared to 43.44 per cent for the entire country both in rural and urban areas. The average age of married women is 16.8 years in Himachal Pradesh (Wonder land Himachal Pradesh, 1997). Women in Himachal Pradesh perform almost every kind of agricultural operations like weeding, transplanting, harvesting, threshing, winnowing etc. They also tend a helping hand in other small scale industries like rope and basket making, pottery and handloom work. These multifarious duties add more responsibility of work to them. Their effort is always to enhance the allround development of family.

1.1 Scope of the study

Women constitute half of population in our country and around 77 per cent of total female population resides in rural areas. Most of the women in rural areas are engaged for major part of the day in household work and many of them spend time to take part in various

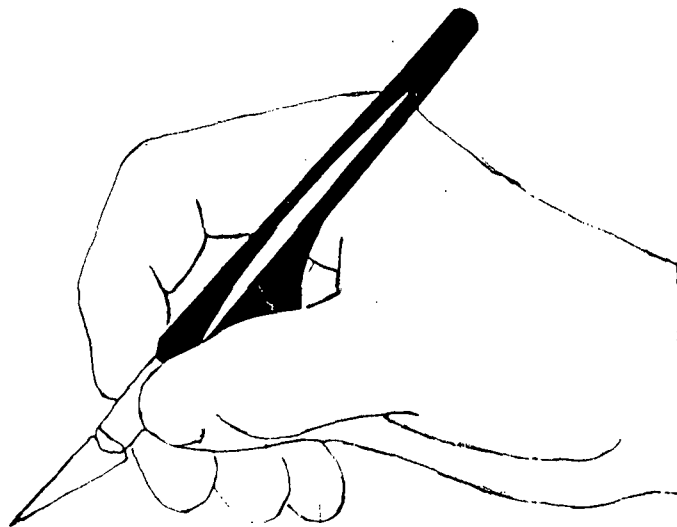
economic activities. Thus, the burden shared by women is two fold, one, on the domestic front and other on the economic front. Hence, there is great need to pay attention on their role performance and status accorded in family as well as in society.

Various government institutions and social organisations are working for women development. Women are the key factors in change and development of society. "In order to awaken the people, it is the women who have to be awakened" (Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Yojana, 1988). It is true that theoretically, women are given equal status with men but practically their status is very low in comparison to men.

Keeping all these aspects in mind the present study has been framed to elicit answers to the questions as to what is the role played by women of the state in family and society, what is the extent of their participation in decision-making, what are the other factors which accord her status, what is the perception of menfolk of the Himachal Pradesh regarding the status of women and finally to determine the overall status of women. The study has been framed with following specific objectives:

1.2 Objectives

1. To identify the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of rural women and their households.
2. To study the extent of women participation in managerial role in reference to decision-making in household, agricultural and allied activities.
3. To determine the status of rural women in family and society.
4. To know the opinion of menfolk about status of rural women.



**REVIEW
OF
LITERATURE**

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter presents the review of literature related to various aspects of status of women, in order to gain insight on the methodological aspects and results. The literature collected from research reports, thesis and books etc. concluded in India and abroad, relevant to the present study has been grouped under the following sub-heads:

- 2.1 Managerial role and status of women
- 2.2 Factors affecting status of women

2.1 Managerial role and status of women

For assessing the status of women various aspects like social structure, women's role and cultural value systems need to be examined. The role represents the dynamics of status and both role and status are inseparable. Thus, the aspect, managerial role and status are further grouped under the following sub-heads:

- 2.1.1 Demographic characteristics.
- 2.1.2 Women's participation in work and decision-making related to household, agricultural and allied activities.
- 2.1.3 Choice of career and participation in labour force.

2.1.1 Demographic characteristics

Regarding economic contribution of household rural women to family income it was observed by Rana (1986) that there was marked difference in the economic contribution of farming and non-farming families. The women of farming families contributed more to the family income in the activities like meal preparation, dish washing, washing of clothes than the non-farming women. The socio-personal factors affecting the use of time on household activities were age, education of households, type and size of family, occupation of the family and number of other female members present in the family.

Kanitkar (1988) studied the aspirations of decision-makers for the education of girls in Bihar and reported that very striking differences between the educational aspirations for boys and girls in rural areas of Bihar were noticed. The aspirations for girls were invariably lower. There were still some men and women who were of the opinion that there is no need to educate children. However, the responses indicating no education for girls were eight times higher than those indicating no education for the boys. The study further found a sizeable number of respondents (23 per cent) in the rural areas and about 10 per cent in the urban areas who were of the opinion that the girls should be given only the minimum education which would make them just literate.

Verma (1990) examined that caste, age, education, income, employment and type of family had significant impact on their traditional behaviour pattern, nature and extent of help received for discharging different household activities and participation in decision-making process. Higher caste respondents from higher income groups with 26-35 years of age had higher status in the family.

Zend and Harode (1991) investigated factors influencing participation of housewives in decision-making and found that education of housewives influenced their extent of participation in decision-making regarding financial allocation, saving, children's education and purchasing practices. Factors such as age affected decision-making related to family income while family size and income made impact on decision-making related to child education. Housewives belonging to age group of 21 to 30 years and 51 to 60 years recorded low participation in decision-making related to financial allocation.

In a study conducted by Yasmin (1992) on role performance of rural housewives and expectation of mothers-in-law in rural area of Varanasi district reported that only 10 per cent women were working outside the home while 90 per cent ladies were house wives. In case of role performance it was found that with the advancement of age, of the homemaker, her authority, status and recognition in the family increased and some home activities were delegated to her daughters. It was also found that involvement of higher caste women was greater (72.08 per cent) in case of child care activities. The role performance for lower caste women was highest for livelihood activities. It was also observed that in case of nuclear families women's participation in social programmes was higher than that of joint families.

Pandey (1994) studied the demographic characteristics of tribal and non-tribal females and reported that literacy among non-tribal females was more than double as compared to the literacy among the tribal females. Similarly, only two per cent tribal females were found to be educated above primary level as compared to 8 per cent among the non-tribal females. In case of marriage it was observed that percentage of males marrying below the prescribed age at marriage (21 years) was 86.7 per cent among the tribals and 81.2 per cent among the non-

tribals. Similarly the percentage of females marrying below the prescribed age (18 years) were 85 per cent and 86 per cent, for tribal and non-tribals respectively.

2.1.2 Women's participation in work and decision making related to household, agricultural and allied activities

Bascug (1981) studied the decision-making and leadership patterns of rural women in two villages of Philippines and reported that the independent decision of the wife was more concentrated in the household financial aspect of children's education, sending/fetching the children from the school. Choice making was observed in the areas of selection of the best school to enrol, seeking of frequent advice on family planning, farm-economic burden of allotting money, acquisition of budget, handling of finances and listing of farm expenses, community organisational affiliation and involvement in the rural projects and development programmes.

Awasthy (1982) stated that the decision-making role of women in Jammu was limited to purchase of articles of food consumption, directly needed clothing, repair of home and such other needs which were basic for their existence. But in nuclear families, the involvement of women was found to be more intensive.

Bajwa (1984) reported that the participation of husband and wife both in children's education was higher in comparison to women or men alone. Amongst ladies, mothers had more say in the items like children's education, selection of school, sending the children to nursery school. Mother-in-law, sister-in-law had no say in children's education. In all the aspects of settlement of children, only menfolk dominated. Men decided 49.33 per cent and 58 per cent cases of marriage and occupations of children respectively. Men's alone decision-making was higher than women and husband-wife both in above issues. In case of expenditure

on marriage, time of marriage, it was again the percentage of husband and wife jointly was higher in comparison to men and women alone. The women had no say in the money matters like fixed deposits, giving money on interest and buying land. In buying house and furniture, 56.67 per cent women shared with their husbands in making decisions.

An attempt was made by Nimbalkar and Thorat (1984) to examine the decision-making choice in the rural family and it was observed that most of the decisions regarding household and agricultural matters were taken up by the family head alone. It was also observed that in agricultural matters the head of the families took joint decision with his son to a certain extent since the son has to take the responsibility of the farm management after his father. In about 14 to 18 per cent cases, the wives were consulted for only household matters. The wives were not being involved for taking independent or joint decisions in agricultural matters.

Singh and Singh (1984) reported that rural women were involved in joint decision making in most of the farm enterprises. Farming couples were found seeking information from sources which they felt were credible. Preferential ranks differed in case of husband and wife. Farmers preferred village level workers, neighbourers and progressive farmers, whereas, farm women preferred neighbourers, friends, relatives and progressive farm women as their most credible sources in order of importance.

All India Coordinated Research Project (1985) report of Haryana Agricultural University reported that joint decisions were prevalent in majority of households regarding purchase of food materials, clothing, repair and maintenance of house, storage and care of

farm produce, purchase of household equipments, purchase of milch animals and sale of milk while in those related to agricultural activities husband was the dominant decision maker.

The extent of participation of women in agriculture and allied enterprises was examined by Azad *et al.* (1985) and reported that among various farm operations, transplanting of nursery was the most important in which women participated extensively. The other important farm operations were weeding and harvesting. The participation of women in agriculture and allied activities as wage earners was confined only to the female workers of scheduled castes. Besides working as wage earners the female workers were also engaged in the maintenance of their milch cattle and in the procurement of fodder and grains for them.

Participation of rural women in decision-making on farm and home aspects in Dharwad District of Karnataka State, were studied by Badiger and Rao (1985) and found that the farm women participated independently more in home areas, while their husband's independent participation was almost the same in both farm and home areas. It was also observed that joint decisions were high in both the areas, being somewhat greater in farm than in home areas.

Rural women had supportive role in most of the agricultural decisions. Moreover they could also play active role in purchase of livestock, fertilizers and selection of market for the sale of milk products, livestock and farm produce as reported by Pandey (1986).

Secma (1986) found in her study that more than 50 per cent of women respondents perceived six areas of decision-making as very important viz., purchase and sale of land, storage of agricultural produce, marketing of agricultural produce, care and management of animals, family budget and children's education. Independent decisions were made in storage

and marketing of produce. A majority of respondents participated in implementing the decisions on storage, marketing and animal management. Attitude of women towards their status and extent of participation in implementing decisions were positively correlated.

Singla and Goel (1986) studied the decision making practices with respect to household expenditure. The result of study showed that the expenditure on food management, household furnishings, children education, clothing for the family, transportation, savings and investments, ceremonies and festivals were jointly decided by husband, wife and their grown up children present in family. They also reported that in majority of the cases, decisions were independently taken by men in nuclear families whereas more joint decisions were taken in joint families. Women's participation in decision-making was least in both types of families.

A case study on the role of women in rural Burma was conducted by Than (1986). He observed that the majority of rural women participated in agricultural activities although some had broken the traditional pattern of occupations by working as office workers, nurses, teachers and factory workers. About 90 per cent of the respondents were literate compared with 70 per cent for all Burma. The respondents spent 8.5 hours and 5.75 hours respectively in agricultural and non-agricultural season in household activities. The women in the sample, shared almost equally with the men in decision-making in areas such as health, education and some household social activities. There were some indications that they were extending their role in decision-making to agriculture, which were traditionally considered a male domain.

In a study on participation of rural women in Haryana Agriculture, Pandey *et al.* (1988) observed that percentage of women to total family members employed on the farm decreased with the size of holding, but large farms had relatively higher employment of female

labour than small and medium farms. Rural women worked between 9 to 14 hours a day but in general had only a supportive role in agricultural decisions. The size of operational holding and ratio of crops to total cropped area was positively and significantly related to the employment of rural women.

Singh (1988) reported that upper class women rarely worked as farm labourers. It was found that 96.44 per cent women were illiterate. Further 55.11 per cent women looked after their children themselves and 23.11 per cent responded that their children were looked after by the family members and also 15 per cent women carried their children to the field. The husband's opinion regarding their wives who were gainfully employed was positive in 91.11 per cent cases. Women participated in household work such as house cleaning, cooking, home dairy, fetching water from the wells, household washing, food processing, child care (93.33 per cent).

Participation of young women in decision making about managerial responsibilities in rural and urban households was studied by Bal (1989). Findings showed that participation of young women in decision-making was active in food management, clothing management, home decoration, social ceremonies, health, hygiene, recreational activities and educational decisions.

While examining the role of women in vegetable cultivation, Rani (1989) reported that in Haryana, women did every kind of field work except using the plough. They helped the men in preparing the field for sowing, weeding, hoeing, winnowing, picking cotton, plucking maize cobs and stripping sugarcane before crushing, carrying heavy load of fodder crops, putting the foodgrains in stores and looking after these to avoid any damage. The activities done only by

women were cooking food, caring children, managing water and feed, looking after the animals houses, filling the manure in the pits and making cow-dung cake.

Kumar *et al.* (1990) studied the role of housewives in decision-making with respect to home making and found that both the parents had equal role in decision-making. Men took decisions on matters such as taking of loan and marketing of products, the women took decisions on purchase of household items and food items. It was concluded that house wives had an important role in family decision-making process.

Punia and Yadav (1990) conducted a study on the role of women in farm decision-making and concluded that farm women did not decide independently about any farm operation but participated in almost all the decisions and dominated in the decisions more related to home sphere i.e. storage of farm produce, purchase/sale of animals and credit. It was observed that the complexity of practice, family type and stage of family affected her participation and role.

It was examined by Seetharam (1992) that women played an important role in agricultural production, animal husbandry and other related activities such as storage and marketing of produce, food processing etc. He also examined that the women spent almost 10-12 hours per day in household chores. About 54 per cent of rural women and 26 per cent of urban women were engaged in marginal occupations in order to suppliment the family income.

Patel *et al.* (1995) studied the extent of participation of rural women in decision-making related to farm, business, animal husbandry, household expenditure, education and marriage of children. The results showed that the majority (71 per cent) of the rural women

alone made the decision on storage of grains for home consumption and other purposes. On the other hand, decision on animal husbandry activities, expenditure pattern, and education and marriage of children were made jointly by women and their husbands in a majority of cases. It was also observed that decision on cropping pattern and marketing of produce was made by husband alone in the majority of cases.

In a study Meng and Meng (1996) reported that in China almost 55 million women had moved to the non-agricultural sector and even more stayed on the land as independent labourers replacing the men who had left. Women became the main force in agricultural production, had taken control of both agricultural production and of household affairs. They had gained independence in decision making capacities for farm management and for family and community life in general.

Bala *et al.* (1996) reported that the participation of rural women in decision-making was of supportive nature, except in the case of decisions related to household in Kangra district of H.P. Socio-economic factors influenced the participation in joint and independent decision-making.

The impact of rural women of Pakistan on decision-making was observed by Nasreen *et al.* (1996). They found that majority of respondents felt that husbands should have dominant role in important decisions in family matters. A very few respondents were not satisfied with their role as housewives.

Dash (2000) studied the role of women in decision-making on farm activities and reported that the women are generally consulted more for selected agricultural decision like amount of grains to be used, stored and sold, getting credit and its repayment, employment of

family and casual labour for operations like sowing, weeding and harvesting, use of new variety seeds, selling and buying of new cattle and land/property, buying new equipments etc. It was also observed that women's role in farm management and other decision-making process was highest where they were heads of household or some times where the male members migrate to cities for better earning purpose.

2.1.3 Choice of career and participation in labour force

An attempt was made by Dayal *et al.* (1982) to examine the comparative attitude of employed and non employed women regarding labour force participation. It was observed that comparatively high percentage of employed respondents (83.33 per cent) than non employed respondents (68.33 per cent) favoured employment of women. The most common reason in favour of female employment given by both employed and non-employed respondents was the addition to the family income. Most of the respondents agreed that women can run private enterprises successfully because they are good managers like men.

Francis (1995) studied on migration and changing division of labour: gender relations and economic change in Koguta, Western Kenya. It was reported that small land holders increasingly had to find off-farm employment in rural areas to supplement remittances from migrant spouses, men who were unable to fulfill their role as breadwinner are increasingly allowing their wives to become traders. Ultimately, women were shouldering responsibility for household production. When considering differentiation it was noticed that for some rural women the process of impoverishment and accumulation at the household level meant that they were now more dependent on their husbands and had lost control of their decision making. Other women had been cut off from access to male income and had become

substantially independent of male authority. In some households, where men were still resident, they had appreciated their wives farm labour power, in others, the women managed the farm on their own account and in yet others a division of gardens, crops and crop income has been negotiated.

A study was conducted by Dayal and Pandey (1986) to judge the role of rural women in farm and household activities. It was found that rural women in the district of Barabanki participated in household activities to a greater extent than farm activities. Women from lower castes with no land performed more work than their counterparts from different castes. Those that owned land from the low income category performed more work in the farm than in the house.

Khandker (1987) analysed the labour supply of rural Bangladeshi women and reported that the work participation of rural married women in Bangladesh was not responsive to local customs but was partially influenced by economic constraints. Husband's education, pre-marriage asset and household current holding had a significant impact on the probability of labour market participation for producing cash income.

Indira (1990) studied the women enterprenurers in the slums of Hyderabad and found that most of the women were involved in business activities of their own such as vegetable vending or other such independent business earning a meagre income of Rs.300/month. More of them did not earn sufficient income to run the family, hence majority of them lived below the poverty line. It was also found that a majority of the women enterprenurers seemed to have some decision making authority within the family. The study clearly showed that inspite of all the governmental efforts and programmes for the betterment of the conditions of these

entrepreneurs there was a dearth of proper guidance and training facilities for women. Another major problem faced by majority of the women entrepreneurs was lack of finance.

A study conducted by Thomas and Khan (1990) reported that some women participated in economically gainful work but along with their husbands. In terms of occupational pattern it was found that nearly 3 to 4 per cent of women beneficiaries were housewives and rest engaged in either daily wage work (13 per cent). In case of socio-cultural and political affairs it was observed that those who were active in community affairs were better informed about development programmes and were able to benefit from them. In case of political participation, it was found that 96 per cent of women beneficiaries were falling in low level of participation.

Malathi (1991) estimated wage and labour supply functions of married women. The result revealed that wife's education, age and wage rate had a positive impact on labour participation. Husband's wage, asset income, children below 7 years and children in the age group of 8 to 19 had negative impact on the probability of labour participation. Labour supply was found to be sensitive to husband's wage, non earned income. Children had a negative impact on annual hours work supplied to the market, while education and wage rate had a positive and significant on annual hours of worked.

An attempt was made to examine the planning and plight of female rural labour in India by Singh and Singh (1991) in reference to composition, distribution, wage rates and earnings of the female rural labour over time at all India level. They stated that the paid employment was taken into account but the contribution of women in non-market production was left-out. It was noticed that the society's attitude, values and biases were the main

reasons for under estimation of women's work. They pointed out that every day women had to work for at least 12 to 14 hours including domestic work but a women was captured as a worker only to the extent that the output of her task entered the exchange net work. Thus their activities namely cooking, cleaning, washing, dung work etc. alongwith their outside work on family farm were not enumerated as their economic contribution.

In many families women come to work to lead better life. It was reported by Vasanthi (1992). She stated that analysis of the income and expenditure position of such families had depicted no other way than to borrow money unless they worked at least for 25 days in a month. Many workers spent 90 per cent of their income on food as a result they could not spare any money for clothing. The percentage of illiteracy was 80 per cent and among rest women were educated upto middle standard. Women earner's outside work ended within 6 hours but they had to continue their days work in the house also. The constraints of working women were examined by the Yadav *et al.* (1988). They found that the personal constraints of working women were over work, negligence of duties, feeling fatigue after returning from the job. This was because of fact that besides the household and employment activities, she had to take care of animal related activities also.

2.2 Factors affecting status of women

In India women have been given equal right to the men yet their status is low in comparison to men. There are so many obstacles in their path of progress and development. In this section review focusses light over those factors which hinders the women's path of development.

Al-Hariri (1987) studied on women's education in Saudi Arabia and reported that Islam encourages both men and women to obtain education and makes no specific statements about the separation of men and women in the field of education, but insists on keeping women in a position that ensures a stable family life. These Islamic tenets underlie Saudi Arabia's educational policy. The first International conference for Islamic education (Mecca, 1977) recommended further that girls' education should be separated from boys and suggested a special system for girls education based on scientific thought and with consideration of the nature of women and what society needed from women's services.

Barbic (1987) studied on women's issues in rural Europe. The result showed that the interior position of women regarding legal and economic rights was portrayed and it was noted that there were many essential similarities between western European Countries and those socialist countries with family farms. Important reasons explaining women's inequality related to cultural tradition, lack of education, lack of time, motherhood and family duties prevented them from participating fully in decision making.

In a study conducted by Chargulu and Reddy (1987) concluded that the lack of basic needs of the women in the backward villages were greater than those in the developed villages. Further there was an increasing awareness of the need for better education, health, hygiene and the explorative and supportive nature of the system. Finally there was a very strong mentality among rural women, they actually preferred to depend on men in several aspects of home and social life, but also had a strong desire to participate in public activities to gain equal status. It was recommended that efforts to emancipate women should be directed

towards organizing, building awareness and collective action, in order to achieve real changes in the status and role of rural women.

It was examined by Kabir *et al.* (1987) that cooperative programme aimed at providing more reliable sources of income to women and exposed them to modern influences outside the family and its patriarchal structures. Independent income earning opportunities by women were likely to improve their position within the family and to ensure them greater participation in family decision-making processes. The cultural biases against women working outside the home were gradually changing, largely due to the increased need for them to go out to work as poverty and landlessness had mounted.

Ciriappa (1988) reported that even in the traditional society women's participation in various field has necessitated a changing image of women. The role and status of women changed according to the different variables such as economic and social development process and the influence of science and technology and modernisation.

Singh *et al.* (1988) found that the pattern of work and role distribution (division of labour) between males and females had so many direct and indirect effects. Firstly it hindered the acceptability of improved agricultural technology because the real workers were different from the real decision-makers. The extension agent approached only the males and thus the communication of message about the improved agricultural practices to real worker became indirect and less effective.

Navachinda and Pitak (1990) examined the status of rural women and found that age of women, self sacrifice for social work, free choice to make selection, high education, high

decision-making on social activities ability in home management and time spent in domestic, social and economic activities lead to status of rural women.

Bryant (1991) studied and investigated the barriers experienced by rural women that led to their restricted access to participation in decision-making within the rural policy of community of the south Australian department of Agriculture. Access points were examined in an attempt to identify the extent of involvement of women within the rural policy. It was found that the identified barriers were attitudes towards women, time, lack of knowledge and information, lack of confidence, lack of child care facilities, absence of female networks, closed male net works, costs and isolation. The major strategies identified by rural women to increase their participation included method to increase women's knowledge of system and access points and workshops to increase self confidence and gain skills.

A study on role expectation, role perception and role performance of farm women was conducted by Kaur (1991). She reported that farm women were performing all the activities related to agriculture from pre-sowing to storage of grains as well as they perform household activities such as dairy. The expectations of husband, mother in law, father in law, mother and father were on a higher side as compared to role performance and role perception of farm women. However, in some of the activities like preparation of land, buying of seed, buying of fruits, vegetables and cooking, and rearing children, role expectation was on lower side as compared to role performance of the farm women.

Oluwoye (1991) studied rural women of South wales and reported that women's satisfaction with their living was strongly influenced by culture. Their satisfaction with their living was further correlated to their marital status, education and income. Majority of women

were engaged in multiple socio-economic activities. This multiplicity of work resulted in loss of linkage in their economic activities.

Basu (1992) compared status of women in northern and southern regions of India. Status of women was indicated by exposure to outside world and autonomy in decision-making place of delivery of children. The data revealed a radical change in women's exposure to the world and autonomy in decision-making with their increased education and participation in labour force.

Malhi *et al.* (1992) observed that neglect of female children was particularly pronounced in where women had limited access to valued resources such as education and employment. They also found that employment opportunities for women increased and more women entered the labour market due to economic compulsion rather than choices. The patriarchal control of men over women might gradually loosen and the cultural barriers limiting the role of women might themselves undergo change.

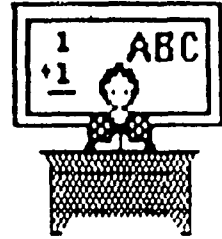
Samal (1993) reported that the women of central Himalaya invested their time in productive systems that they had made an integral part of their culture in respect of their high economic status, literacy and social standing. It would be beyond the thought pattern of women. Hard work can not be equated to inferior status. The enterprising nature of women in central Himalaya was perpetuated through culture totally in balance with the production system and social heritage. It could rather be considered as an adaptable relationship between the communities and their environment dependent on demographic and socio-cultural structures.

Akther *et al.* (1995) examined the status of rural women in Bangladesh, in terms of role in agriculture, income generating activities and decision making. They found that the women's working day was between nine and thirteen hours. Most of these working hours were employed in economic and expanded economic activities. However, the productivity of economic activities such as livestock raising and kitchen gardening was very low, mainly due to lack of technical knowledge. It is concluded that if women from small, marginal and landless farm households were trained in improved techniques they could raise their income levels.

A study regarding awareness of rural women was conducted by Chaudhary (1995). He reported that women (in Chikkoroda Village) were discouraged to participate in various development programmes by their men folk. Neither the women were encouraged to get education nor to get scope to widen their outlook and obligations. They were only confined within the four walls of their houses and were subjected under the control of male members. In economic, educational, health and political life, their participation was very negligible.

Hoa (1997) reported that in Vietnam from a gender view point, the speeding up of the process of the economic restructuring had created opportunities for the development of rural women, while at the same time presented them with challenges. The development of industrial zones on the outskirts of cities had attracted a large number of young rural women while their income might have increased, these women still faced challenges due to their low educational level, their poor awareness of their values to the general development of the society and their general inferiority complex.

Mathur (1997) presented a paper on 'some thoughts on women, environment and development, at the international conference on co-operative Development and Peace in Asia, held at the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh in March, 1997. The author highlighted that the best guarantee for sustainability of development was greater self reliance of women. This implied, allowing women to have greater control, greater recognition and greater ability to define and to respond to their needs and perspective. They should be given the opportunity to be able to influence social choices and decisions affecting them and their environment. Planners and implementers must ensure that the relationship with decision makers in the programmes can be changed to allow women to act as definers or creators of programmes. Women's perception of their needs and problems should go back into the system. They should help in prioritising resource allocation.



MATERIAL
AND
METHODS

CHAPTER III

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The fidelity of research enquiries depends upon the appropriate methodological approach followed. This chapter has been devoted to spell out the methodology adopted and the various tools employed to accomplish the present investigation under the following sub-heads.

- 3.1 Research design
- 3.2 Variables
- 3.3 Operational definitions
- 3.4 Description of the instrument
- 3.5 Description of the study area
- 3.6 Selection of sample
- 3.7 Data collection
- 3.8 Analysis of data
- 3.9 Limitations of the study

3.1 Research design

Descriptive type of survey design was adopted to achieve the objectives of the present investigation.

3.2 Variables

1) Dependent variable

a) Status of women

- i) Decision making (in household, agricultural and allied activities)
- ii) Other indicators of status

2) Independent variables

a) Personal variables

- i) Age of respondents.
- ii) Education of respondents
- iii) Employment status
- iv) Marital status

b) Family variables

- i) Family type
- ii) Main family occupation
- iii) Caste
- iv) Size of land holding
- v) Income of the family

c) Situational variable

- i) Participation in community development programmes.

3.3 Operational definitions

3.3.1 Managerial role

In the context of present study managerial role is conceptualized in terms of women's role in decision-making in the areas of household, agricultural and allied activities.

3.3.2 Decision making

It is a process of evaluation in choice or resolution of alternatives. In this study, decision-making has been considered in terms of their participation in the activity by their own choice and also with their family members.

3.3.3 Status of women

For the present study 'Status' is conceptualized in terms of managerial responsibilities, freedom enjoyed and appreciation of their work in family and society.

3.4 Description of the instrument

Quantification of status of women has been done on the basis of selected indicators of status as:

- I) Women's participation in decision-making (Main indicator of status)
- II) Other indicator of status

Interview schedule was used to collect the data. The body of schedule consisted of different parts as described below :

Section I

This section included the personal characteristics like age, education, employment status, marital status and income of the respondents and their husbands. This section also consisted of questions regarding background information of the family and its characteristics

like caste, family type, family size, main family occupation, family income, land holding size and livestock inventory etc.

Section II

Questions related to elicit the information about the participation of respondents in decision-making in different aspects of household, agricultural and allied activities were incorporated in this section.

Section III

In this section questions were framed to get information about the actual position of women in family and society. The questions were based on the following indicators of status (other indicators):

- a) Assistance of family members while discharging family responsibilities.
- b) Freedom enjoyed in use of family income.
- c) Observation of social customs and rituals.
- d) Choice of career and participation in labour force.
- e) Participation in social and community activities.

Section IV

It included questions framed to know the opinion of menfolk regarding the status of women, that leading to the status of women.

Pre-testing

Pre-testing of interview schedule was carried out in order to make it more appropriate, so that desired information could be collected and suggestions of the respondents could be incorporated regarding the clarity of the schedule. Ten female and five male respondents were

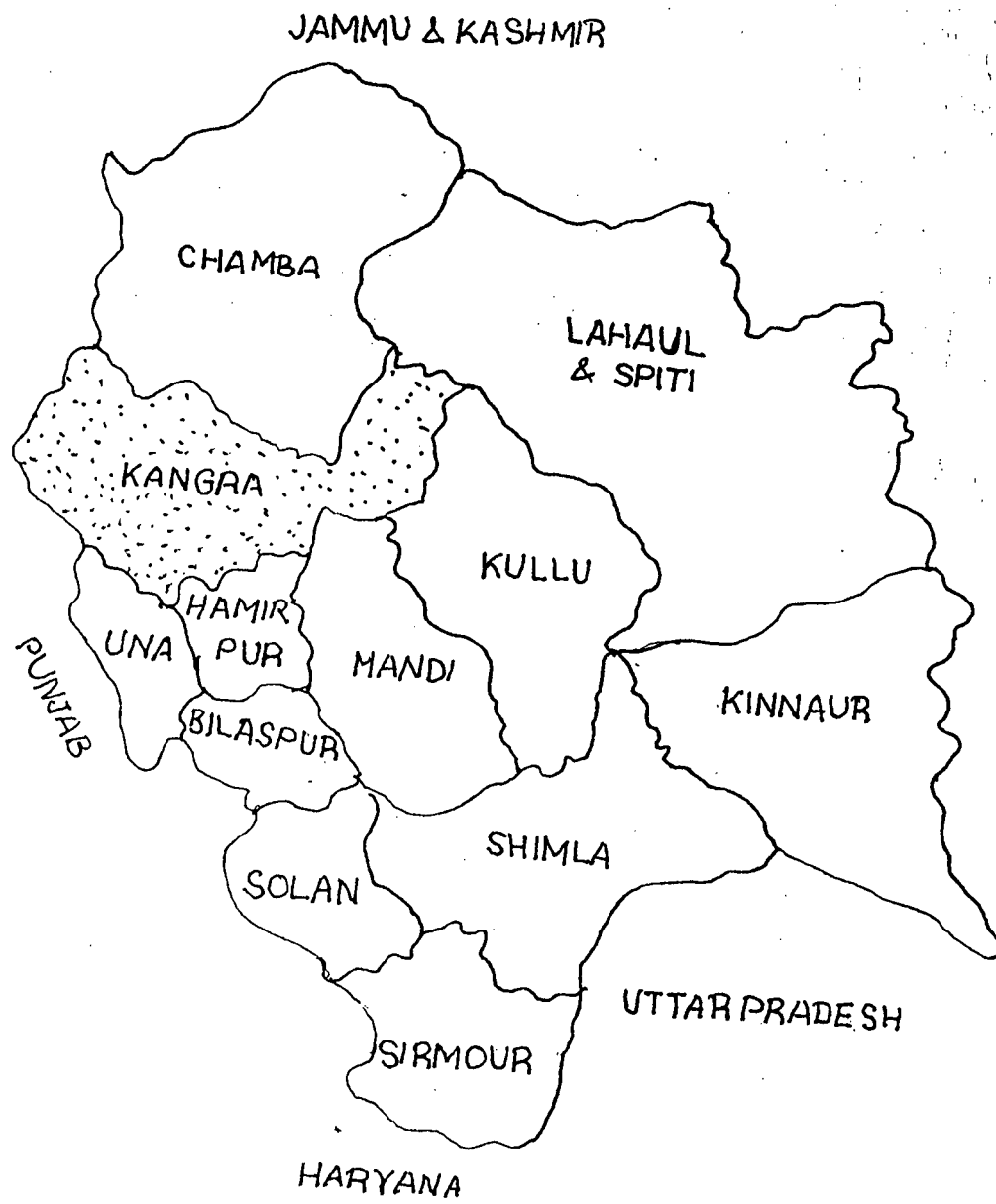


Fig. 3.1 Map of Himachal Pradesh

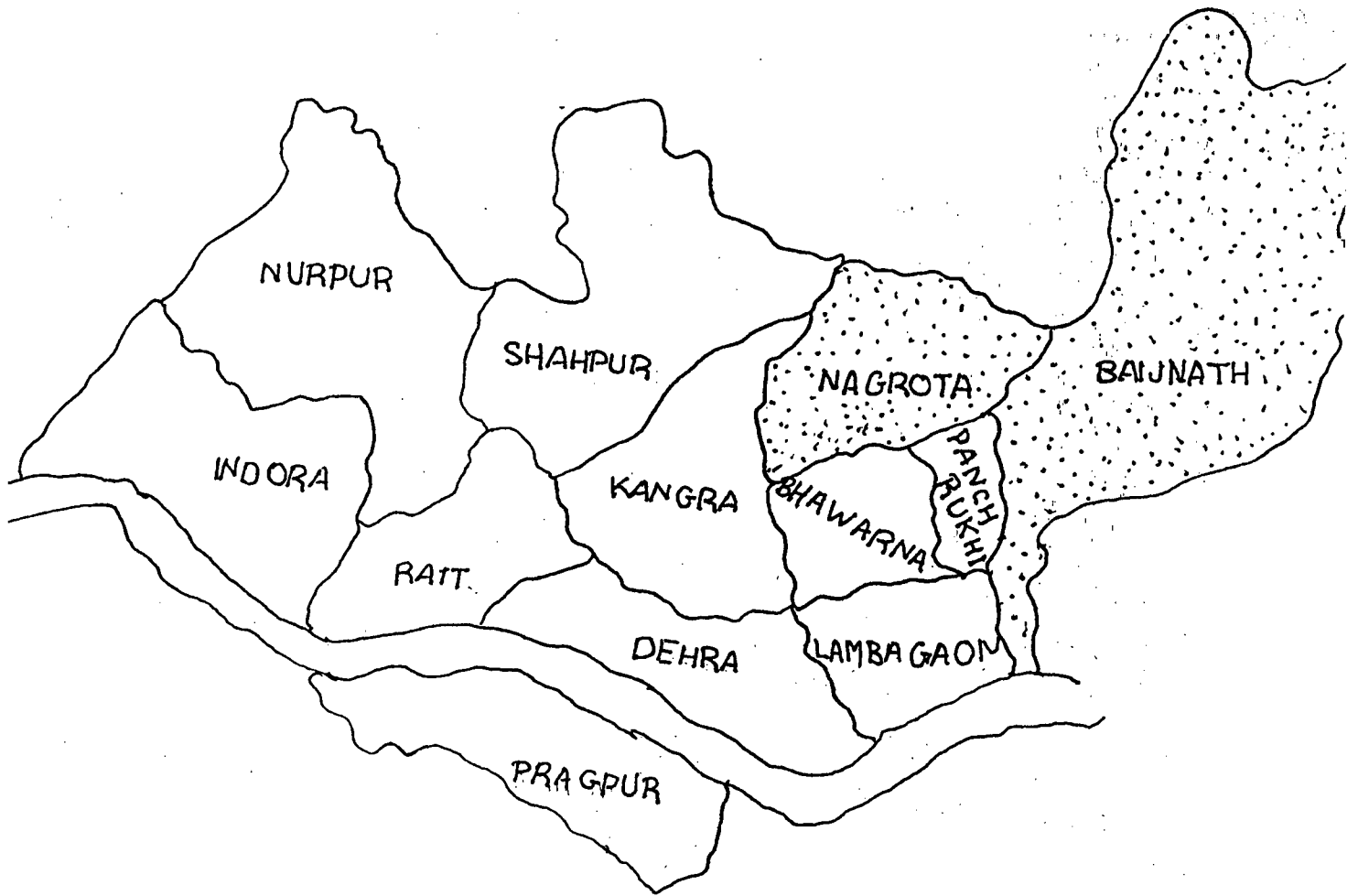


Fig. 3.2 Selected blocks of Kangra district

interviewed randomly from non-sampled area prior to actual data collection. On the basis of response elicited from them, some of the questions which proved ambiguous or difficult were modified and reframed.

3.5 Description of the study area

Himachal Pradesh is a north western state of India, located in 30°22' to 33°12' N latitude and 75°45' to 79°04' 20" E longitude. Its altitude ranges from 350 m to 6,975 m above mean sea level. Kangra district of this state was selected for present investigation. It is composed of 14 development blocks and having same number of tehsils.

3.5.1 Location

Kangra district lies between 39°40' to 32°25' east longitude and 75°35' to 77°05' north latitude. It is bounded by Una district in south-west, Gurdaspur of Punjab State in north-west, Lahaul and Spiti and Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh in north, Kullu and Mandi district in the east, while it touches Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh in the south.

3.5.2 Area and land utilization

The Kangra district is having a geographical area of 585 thousand hectares. The net sown area is 120.60 thousand hectares. The total cropped area in the district constituted 23 per cent of the total cropped area in the state. The net irrigated area is 132.50 thousand hectares.

3.5.3 Demographic features

On the basis of 1991 Census, the population of Kangra district was 11,74,072 which accounted for about 23 per cent of the state population (Table 3.1). The percentage of population living in the rural and urban areas of this district is about 95 and 5 per cent,

respectively as compared to 91 and 9 per cent for the state as a whole. Out of the total population (11,74,072) there are 5,80,021 males and 5,94,051 females. The density of the population of the district (205 persons/km²) was more than double as compared to the state average of 93 persons/square km. In terms of sex ratio, the females outnumbered males (1024 females per thousand males) in contrast to less females i.e. 976 per thousand of males in Himachal Pradesh. The literacy rate occupied the second place from the top as it accounted for 50 per cent for the whole district population. The Literacy rates for both males and females were higher in this district (80.12 per cent for males and 61.39 per cent for females) than the state average of 75.36 per cent for males and 52.13 per cent for females.

Table 3.1 Demographic features of Kangra district vis-a-vis Himachal Pradesh

Sr. No.	Particulars	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra
1.	Population (in Lakhs)		
	a) Male	26.18	5.80
	b) Female	25.53	5.94
	c) Total	51.71	11.74
2.	Population (in lakhs)		
	a) Rural	47.23	11.14
	b) Urban	4.50	0.60
	c) Total	51.73	11.74
3.	Schedule castes (lakhs)	13.10	2.48
4.	Schedule tribes (lakhs)	2.18	0.16
5.	Density (persons/sq. km)	93	205
6.	Sex ratio (female/1000 males)	976	1024
7.	Literacy per cent		
	a) Female	52.13	61.39
	b) Male	75.36	80.12

(Statistical outline of Himachal Pradesh, 1997)

3.6 Selection of sample

3.6.1 Sampling technique

Multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select block, villages and ultimate respondents.

3.6.2 Selection of blocks

A list of community development blocks was prepared with the help of District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) officials. Out of this list two development blocks were chosen randomly which formed the first stage of sampling.

3.6.3 Selection of villages

A complete list of villages falling in each of selected blocks was prepared with the help of block development officials. In the second stage of sampling, ten villages from each of the selected block were chosen randomly. Block-wise selected villages are shown in Appendix-I.

3.6.4 Selection of the respondents

A complete frame of households in each of the selected village was prepared with the help of people involved in Panchayati Raj Institution. Out of this, list of a sample of 100 females and 20 males was selected at random through proportional allocation method. The diagrammatic representation of sampling design is given in Fig. 3.3.

3.7 Data collection

Both primary and secondary data were collected for the accomplishment of the objectives of the study.

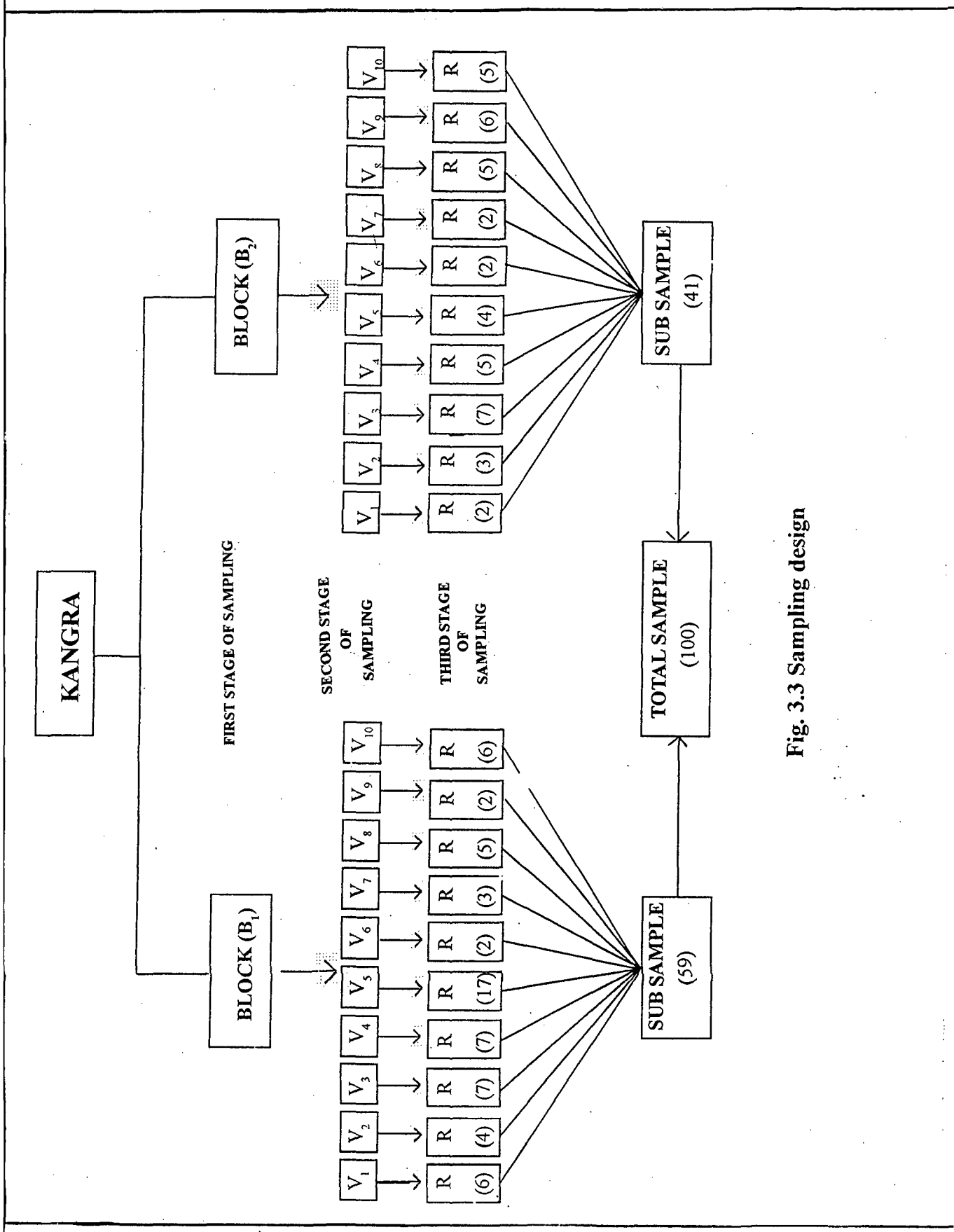


Fig. 3.3 Sampling design

Primary data

Primary data were collected by survey method on well structured interview scheduled through personal interview method from the respondents.

Secondary data

The secondary information was gathered from various state government offices, their publications, reports and books viz., District Statistical Abstract, Statistical Outline of Himachal Pradesh and the wonder land Himachal Pradesh.

3.8 Analysis of the data

Commensurate with the set objectives and information available for the study, various analytical tools were employed for the analysis and interpretation of the data.

3.8.1 Descriptive statistics

The data were analysed through frequencies, percentage, mean and standard error to measure the extent of women's participation in decision-making and their level of status. To assess the extent of women's participation in decision-making with respect to household, agricultural and allied activities, a list of activities was prepared after consulting the literature and experts of the area. These activities were measured on a two, three and four point continuous likert type scale, assigning the scores presented in Table 3.2. These were finally grouped in to high medium and low categories based on the following statistics:

Mean + Standard Error (S.E.) → High

Mean ± Standard Error (S.E.) → Medium

Mean - Standard Error (S.E.) → Low

Table 3.2 Assigned scores values for decision-making and other indicators of women's status

S. No.	Variables	Assigned score value
1.	Decision-making	
	a) Respondent (Self)	3
	b) Husband	2
	c) Both	4
	d) Others	1
2.	Help received by respondent in discharging family responsibility	
	a) Self only	1
	b) Husband alone	2
	c) Self and husband	2
	d) Self and children	2
	e) All family members	3
3.	Freedom enjoyed by the respondent in the use of family income	
	Yes	2
	No	1
	Fully	3
	In direction of head of family	2
	Rarely	1
4.	Freedom enjoyed in reference to social customs and rituals	
	Yes	2
	No	1
5.	Participation in community development programmes	
	Yes	2
	No	1
	Level of participation:	
	As chairperson	3
	Active initiator for decision	2
	Only as a participating member	1

Scores

The extent of women's participation in decision-making, their level of decision-making and level of status were examined by scoring technique. The assigned scores were given in Table 3.2.

3.8.2 Relational statistics

- I. Linear regression equation of the following type was applied in order to measure the influence of personal family and situational variables on women's participation in decision-making and their status.

$$Y = b_0 + b_1X$$

where,

Y = Score value of decision-making/Score value of status of women comprising score value of decision-making and score value of other indicators of status.

X = Age/education/marital status/family type/caste/family income and participation in community development programme.

b_0 = Constant term

b_1 = The coefficient of regression

- II. Coefficient of correlation was worked out to measure the relationship between:

- i) Husband's educational level and respondent's participation in decision making.
- ii) Participation of respondents in community development programme and their status.

$$r_{xy} = \frac{\sum xy}{\sqrt{\sum x^2 \cdot \sum y^2}}$$

where,

$$\sum x y = \sum x y - \frac{\sum x \sum y}{N}$$

$$\sum x^2 = \sum x^2 - \frac{(\sum x)^2}{N}$$

$$\sum y^2 = \sum y^2 - \frac{(\sum y)^2}{N}$$

'r' is the coefficient of correlation the value which lie between $-1 \leq r \leq +1$ x and y are the variables under consideration.

The significance of the value of r was tested using t-test as follow:

$$t = \frac{r}{\sqrt{1-r^2}} \times \sqrt{n-2}$$

where,

'r' is same as mentioned above.

N = number of observations.

3.9 Limitations of the Study

Generally the cost accounting method is the most appropriate technique in such type of studies. However, due to paucity of time and financial constraints, survey method was followed. Secondly the sample was restricted to Kangra district with 100 respondents. The respondents whose children had grown up and who did not have children were not asked in reference to child care practice. It was difficult to ascertain the actual control of females over earnings from allied activities because these incomes were made part of entire household income.



RESULTS

RESULTS

This chapter has been devoted to display the results based on objectives of the present inquiry, described in various sections as follows:

- 4.1 Description of the sample characteristics
- 4.2 Women's participation in decision-making
- 4.3 Status of women
- 4.4 Opinion of menfolk about status of women
- 4.5 Hypothesis

4.1 Description of the sample characteristics

This section of the study deals with description of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of personal and family variables.

4.1.1 Personal characteristics of respondents

Personal characteristics of respondents comprised of age, educational level and marital status (Table 4.1).

Age

Majority of the respondents (43 per cent) belonged to the age group of 31 to 44 years of age, followed by age group of below 30 years (30 per cent) (Table 4.1). Majority of the respondents from both the blocks i.e. Baijnath (41.1 per cent) and Nagrota (41.5 per cent)

Table 4.1 Personal characteristics of respondents

S.No.	Personal characteristics	N= 59 Bajjnath f (%)	N= 41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)	N= 100 Overall f (%)
1.	Age (Years)			
	a) Below 30	13 (22.0)	17(41.5)	30(30.0)
	b) 31 - 44	26 (44.1)	17(41.5)	43(43.0)
	c) 45 and above	20 (33.9)	7(17.0)	27(27.0)
	Total	59 (100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)
	Mean Age	38.712	34.902	37.15
	Standard deviation	9.1133	9.1673	9.3256
2.	Education			
	a) Illiterate	23(39.1)	18(43.9)	41(41.0)
	b) Primary	10(16.9)	5(12.3)	15(15.0)
	c) Middle	10(16.9)	8(19.5)	18(18.0)
	d) High school	11(18.6)	8(19.5)	19(19.0)
	e) Senior secondary	5 (8.5)	1(2.4)	6(6.0)
	f) Above	----	1(2.4)	1(1.0)
	Total	59(100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)
	Mean Educational level	5.1	4.8	4.9
	Standard deviation	4.5	4.6	4.5
3.	Marital Status			
	a) Married	53(89.8)	39(95.1)	92(92.0)
	b) Widow	5(8.5)	2(4.9)	07(7.0)
	c) Separated	1(1.7)	---	01(1.0)
	Total	59(100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)

also belonged to middle age group of 31 to 44 years. However, in Baijnath block percentage of high age group respondents (45 years and above) was just double (33.9 per cent) in relation to Nagrota Bagwan block (17 per cent).

Educational level

It is evident from the Table 4.1 that a great deal of respondents (41 per cent) were illiterate. In literate group, 19 per cent of respondents studied up to high school level, closely followed by middle level and primary level. Only 1 respondent was graduate. Block wise distribution showed that percentage of illiterate respondents was higher in Nagrota block (43.9 per cent) as compared to Baijnath block (39.1 per cent). There was not remarkable difference between both blocks in level of education of respondents. For overall sample, the average level of education was found to be primary i.e. 4.9.

Marital status

Majority (92 per cent) of the respondents from the study area were found to be married. There were 7 per cent widows. Only 1 respondent belonged to separated category. Block wise distribution of respondents showed higher percentage of married respondents in Nagrota block (95.1 per cent) as compared to Baijnath block (89.8 per cent).

4.1.2 Family characteristics of respondents

Family characteristics of respondents comprised of family type, family size, main family occupation, caste, size of land holding and family income.

Family type

Table 4.2 showed that 63 per cent of total households belonged to nuclear families and rest were from joint families thereby indicating that nuclear family system was more prevalent in the study area.

Family size

About one-half of the sampled households had family size of 5 to 7 member (Table 4.2). It was followed by 27 per cent having 1 to 4 members and 22 per cent having 8 and above number of family members. Almost similar trend was observed in both the blocks. However, for small family (upto 4 members) in Baijnath block showed higher percentage (32.2 per cent) as compared to Nagrota block (19.5 per cent).

Main family occupation

Out of total sample, service (Government/private) was recorded as main family occupation (36 per cent). It was followed by farming (26 per cent), business (22 per cent) and wage earning (16 per cent). In Baijnath block, 'farming' as a main family occupation was found to be higher (30.5 per cent) than Nagrota Bagwan region (19.5 per cent).

Caste

The sample were classified in four groups of caste i.e. Brahmin, Rajput, other castes and scheduled castes. The category of other castes included scheduled tribes and other backward castes. Majority of the respondents (58 per cent) belonged to, other castes. Rajput, Brahmins and Scheduled Castes were found to be 17 per cent, 14 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Results for both blocks showed almost same trend with marginal variations.

Table 4.2 Family characteristics of respondents

S.No.	Family characteristics	N=59 Baijnath f (%)	N=41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)	N=100 Overall f (%)
1.	Family Type			
	a) Joint	24 (40.7)	13(31.7)	37(37.0)
	b) Nuclear	35(59.3)	28(68.3)	63(63.0)
	Total	59(100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)
2.	Family size			
	a) 1-4 member	19 (32.2)	8(19.5)	27(27.0)
	b) 5-7	28 (47.5)	23(50.1)	51 (51.0)
	c) 8 and above	12 (20.3)	10 (24.4)	22(22.0)
	Total	59(100)	41(100)	100(100)
	Mean	4.69	6.15	5.56
	Standard deviation	1.597	3.213	2.681
3.	Main family occupation			
	a) Farming	18 (30.5)	8 (19.5)	26 (26.0)
	b) Business	11(18.6)	11(26.8)	22(22.0)
	c) Service	22(37.3)	14(34.2)	36(36.0)
	d) Wage earning	8(13.6)	8(19.5)	16(16.0)
	Total	59(100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)
4.	Caste			
	a) Brahmin	9(15.2)	5(12.2)	14(14.0)
	b) Rajput	8(13.6)	9(22.0)	17(17.0)
	c) Other caste	35(59.3)	23(56.0)	58(58.0)
	d) Schedule Caste	7(11.9)	4(9.8)	11(11.0)
	Total	59(100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)
5.	Size of land holding (kanals)			
	a) up to 5	23(39.0)	15(36.6)	38(38.0)
	b) 5 to 15	15(25.4)	12(29.3)	27(27.0)
	c) 15 and above	2(3.4)	1(2.4)	3(3.0)
	d) Landless	19(32.2)	13(31.7)	32(32.0)
	Total	59(100.0)	41(100.0)	100(100.0)
	Mean	4.05	3.78	3.94
	Standard deviation	4.320	3.666	4.066
6.	Income (Rs./month)			
	a) 500-1000	8(13.6)	4(9.8)	12(12.0)
	b) 1001-3000	22(37.3)	21(51.2)	43(43.0)
	c) 3001-5000	11(18.6)	5(12.2)	16(16.0)
	d) 5001-10,000	15(25.4)	9(21.9)	24(24.0)
	e) Above 10,000	3(5.1)	2(4.9)	5(5.0)
	Total	59(100)	41(100)	100(100)
	Mean	3,875	4,128	3,997.8
	Standard deviation	2985.5	3467	31994.2

Size of land holding

Out of total sample, 32 per cent families were landless. Results further show that 38 per cent belonged to the category of upto 5 kanals of land holding size. Only 3 per cent have land holding above 15 kanals. The average size of land holding was calculated to be 3.94 kanals per households. For Baijnath and Nagrota block, it was estimated to be 4 kanals and 3.7 kanals respectively.

Income

The results indicated that 43 per cent of households belonged to the income category of Rs.1001-3000 per month. Whereas, 12 per cent to lowest category of Rs.500-1000 per month and 5 per cent had income above Rs.10,000 per month (Table 4.2). Although for both blocks, majority belonged to the income range of Rs.1001-3000 yet its percentages were quite different i.e. 37.3 per cent and 51.2 per cent for Baijnath and Nagrota block respectively. The average monthly income was calculated to be of Rs.3997 per house hold.

4.2 Women's participation in decision-making

In this section, results of women's participation in decision-making, their level and extent of participation has been presented. The decision-making pattern was observed mainly for two categories of decisions:

4.2.1 Participation in expenditure related decisions

4.2.2 Participation in general decisions

4.2.1 Participation in expenditure related decisions (pertaining to household, agricultural and allied activities)

Major expenditure related aspects were food and clothing, housing and furnishing, childcare & social ceremonies and farm inputs. These all aspects were further categorised in different sub aspects. Results are presented in Table 4.3.

Food and clothing

This aspect included food items, vegetables and fruits , cooking fuel, clothes and foot wear. The analysis of the data revealed that about two fifth of decisions were taken by husbands and one third by wife alone.

In Baijnath block women's participation was found to be higher (38.6 per cent), whereas in Nagrota block higher participation was recorded for husbands (46.3 per cent). Joint decisions were also estimated to be higher in Baijnath block. Thus it can be inferred that in Baijnath block women's participation in decision-making was higher than that of Nagrota block.

Housing and furnishing

Under housing and furnishing, selected sub aspects were decision making patterns regarding new house construction, addition and renovation, purchase of furniture, radio/T.V., electric gadgets, utensils, sewing machine and ornamentals. The results shows that maximum decisions regarding housing and furnishings were taken by husbands alone (44.2 per cent). About one third decisions were taken by both husband and wife. It can be further seen that decisions taken by wife alone was only 9.3 per cent. In Baijnath block husband's participation was 40.3 per cent as against 50 per cent in Nagrota Bagwan followed by both husband and wife (31.6 per cent), other members (15.8 per cent) and wife alone (12.3 per cent). The

Table 4.3 Participation in expenditure related decisions regarding household, agricultural and allied activities

S. No.	Particulars	N= 59 Bajjnath f (%)				N= 41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)				N= 100 Over all f (%)						
		W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N
1.	Food and clothing															
	Amount to be spent on :															
	a) Food items	28 (47.5)	16 (27.1)	7 (11.9)	8 (13.5)	59 (100.0)	13 (31.7)	20 (48.8)	1 (2.4)	7 (17.1)	41 (100.0)	41 (41.0)	36 (36.0)	8 (8.0)	15 (15.0)	100 (100.0)
	b) Vegetables and fruits	24 (40.7)	20 (33.9)	7 (11.9)	8 (13.5)	59 (100.0)	11 (26.8)	22 (53.7)	1 (2.4)	7 (17.1)	41 (100.0)	35 (35.0)	42 (42.0)	8 (8.0)	15 (15.0)	100 (100.0)
	c) Fuel	19 (38.0)	18 (36.0)	7 (14.0)	6 (12.0)	50 (84.7)	12 (29.3)	21 (51.2)	1 (2.4)	7 (17.1)	41 (100.0)	31 (34.0)	39 (42.9)	8 (8.8)	13 (14.3)	91 (91.0)
	d) Clothes and footwear	21 (35.6)	21 (35.6)	9 (15.3)	8 (13.5)	59 (100.0)	11 (26.8)	15 (36.6)	10 (24.4)	5 (12.2)	41 (100.0)	32 (32.0)	36 (36.0)	19 (19.0)	13 (13.0)	100 (100.0)
	Mean	22 (38.6)	19 (33.4)	8 (14.0)	8 (14.0)	57 (96.6)	12 (29.3)	19 (46.3)	3 (7.3)	7 (17.1)	41 (100.0)	35 (34.7)	38 (38.8)	11 (11.2)	15 (15.3)	98 (98.0)
2.	Housing and furnishing															
	a) New construction	5 (8.9)	25 (44.6)	17 (30.4)	9 (16.1)	56 (94.9)	1 (2.6)	23 (59.0)	12 (30.8)	3 (7.6)	39 (95.1)	6 (6.3)	48 (55.9)	29 (30.5)	12 (12.6)	95 (95.0)
	b) Addition/renovation	7 (11.9)	24 (40.7)	19 (32.2)	9 (15.2)	59 (100.0)	2 (4.9)	23 (56.1)	13 (31.7)	3 (7.3)	41 (100.0)	9 (9.0)	47 (47.0)	32 (32.0)	12 (12.0)	99 (99.0)
	c) Care and maintenance of house	6 (10.5)	25 (42.6)	19 (32.2)	9 (15.3)	59 (100.0)	2 (4.9)	20 (48.8)	16 (39.0)	3 (7.3)	41 (100.0)	8 (8.0)	45 (45.0)	35 (35.0)	12 (12.0)	100 (100.0)
	d) Furniture	6 (10.5)	22 (38.6)	18 (31.5)	11 (19.3)	57 (96.0)	1 (2.5)	24 (60.0)	11 (27.5)	4 (10.0)	40 (97.6)	7 (7.2)	46 (47.4)	29 (30.0)	15 (15.4)	97 (97.0)
	e) Radio/ T.V.	5 (8.8)	25 (43.9)	18 (31.6)	9 (15.8)	57 (96.0)	1 (2.5)	24 (60.0)	11 (27.5)	4 (10.0)	40 (97.6)	6 (6.2)	49 (50.5)	29 (30.0)	13 (13.4)	97 (97.0)
	f) Electric gadgets	5 (8.5)	27 (45.8)	15 (25.4)	12 (20.3)	59 (100.0)	3 (7.3)	23 (56.1)	11 (26.8)	4 (9.8)	41 (100.0)	8 (8.0)	50 (50.0)	26 (26.0)	16 (16.0)	100 (100.0)
	g) Utencils	10 (16.9)	22 (37.3)	18 (30.5)	9 (15.3)	59 (100.0)	5 (12.2)	15 (36.6)	16 (39.0)	5 (12.2)	41 (100.0)	15 (15.0)	37 (37.0)	34 (34.0)	14 (14.0)	100 (100.0)
	h) Sewing machine	8 (17.8)	18 (40.0)	13 (28.9)	6 (13.3)	45 (76.2)	3 (8.1)	13 (35.1)	16 (43.2)	5 (13.5)	37 (73.1)	11 (13.4)	31 (37.8)	29 (35.4)	11 (13.4)	82 (82.0)
	i) Ornaments	15 (25.4)	16 (27.1)	23 (39.0)	5 (8.5)	59 (100.0)	5 (12.2)	13 (31.7)	20 (48.8)	3 (7.3)	41 (100.0)	20 (20.0)	29 (29.0)	43 (43.0)	8 (8.0)	100 (100.0)
	Mean	7 (12.3)	23 (40.3)	18 (31.6)	9 (15.8)	57 (96.6)	2 (5.0)	20 (50.0)	14 (35.3)	4 (10.0)	40 (97.6)	9 (9.3)	43 (44.2)	32 (33.0)	13 (13.5)	97 (91.0)

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S. No.	Particulars	N= 59 Bainmath f (%)				N= 41 Nagota Bagwan f (%)				N= 100 Over all f (%)						
		W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N
3.	Child care and social ceremonies															
a)	Education	5 (10.6)	22 (46.8)	17 (36.2)	3 (6.4)	47 (79.7)	4 (9.8)	16 (39.0)	20 (48.8)	1 (2.4)	41 (100.0)	9 (10.2)	38 (43.2)	37 (42.0)	4 (4.6)	88 (88.0)
b)	Health	4 (8.5)	20 (42.6)	19 (40.4)	4 (8.5)	47 (79.7)	4 (9.8)	12 (29.3)	24 (58.5)	1 (2.4)	41 (100.0)	8 (9.1)	32 (36.4)	43 (48.9)	5 (5.6)	88 (88.0)
c)	Miscellaneous (toys/chocolates)	2 (5.7)	10 (28.6)	20 (57.1)	3 (8.6)	35 (59.3)	2 (6.5)	5 (16.1)	23 (74.2)	1 (3.2)	31 (75.6)	4 (6.1)	15 (22.7)	43 (65.2)	4 (6.0)	66 (66.0)
d)	Family functions	19 (32.2)	10 (16.9)	24 (40.7)	6 (10.2)	59 (100.0)	11 (26.8)	9 (22.0)	15 (36.6)	6 (14.6)	41 (100.0)	30 (30.0)	19 (19.0)	39 (39.0)	12 (12.0)	100 (100.0)
e)	Festivals	18 (30.5)	11 (18.6)	24 (40.7)	6 (10.2)	59 (100.0)	12 (29.3)	7 (17.1)	16 (39.0)	6 (14.6)	41 (100.0)	30 (30.0)	18 (18.0)	40 (40.0)	12 (12.0)	100 (100.0)
f)	Marriage	5 (9.1)	13 (23.6)	31 (56.4)	6 (10.9)	55 (94.9)	3 (7.5)	7 (17.5)	25 (62.5)	5 (12.5)	40 (97.6)	8 (8.4)	20 (21.1)	56 (51.0)	11 (11.6)	95 (95.0)
g)	Medical care	7 (11.9)	12 (20.3)	33 (55.9)	7 (11.9)	59 (100.0)	1 (2.4)	8 (19.5)	28 (68.3)	4 (9.8)	41 (100.0)	8 (8.0)	20 (20.0)	61 (61.0)	11 (11.0)	100 (100.0)
h)	Recreation	6 (10.5)	15 (26.4)	30 (52.6)	6 (10.5)	57 (96.6)	5 (12.5)	6 (15.0)	24 (60.0)	5 (12.5)	41 (100.0)	11 (11.3)	21 (21.0)	54 (55.8)	11 (11.3)	97 (97.0)
	Mean	8 (15.4)	14 (26.9)	25 (48.1)	5 (9.6)	52 (88.1)	5 (12.8)	9 (23.1)	22 (56.4)	3 (7.7)	39 (95.1)	13 (14.1)	23 (25.0)	47 (51.1)	9 (9.8)	92 (92.0)
4.	Farm inputs/resources															
a)	Purchase of land	—	13 (46.4)	11 (39.3)	4 (14.3)	28 (47.4)	4 (16.7)	5 (20.8)	4 (16.7)	11 (45.8)	24 (58.5)	4 (7.7)	18 (34.7)	15 (28.8)	15 (28.8)	52 (52.0)
b)	Purchase of form implements	11 (31.4)	6 (17.1)	12 (34.3)	6 (17.2)	35 (59.3)	3 (15.0)	4 (20.0)	3 (15.0)	10 (50.0)	20 (48.8)	14 (25.5)	10 (18.2)	15 (27.3)	16 (29.0)	55 (55.0)
c)	Sale of agricultural/animal products	3 (8.6)	10 (28.6)	17 (48.6)	5 (14.2)	35 (59.3)	3 (12.5)	5 (20.8)	3 (12.5)	13 (54.2)	58.5	6 (10.2)	15 (25.4)	20 (33.9)	18 (3.5)	59 (59.0)
d)	Purchase of seed/fertilizers	10 (28.6)	7 (20.0)	12 (34.3)	6 (17.1)	35 (59.3)	2 (13.3)	1 (6.7)	2 (13.3)	10 (66.7)	15 (36.6)	12 (24.0)	8 (16.0)	14 (28.0)	16 (32.0)	50 (50.0)
e)	Maintenance of side business	4 (23.6)	2 (11.8)	10 (58.8)	1 (5.8)	17 (28.8)	—	—	—	8 (100)	8 (19.5)	4 (16.0)	2 (8.0)	10 (40.0)	9 (36.0)	25 (25.0)
f)	Management of credit.	4 (26.6)	2 (13.4)	8 (53.3)	1 (6.7)	15 (25.4)	—	—	—	8 (100)	8 (19.5)	4 (17.4)	2 (8.7)	8 (34.8)	9 (39.1)	23 (23.0)
	Mean	4 (14.8)	7 (26.0)	12 (44.4)	4 (14.8)	27 (45.7)	2 (11.8)	3 (17.6)	2 (11.8)	10 (58.8)	17 (28.8)	7 (15.9)	9 (20.5)	14 (31.8)	14 (31.8)	44 (44.0)

Note :- i) Figures given in parenthesis indicate percentage
ii) W = Wife, H = Husband, B = Both, O = Others

decision-making by wife alone in Baijnath and Nagrota block was estimated to be 12.3 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. It is clear from the findings that between both the blocks husband's participation was higher.

Childcare and social ceremonies

This included decision-making patterns on sub aspects as education of children, health of family members, family functions, festivals, marriage, medical care, recreation and miscellaneous activities. The results indicated that decisions regarding childcare and social ceremonies were taken jointly by husband and wife by nearly one-half of the sampled households. The respective figures for husband only and wife only were found to be 25 per cent and 14.1 per cent respectively.

Results of both blocks show that in case of Baijnath, maximum participation was found to be joint decision of both husband and wife (48.1 per cent) followed by husband (26.9 per cent), wife (15.4 per cent) and other members (9.6 per cent). The respective figures for Nagrota block were 56.4 per cent, 23.1 per cent, 12.8 per cent and 7.7 per cent. Thus it can be concluded that in both blocks husband's participation in decision-making was high particularly in Nagrota block.

Farm inputs and allied activities

It comprised of sub aspects such as purchase of land, farm implements, sale of agricultural/animals products, purchase of seed, fertilizers, maintenance of side business and management of credit. The data inferred that joint (husband and wife) as well as other member's decision-making showed equal percentages i.e. 31.8 each (Table 4.3). In Baijnath block joint decision-making (husband and wife) was maximum (44.4 per cent) followed by

husband only (26 per cent). However, in case of Nagrota block maximum participation was recorded for other family members i.e. 58.8 per cent, followed by husbands only 17.6 per cent.

4.2.2 Participation in general decisions

General decision included three major aspects viz., children, household and agricultural/allied. These major aspects were further categorised in different sub aspects (Table 4.4).

Children related decisions

Selected sub aspects regarding children related decisions included having number of children, admission of children in school, selection of subject, choice of career/profession, educational level, marriage and selection of match for marriage. The findings depicted that about one-half of the sampled households (50 per cent) took joint decisions regarding children related decisions. It was followed by other family members 31.2 per cent. In both the blocks joint decision-making pattern was prevalent. It was followed by other members. This indicates that decision-making pattern between both blocks was almost similar.

Household related decision (choice making)

Results of women's participation in choice making decisions in selection of furniture, radio/T.V., electric gadgets, sewing machine, utensils, ornaments, place of medical care, participation in family functions and in social festivals showed that majority (30.9 per cent) of the decisions were taken jointly by husband and wife, followed by wife only 28.9 per cent (Table 4.4). The decisions taken by husband only were found to be the least.

Table 4.4 Participation in general decisions regarding household, agricultural and allied activities

S. No.	Particulars	N= 59 Bajinath (%)				N= 41 Nagrota Bagwan (%)				N= 100 Over all (%)							
		W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N	
1.	Children	a) Having number of children	3 (6.4)	5 (10.6)	38 (80.9)	1 (2.1)	1 (2.6)	5 (12.8)	28 (71.8)	5 (12.8)	39 (95.1)	4 (4.7)	10 (11.6)	66 (76.7)	6 (7.1)	86 (81.0)	
		b) Admission of children	6 (12.8)	9 (19.1)	28 (59.6)	4 (8.5)	5 (12.5)	8 (20.0)	26 (65.0)	1 (2.5)	40 (97.6)	41 (100.0)	11 (12.6)	17 (19.5)	54 (62.1)	5 (5.7)	87 (87.0)
		c) Selection of subject/branch	1 (2.1)	14 (29.8)	7 (14.9)	25 (53.2)	3 (7.5)	7 (17.5)	6 (15.0)	24 (60.0)	24 (60.0)	40 (97.6)	4 (4.6)	21 (24.1)	13 (14.9)	49 (56.3)	87 (87.0)
		d) Choice of career/profession	—	8 (17.0)	8 (17.0)	31 (66.0)	1 (2.5)	5 (12.5)	7 (17.5)	27 (67.5)	27 (67.5)	40 (97.6)	1 (1.1)	13 (14.9)	15 (17.2)	58 (66.7)	87 (87.0)
		e) Educational level	—	4 (8.5)	6 (12.8)	37 (78.7)	1 (2.5)	3 (7.5)	7 (17.5)	29 (72.5)	29 (72.5)	40 (97.6)	1 (1.1)	7 (8.0)	13 (14.9)	66 (75.9)	87 (87.0)
		f) Marriage	6 (10.7)	—	48 (85.7)	2 (3.6)	2 (5.0)	6 (15.0)	29 (72.5)	3 (7.5)	40 (97.6)	40 (100.0)	8 (8.3)	6 (6.3)	77 (80.2)	5 (5.2)	96 (96.0)
		g) Selection of match (marriage)	6 (10.7)	—	48 (85.7)	2 (3.6)	2 (5.0)	6 (15.0)	28 (70.0)	—	40 (97.6)	40 (100.0)	8 (8.3)	10 (10.4)	76 (79.2)	2 (2.1)	96 (96.0)
		Mean	3 (6.0)	6 (12.0)	26 (52.0)	1 (30.0)	2 (5.0)	6 (15.0)	19 (47.5)	13 (32.5)	40 (97.6)	40 (100.0)	5 (5.5)	12 (13.3)	45 (50.0)	28 (31.2)	90 (90.0)
		2.	Household Making choice while buying durable goods and furnishing	a) Furniture	2 (3.5)	26 (45.6)	18 (31.6)	11 (19.3)	5 (12.2)	4 (9.8)	10 (24.4)	22 (53.7)	41 (100.0)	7 (7.1)	30 (30.6)	28 (28.6)	33 (33.7)
b) Radio/ T.V.	2 (3.5)			26 (45.6)	18 (31.6)	11 (19.3)	4 (9.8)	8 (19.5)	10 (24.4)	19 (46.3)	41 (100.0)	6 (6.1)	34 (34.7)	28 (28.6)	30 (30.6)	98 (98.0)	
c) Electric gadgets	2 (3.3)			24 (40.6)	16 (27.3)	17 (28.8)	5 (12.2)	11 (26.8)	9 (22.0)	16 (39.0)	41 (100.0)	7 (7.0)	35 (35.0)	25 (25.0)	33 (33.0)	100 (100.0)	
d) Sewing machine	5 (11.1)			16 (35.5)	15 (33.4)	9 (20.0)	6 (16.2)	4 (10.8)	8 (21.6)	19 (51.4)	37 (90.2)	37 (100.0)	11 (13.4)	20 (24.4)	23 (28.0)	28 (34.2)	82 (82.0)
e) Utencils	29 (49.1)			6 (10.2)	18 (30.5)	6 (10.2)	13 (31.7)	1 (2.4)	6 (14.6)	21 (51.3)	41 (100.0)	41 (100.0)	42 (42.0)	7 (7.0)	24 (24.0)	27 (27.0)	100 (100.0)
f) Ornaments	30 (50.8)			2 (3.3)	25 (42.6)	2 (3.3)	14 (34.1)	2 (4.9)	6 (14.6)	19 (46.4)	41 (100.0)	41 (100.0)	44 (44.0)	4 (4.0)	31 (31.0)	21 (21.0)	100 (100.0)

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S. N.	Particulars	N=59 Bajinath f (%)				N=41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)				N=100 Over all f (%)						
		W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N	W	H	B	O	Total N
g)	Place of medical care	18 (30.5)	8 (13.6)	29 (49.2)	4 (6.7)	59 (100.0)	20 (48.8)	4 (9.8)	10 (24.4)	7 (17.0)	41 (100.0)	38 (92.0)	12 (29.0)	39 (95.0)	11 (27.0)	100 (100.0)
h)	Participation in family functions	32 (54.2)	—	27 (45.8)	—	59 (100.0)	21 (35.6)	3 (5.1)	10 (17.0)	7 (11.7)	41 (100.0)	53 (129.0)	3 (7.3)	37 (90.3)	7 (17.0)	100 (100.0)
i)	Participation in social festivals	21 (35.6)	—	27 (45.8)	11 (18.6)	59 (100.0)	23 (38.8)	2 (3.4)	9 (15.3)	7 (11.7)	41 (100.0)	44 (107.3)	2 (4.9)	36 (87.8)	18 (44.1)	100 (100.0)
	Mean	16 (28.0)	12 (21.0)	21 (37.0)	8 (14.0)	57 (96.6)	12 (21.1)	4 (7.0)	9 (15.8)	15 (24.3)	40 (97.6)	28 (49.0)	16 (26.3)	30 (50.0)	23 (37.5)	97 (97.0)
	Agricultural/allied															
a)	Selection of crop and variety	5 (14.3)	8 (22.9)	19 (54.3)	3 (8.5)	35 (59.3)	6 (30.0)	3 (15.0)	10 (50.0)	1 (5.0)	20 (48.8)	11 (20.0)	11 (20.0)	29 (52.7)	4 (7.3)	55 (55.0)
b)	Use of chemical and fertilizers	5 (14.3)	5 (14.3)	21 (60.0)	4 (11.4)	35 (59.3)	3 (15.0)	2 (10.0)	13 (65.0)	2 (10.0)	20 (48.8)	8 (14.5)	7 (12.8)	34 (61.8)	6 (10.9)	55 (38.0)
c)	Quantity of food grains to be stored	5 (14.3)	5 (14.3)	21 (60.0)	4 (11.4)	35 (59.3)	1 (33.3)	—	—	2 (66.7)	3 (7.3)	6 (15.8)	5 (13.2)	21 (55.2)	6 (15.8)	38 (38.0)
d)	Marketing of produce for side business	5 (29.4)	5 (29.4)	11 (31.8)	5 (29.4)	17 (28.8)	3 (37.5)	—	5 (62.5)	—	8 (19.5)	8 (32.0)	5 (20.0)	7 (28.0)	5 (20.0)	25 (25.0)
e)	Price of the product	5 (29.4)	5 (29.4)	14 (40.6)	2 (11.8)	17 (28.8)	6 (75.0)	—	2 (25.0)	—	8 (19.5)	11 (44.0)	5 (20.0)	7 (28.0)	2 (8.0)	25 (25.0)
	Mean	5 (17.9)	5 (17.9)	14 (50.0)	4 (14.2)	28 (47.5)	4 (33.4)	1 (8.3)	6 (50.0)	1 (8.3)	12 (29.3)	9 (22.5)	6 (15.0)	20 (50.0)	5 (12.5)	40 (40.0)

Note: i) W = Wife, H = Husband, B = Boy, O = Others

In Baijnath block maximum participation was recorded for both husband and wife as against 37.5 per cent by other members in Nagrota block. The results showed that decision in this category by other members was found to be least in Baijnath block.

Agriculture/allied activities related decisions

This aspect included sub aspects such as selection of crop and variety, use of chemical/fertilizers, quantity of food grains to be stored, marketing of produce for side business and price of the products. The results showed that in case of one-half of the sampled household (50 per cent) decisions were taken jointly by husband and wife, followed by wife only 22.5 per cent, husbands 15 per cent and other family members 12.5 per cent. It is clear from the Table 4.4 that in both blocks joint decisions were taken maximum and showed equal percentage i.e. 50 per cent each. The participation in decision-making was almost similar in both the blocks except in Nagrota block where wife's participation was higher (33.4 per cent) than that of Baijnath block i.e. 17.9 per cent.

4.2.2 Women's extent of participation in decision making in household, agricultural and allied activities

Extent of participation in decision-making was determined by calculating the mean score obtained for each major decision-making aspect. Further, these scores were arranged in descending order in respect to various aspects of decisions. The extent was measured in terms of high, medium and low depending on the range. The detailed method of calculating range has been explained in Chapter-III. It is evident from the Table 4.5 that women's extent of participation in decision-making activities was higher for food, clothing, housing, furnishing, childcare and social ceremonies from expenditure related decisions. Among general category,

Table 4.5 Extent of participation in decision-making in household, agricultural and allied activities

S.No.	Variables	Assigned score in decending order		Overall
		Baijnath	Nagrota Bagwan	
1.	Expenditure related decisions			
	a) Food and clothing (Exp.)	157.1	123.9	281.0
	b) Housing and furnishing(Exp.)	150.0	105.8	255.8
	c) Children related (Gen.)	149. 8 H	98.6 H	245.3
	d) Housing and furnishing(Gen.)	144. 3	95.6	240.6
	e) Child care and social ceremonies(Exp.)	142.0	93.8	238.0
	f) Farm inputs/resources	84.2 L	56.0 L	133.5
	g) Agriculture/allied	75.5	42.8	127.0
Mean	$\bar{X}_1 = 128.98$	Standard Error	$SE_1 = 11.8970$	
	$\bar{X}_2 = 88.05$		$SE_2 = 9.9719$	
	$\bar{X}_3 = 217.311$		$SE_3 = 21.4156$	

Note: i) H = High, M = Medium, L = Low
 ii) Exp.= expediture related decisions, Gen. = general decisions

decision regarding children, housing and furnishing related aspects were women dominated. Farm inputs and allied activities from expenditure related decision showed medium level of decisions. However, general decisions showed low level of decision-making by the respondents. The block wise results also showed same pattern except agriculture/allied related decisions both expenditure and general which showed low level of decision-making by respondents.

4.2.3 Level of participation in decision-making in agricultural and allied activities

Table 4.6 elicit that in case of expenditure related decisions, one half of the respondents showed high level of participation followed by 42 per cent in low level group and 8 per cent in medium level group. In general decisions, same trend was found. In case of high and low level group the distribution of respondents were same i.e. 49 per cent each, whereas, only 2 per cent of the respondents were in medium level group. In overall decisions, majority (47 per cent) of the respondents showed high level of participation followed by 45 per cent in low and 8 per cent in medium level groups. Thus it can be concluded that majority of respondents showed high level of participation in decision-making followed by low level group whereas, very less percentage of women showed medium level of participation.

Regarding general decisions Baijnath block showed high percentage i.e. 57.6 per cent for high level of decision-making than Nagrota block i.e. 36.6 per cent. In medium level of decision-making category, difference between both the blocks was not remarkable. In low level of decision-making category Baijnath block showed less percentage (40.7 per cent) against Nagrota block (62 per cent). Differences in level of decision-making participation was not remarkable in case of expenditure related and overall decisions in both the blocks (Table 4.6).

Table 4.6 Level of participation in decision-making in Household, agricultural and allied activities

S.No.	Variables	N=59	N=41	N=100
		Bajnath f(%)	Nagrota Bagwan f(%)	Overall f(%)
1.	Expenditure related decisions			
	a) High	28(47.4)	22(53.6)	50(50.0)
	b) Medium	5(8.5)	3(7.3)	8(8.0)
	c) Low	26(44.1)	16(39.1)	42(42.0)
2.	General decisions			
	a) High	34(57.6)	15(36.6)	49(49.0)
	b) Medium	1(1.7)	1(2.4)	2(2.0)
	c) Low	24 (40.7)	25(61.0)	49(49.0)
3.	Overall decisions			
	a) High	28(47.4)	19 (46.3)	47(47.0)
	b) Medium	4(6.8)	4(9.8)	8(8.0)
	c) Low	27(45.8)	18(43.9)	45(45.0)
Mean \bar{X}_1 = 67.22		Standard Error	$SE_1 = 1.9118$	
$\bar{X}_2 = 45.99$			$SE_2 = 1.1750$	
$\bar{X}_3 = 113.21$			$SE_3 = 2.5190$	

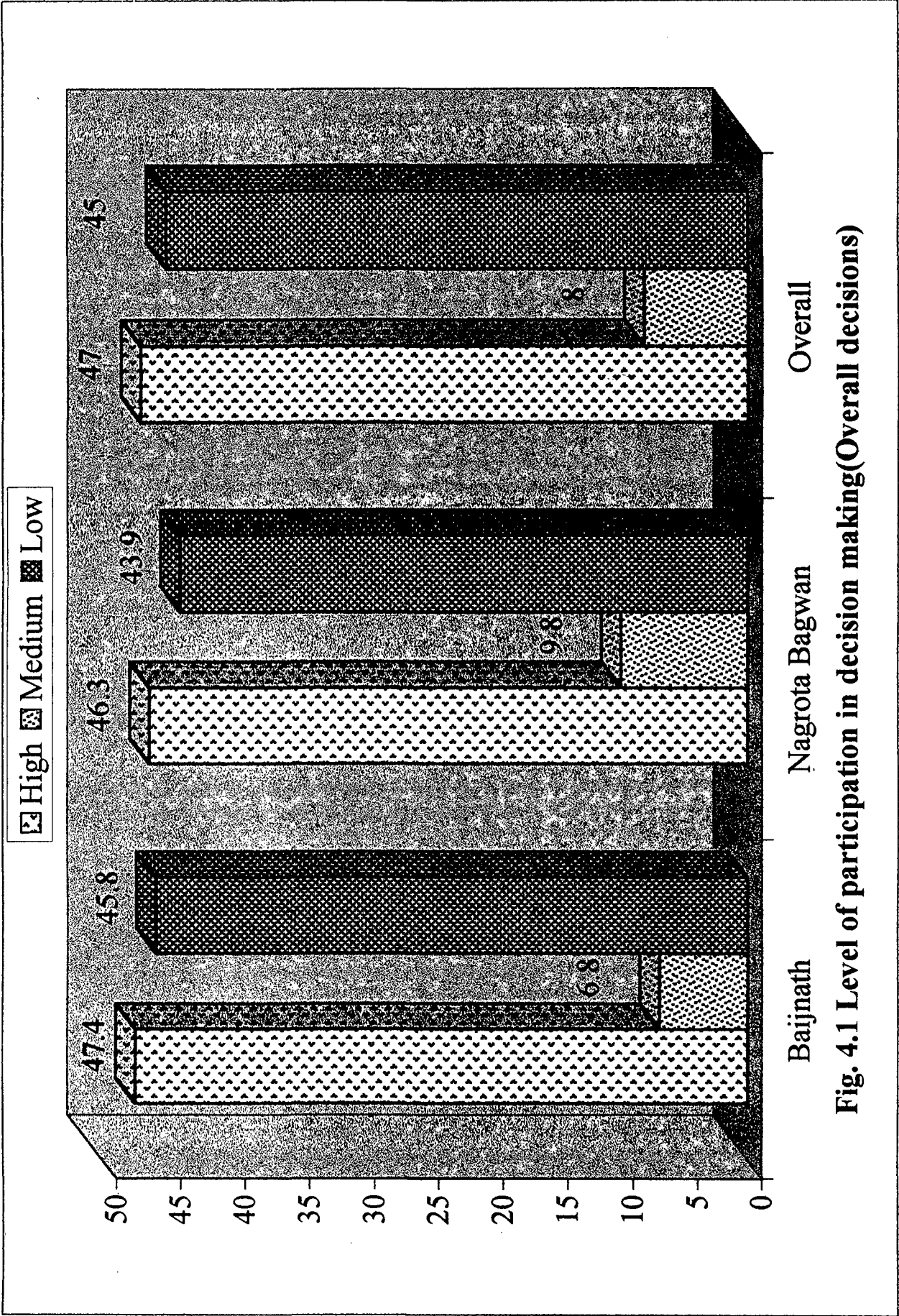


Fig. 4.1 Level of participation in decision making(Overall decisions)

4.3 Status of women

In this section status of women is presented in different sub-heads based on selected indicators of status as follows:

- 4.3.1 Women's participation in decision-making
- 4.3.2 Help received from other family members in discharging family responsibility
- 4.3.3 Freedom enjoyed in the use of family income
- 4.3.4 Freedom enjoyed in reference to social customs and rituals
- 4.3.5 Participation in community development programmes

4.3.1 Women's participation in decision-making

Women's extent of participation in decision-making has been described in previous section (4.2).

4.3.2 Help received from other family members in discharging family responsibility

The family responsibilities were categorised into three areas viz., household, agricultural and allied. These areas were further categorised in sub activities and assistance received was monitored by calculating the mean participation level of assisting members.

Help received in household activities

Household activities included the activities related to cooking, cleaning, care and maintenance of clothes, care of children, shopping, management for festivals and functions. The analysis revealed that majority of the respondents (35.2 per cent) performed these activities alone, whereas maximum assistance was given both by husband and children (21.2 per cent each). It was followed by all family members (11.8 per cent) and other family members (mother in law, sister in laws) 10.6 per cent. It is evident from the Table 4.7 that in

Table 4.7 Help received from other family members in discharging family responsibility

S. No.	Activities	N= 59 Bajnath f (%)					N= 41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)					N= 100 Over all f (%)							
		S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All	Total N	S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All	Total N	S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All	Total N
1.	Household																		
a)	Bringing cooking fuel	18 (42.9)	2 (4.8)	17 (40.4)	5 (11.90)	---	42 (71.2)	11 (45.8)	---	4 (16.7)	8 (33.3)	1 (4.2)	24 (58.5)	29 (43.9)	2 (3.1)	21 (31.8)	13 (19.7)	1 (1.5)	66 (66.0)
b)	Cooking	29 (49.2)	2 (3.3)	21 (35.7)	7 (11.8)	---	59 (100.0)	24 (58.5)	---	10 (24.4)	6 (14.6)	1 (2.5)	41 (100.0)	53 (53.0)	2 (2.0)	31 (31.0)	13 (13.0)	1 (1.0)	100 (100.0)
c)	Dishwashing	28 (47.4)	1.0 (1.7)	21 (35.7)	9 (15.3)	---	59 (100.0)	24 (58.5)	1 (2.4)	9 (22.0)	7 (17.1)	---	41 (100.0)	52 (52.0)	2 (2.0)	30 (30.0)	16 (16.0)	---	100 (100.0)
d)	Fetching water	16 (32.7)	1.0 (2.0)	23 (46.9)	9 (18.4)	---	49 (83.0)	20 (58.8)	3 (8.8)	3 (8.8)	7 (20.7)	1 (2.9)	34 (82.9)	36 (43.4)	4 (4.8)	26 (31.3)	16 (19.3)	1 (1.2)	83 (83.0)
e)	Child care	10 (47.6)	3 (14.3)	3 (14.3)	5 (23.7)	---	21 (35.6)	14 (58.3)	2 (8.3)	4 (16.7)	4 (16.7)	---	24 (58.5)	24 (53.3)	5 (11.1)	7 (15.6)	9 (20.0)	---	45 (45.0)
f)	Teaching children	11 (44.0)	4 (16.0)	8 (32.0)	2 (8.0)	---	25 (42.4)	8 (50.0)	4 (25.0)	4 (25.0)	---	---	16 (39.0)	19 (46.3)	8 (19.5)	12 (29.3)	2 (4.9)	---	41 (41.0)
g)	House cleaning	27 (45.8)	1 (1.7)	23 (39.0)	7 (11.8)	1	59 (100.0)	25 (61.0)	---	11 (26.8)	5 (12.2)	---	41 (100.0)	52 (52.0)	1 (1.0)	34 (34.0)	12 (12.0)	1 (1.0)	100 (100.0)
h)	Kitchen gardening	6 (24.0)	3 (12.0)	8 (32.0)	7 (28.0)	1	25 (42.4)	3 (23.1)	3 (23.1)	2 (15.3)	4 (30.8)	1 (7.7)	13 (31.7)	9 (23.7)	6 (15.8)	10 (26.3)	11 (29.0)	2 (5.2)	38 (38.0)
i)	Stitching clothes	15 (39.4)	2 (5.3)	16 (42.1)	5 (13.2)	---	38 (64.4)	12 (66.7)	---	5 (27.8)	1 (5.5)	---	18 (43.9)	27 (48.2)	2 (3.6)	21 (37.5)	6 (10.7)	---	56 (56.0)
j)	Mending	32 (58.2)	---	21 (38.2)	2 (3.6)	---	55 (33.2)	23 (63.9)	---	7 (19.4)	6 (16.7)	---	36 (87.8)	55 (60.4)	---	28 (30.8)	8 (8.8)	---	91 (91.0)
k)	Washing of clothes	31 (52.5)	---	24 (40.7)	4 (6.8)	---	59 (100.0)	22 (55.9)	3 (7.1)	8 (20.0)	7 (17.0)	---	40 (97.6)	53 (53.5)	3 (3.1)	32 (32.3)	11 (11.1)	---	99 (99.0)
l)	Ironing	21 (36.2)	10 (17.2)	24 (41.4)	3 (5.2)	---	58 (98.3)	14 (37.8)	4 (10.8)	14 (37.8)	5 (13.6)	---	37 (90.2)	35 (36.9)	14 (14.7)	38 (40.0)	8 (8.4)	---	95 (95.0)
m)	Storage of clothes	24 (40.6)	20 (33.9)	10 (17.0)	4 (6.8)	1	59 (100.0)	18 (43.9)	8 (19.5)	12 (29.3)	3 (7.3)	---	41 (100.0)	42 (42.0)	28 (28.0)	22 (22.0)	7 (7.0)	1 (1.0)	100 (100.0)
n)	Finance management	9 (15.8)	40 (70.2)	3 (5.2)	4 (7.0)	1	57 (96.6)	3 (7.9)	30 (79.0)	2 (5.2)	3 (7.9)	---	38 (92.7)	12 (12.6)	70 (73.7)	5 (5.3)	7 (7.4)	1 (1.0)	95 (95.0)
o)	Shopping-general items	6 (10.2)	37 (62.7)	7 (11.8)	2 (3.4)	7	59 (100.0)	4 (9.8)	28 (68.2)	1 (2.4)	4 (9.8)	4	41 (100.0)	10 (10.0)	65 (65.0)	8 (8.0)	6 (6.0)	11 (11.0)	100 (100.0)

Contd.....

S. No.	Activities	N= 59 Bajmath f (%)					N= 41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)					N= 100 Over all f (%)						
		S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All	Total N	S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All	Total N	S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All
p)	Purchase of costly item	5 (8.5)	37 (62.7)	4 (6.8)	---	13 (22.0)	59 (100.0)	1 (2.4)	30 (73.2)	2 (4.8)	4 (9.8)	41 (100.0)	6 (6.0)	67 (67.0)	6 (8.0)	4 (4.0)	17 (17.0)	100 (100.0)
q)	Arrangement for festivals	5 (8.5)	14 (23.7)	6 (10.2)	3 (5.1)	31 (52.5)	59 (100.0)	---	16 (39.0)	1 (2.4)	3 (7.3)	41 (100.0)	5 (5.0)	30 (30.0)	7 (7.0)	6 (6.0)	52 (52.0)	100 (100.0)
r)	Attending guests	11 (18.6)	15 (25.4)	3 (5.1)	2 (3.4)	28 (47.5)	59 (100.0)	2 (4.9)	13 (31.7)	3 (7.3)	3 (7.3)	41 (100.0)	13 (13.0)	28 (28.0)	6 (6.0)	5 (5.0)	48 (48.0)	100 (100.0)
s)	Attending sick person	19 (32.2)	9 (15.3)	6 (10.2)	2 (3.3)	23 (39.0)	59 (100.0)	17 (41.5)	5 (12.2)	3 (7.3)	6 (14.6)	41 (100.0)	36 (36.0)	14 (14.0)	9 (9.0)	8 (8.0)	33 (33.0)	100 (100.0)
	Mean	17 (34.0)	10 (20.0)	13 (26.0)	4 (8.0)	6 (12.0)	50 (84.7)	13 (38.2)	8 (23.6)	6 (17.6)	4 (11.8)	34 (82.9)	30 (35.2)	18 (21.2)	18 (21.2)	9 (10.6)	10 (11.8)	85 (85.0)
2.	Agricultural																	
a)	Hoing	---	8 (22.9)	7 (20.0)	20 (57.1)	---	35 (59.3)	---	6 (30.0)	8 (40.0)	6 (30.0)	20 (48.8)	---	14 (25.5)	15 (27.2)	26 (47.3)	---	55 (55.0)
b)	Weeding	12 (34.3)	8 (22.9)	---	---	15 (42.8)	35 (59.3)	8 (40.0)	5 (25.0)	3 (15.0)	---	20 (48.8)	20 (36.4)	13 (23.6)	3 (5.5)	---	19 (34.5)	55 (55.0)
c)	Transplanting	5 (14.3)	2 (5.7)	---	7 (20.0)	21 (60.0)	35 (59.3)	3 (15.0)	2 (10.0)	---	---	20 (48.8)	8 (14.5)	4 (7.3)	---	7 (12.7)	36 (65.5)	55 (55.0)
d)	Threshing	---	2 (5.7)	3 (8.6)	12 (34.3)	18 (51.4)	35 (59.3)	---	2 (10.0)	8 (40.0)	3 (15.0)	20 (48.8)	---	4 (7.3)	11 (20.0)	15 (27.2)	25 (45.5)	55 (55.0)
e)	Winnowing	12 (34.3)	2 (5.7)	3 (8.6)	---	18 (51.4)	35 (59.3)	12 (60.0)	2 (10.0)	2 (10.0)	---	20 (48.8)	24 (43.6)	4 (7.3)	5 (9.1)	---	22 (40.0)	55 (55.0)
f)	Storage of grains	5 (14.3)	8 (22.9)	3 (8.6)	2 (5.7)	17 (48.5)	35 (59.3)	2 (66.7)	1 (33.3)	---	---	3 (7.3)	7 (18.4)	9 (23.7)	3 (7.9)	2 (5.3)	17 (44.7)	38 (38.0)
	Mean	6 (17.1)	5 (14.3)	2 (5.7)	7 (20.0)	15 (42.9)	35 (59.3)	4 (23.5)	3 (17.6)	3 (17.6)	2 (11.8)	17 (41.5)	10 (19.2)	6 (11.5)	8 (15.4)	8 (15.4)	20 (38.5)	52 (52.0)
3.	Allied																	
a)	Tending of animals	5 (22.7)	2 (9.1)	3 (13.6)	2 (9.1)	10 (45.5)	22 (37.3)	3 (50.0)	---	1 (16.7)	2 (33.3)	6 (14.6)	8 (28.6)	2 (7.1)	4 (14.3)	4 (14.3)	10 (35.7)	28 (28.0)
b)	Sale of animal produce	5 (22.7)	8 (36.4)	3 (13.6)	6 (27.3)	---	22 (37.3)	---	2 (33.3)	1 (16.7)	3 (50.0)	6 (14.6)	5 (17.9)	10 (35.7)	4 (14.3)	9 (32.1)	---	28 (28.0)
c)	Purchase of raw material for allied work	12 (70.6)	2 (11.8)	---	3 (17.6)	---	17 (28.8)	3 (37.5)	2 (25.0)	---	3 (37.5)	8 (19.5)	15 (60.0)	4 (16.0)	---	6 (24.0)	---	25 (25.0)
d)	Preparation of goods	5 (29.4)	3 (17.6)	8 (47.1)	1 (5.9)	---	17 (28.8)	3 (37.5)	---	---	---	8 (19.5)	8 (32.0)	3 (12.0)	8 (32.0)	1 (4.0)	5 (20.0)	25 (25.0)
e)	Sale of goods	5 (29.4)	9 (53.0)	3 (17.6)	---	---	17 (28.8)	3 (37.5)	2 (25.0)	1 (12.5)	2 (25.0)	8 (19.5)	8 (32.0)	11 (44.0)	4 (16.0)	2 (8.0)	---	25 (25.0)
	Mean	6 (31.7)	5 (26.3)	4 (21.0)	2 (10.5)	2 (10.5)	19 (32.2)	2 (28.7)	1 (14.2)	1 (14.2)	2 (28.7)	7 (17.0)	9 (34.6)	6 (23.1)	4 (15.4)	4 (15.4)	3 (11.5)	26 (26.0)

Note: S=Self (Respondent), S+H= Self and Husband, S+O= Self and Others, All = All family members

Bajnath block children's assistance was highest (26 per cent) followed by husband (20 per cent). In Nagrota block maximum assistance was given by husband (23.6 per cent), followed by children, other family members and all family members. It is also clear from the table that in both the blocks women's alone participation percentage was more 34 per cent and 38.2 per cent respectively than any other's assistance in performing all household related chores.

Help received in agricultural activities

Agricultural activities included hoeing, weeding, transplanting, threshing, winnowing and storage of grains. The data showed that in 19.2 per cent cases women performed all these activities alone, maximum assistance was given by all family members (38.5 per cent) followed by children and other family members (15.4 per cent each).

In Bajjnath block assistance of all family members was recorded to be the highest (42.9 per cent), followed by other family members (20 per cent), husband (14.3 per cent) and children (5.7 per cent). In Nagrota block also maximum assistance was recorded for all family members (29.5 per cent), followed by husband (17.6 per cent) children (17.6 per cent) and family members (11.8 per cent). The results thus showed that in both the blocks all members assistance was high.

Help received in allied activities

In the study area, the common allied activities were animal rearing, dairy and craft work. The activities included care of animals, purchase of raw material, preparation of goods by knitting and weaving and sale of products. The results revealed that maximum assistance was given by husband (23.1 per cent), followed by husband and other family members (15.4

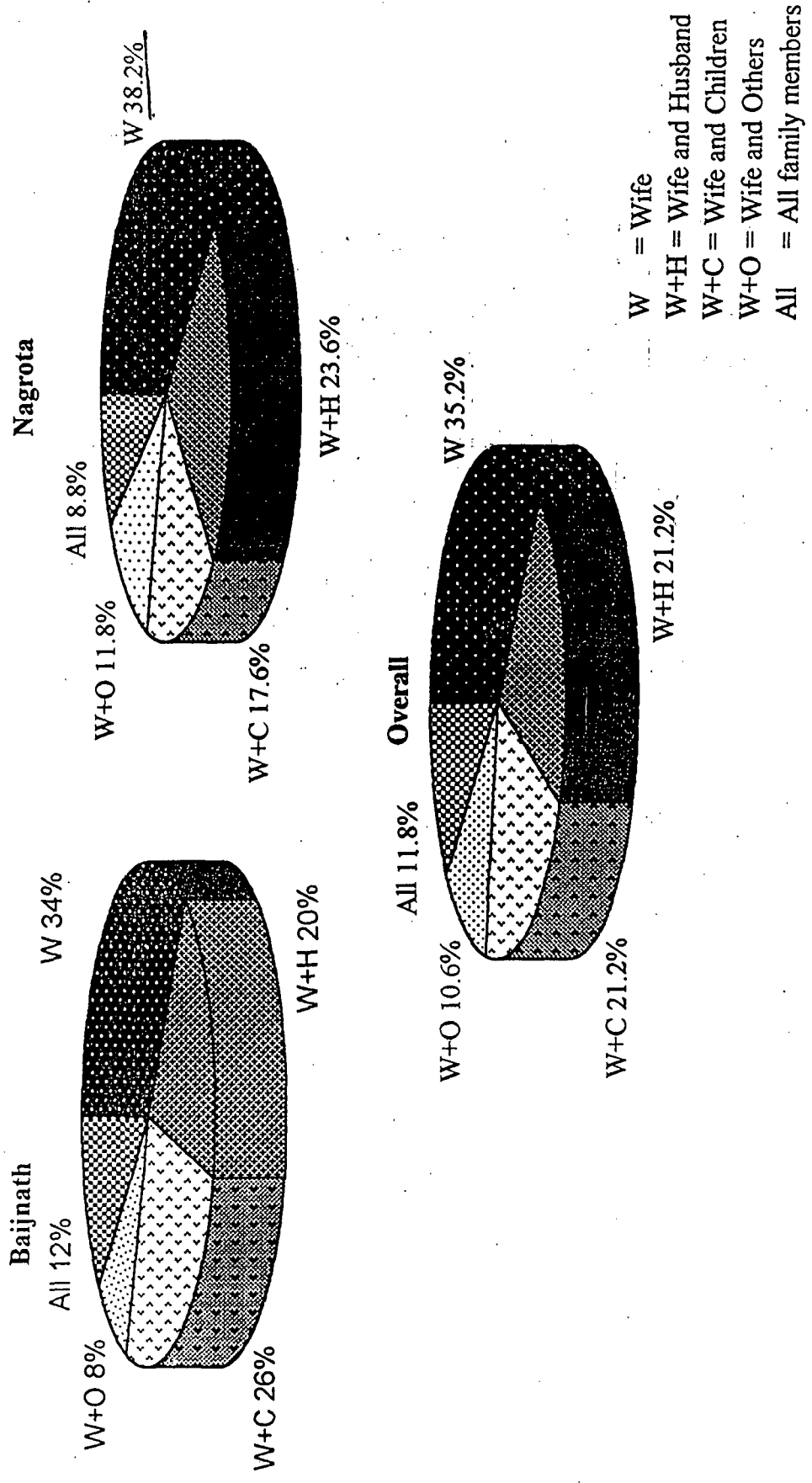


Fig. 4.2 Assistance received in discharging family responsibility (Household activities)

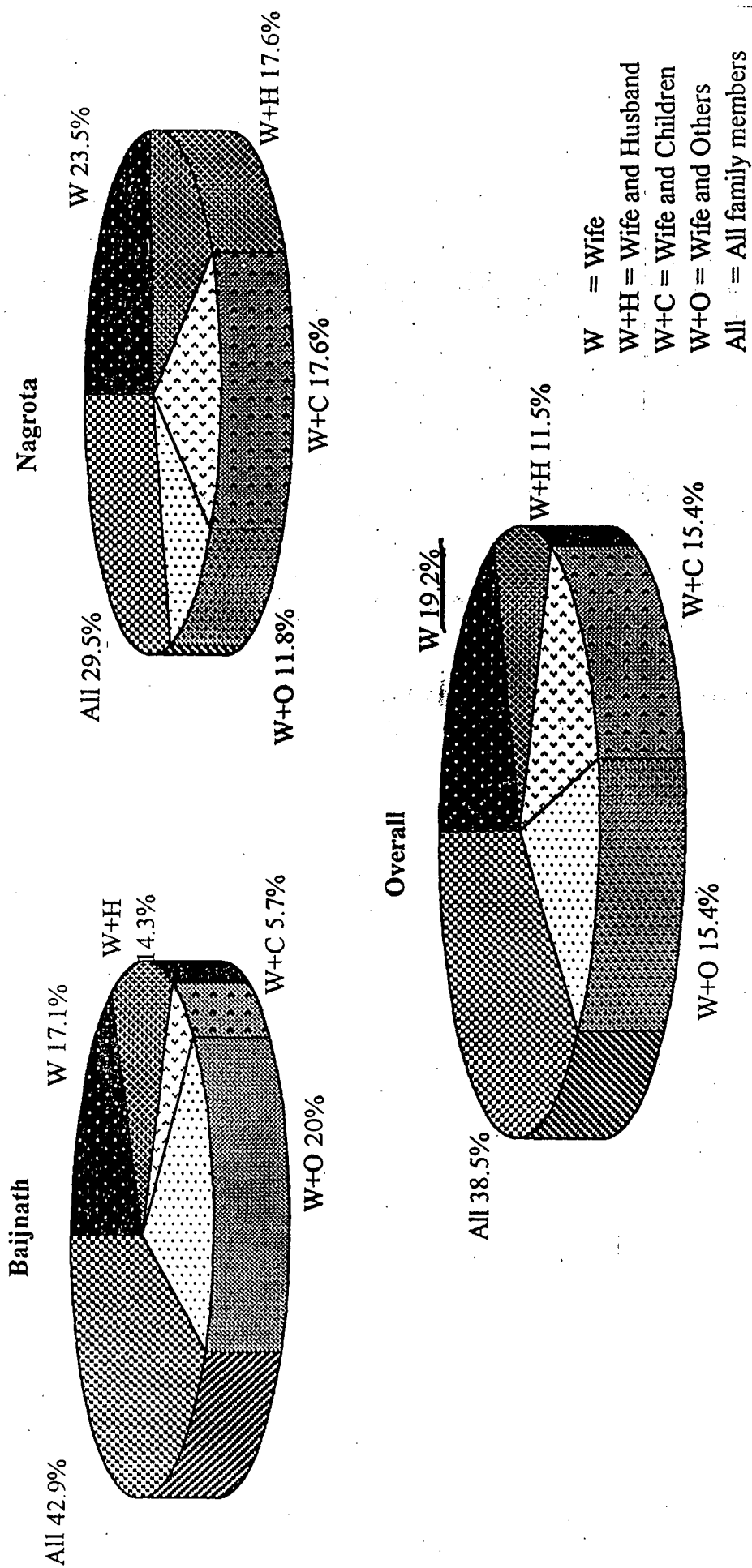


Fig. 4.3 Assistance received in discharging family responsibility (Agricultural activities)

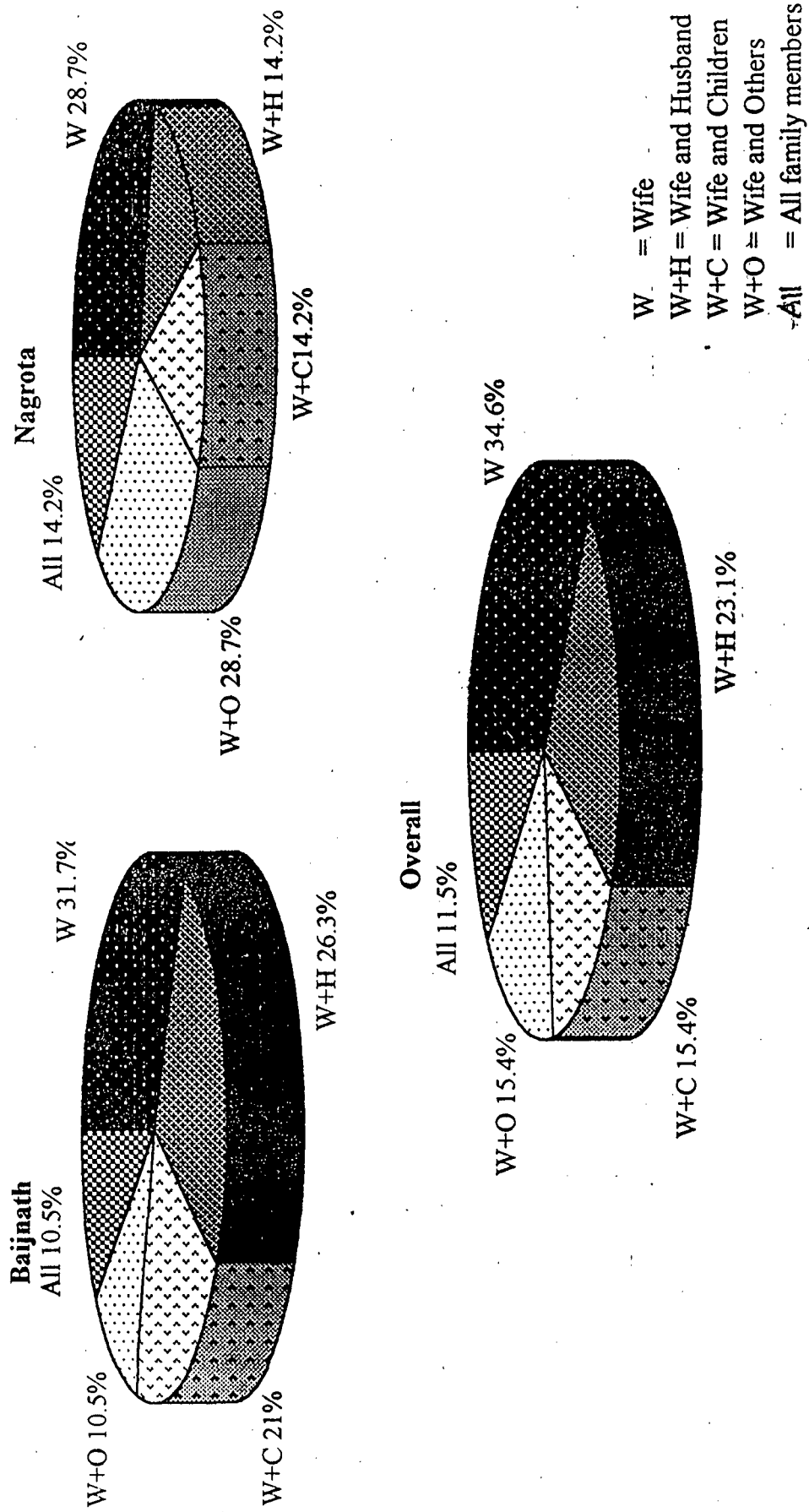


Fig. 4.4 Assistance received in discharging family responsibility (Allied activities)

per cent each) and all family members (11.5 per cent). In 34.6 per cent cases women performed all activities alone.

It is also clear from the table that in Baijnath block maximum assistance was given by husband (26.3 per cent), whereas in case of Nagrota block other family members assistance was maximum (28.7 per cent). In both blocks women's alone participation was higher, yet Baijnath block showed high percentage (31.7 per cent) against Nagrota block (28.7 per cent).

4.3.3 Freedom enjoyed in use of family income

The freedom and control over the use of family income of respondents was observed. The analysis of the data revealed (Table 4.8) that out of total sample, only 25 per cent of the respondents had their own saving account and the trend for getting separate allowance or pocket money was negligible. The ownership of property (land/building) was also very low i.e. 8 per cent. In sale and purchase of property 44 per cent of the respondents were consulted before taking final decision. In the use of family income all the respondents had right to spend. Majority (90 per cent) of the respondents had freedom to spend family income in direction of head of family. It was followed by fully (9 per cent) and rarely (1 per cent). The responsibilities of keeping family income for household expenditure, wife and husband showed equal distribution viz., 50 per cent each.

In Baijnath block percentage was recorded higher for having own saving account 30.5 per cent and possession of property 10.2 per cent as compared to Nagrota block i.e. 17.1 and 4.9 per cent respectively.

Table 4.8 Freedom enjoyed by the respondents in use of family income

S.No.	Statements	N = 59 Bajjnath f (%)	N = 41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)	N = 100 Overall f (%)
1.	Own saving account	18 (30.5)	7 (17.1)	25 (25.0)
2.	Get separate allowance/pocket money	1 (1.7)	---	1 (1.0)
3.	Possession of property (land/building)	6 (10.2)	2 (4.9)	8 (8.0)
4.	Participation in sale/purchase of property	27 (45.8)	17 (41.5)	44 (44.0)
5.	Freedom for spending family income			
	a) Fully	6 (10.2)	3(7.3)	9 (9.0)
	b) In direction of head of the family	52 (88.1)	38 (92.7)	90 (90.0)
	c) Rarely	1 (1.7)	---	1 (1.0)
6.	Responsibility for keeping money for household expenditure	<u>59 (100.0)</u>	<u>41 (100.0)</u>	100 (100.0)
	a) Herself	29 (49.2)	21 (51.2)	50 (50.0)
	b) Husband	30 (50.8)	20 (48.8)	50 (50.0)

4.3.4 Freedom enjoyed in reference to social customs and rituals

Social customs and rituals hinder the path of development and ultimately the status of women. Thus social customs and rituals of the respondents was selected as an indicator of status of women. Table 4.9 depicted that only 44 per cent of the respondents welcomed the birth of female child birth joyfully, whereas, majority (56 per cent) did not do so. Due to circumstances when remarriage is desired for men or women, 38 per cent of the respondent families accepted the trend of remarriage for women.

For the adoption of new fashion for dresses and make-up popular in nearest town 33 per cent respondent frankly accepted it, whereas, others (67 per cent) considered their economy and common practice of their own community and group. Regarding freedom to travel without male members, 79 per cent respondents had freedom to do so. Sixty six per cent of the respondents had freedom to attend social gatherings and local fairs and 91 per cent respondents had freedom to entertain the guests. Regarding eating practices, majority (99 per cent) of the respondents followed trend of eating along with male members. Only 1 per cent respondent showed traditional pattern, to eat after male members.

Table 4.9 further showed the block wise distribution. It can be seen from the table that joyful celebration of female child birth and welcome of remarriage, was better accepted in Baijnath block i.e. 59.3 per cent and 49.2 per cent respectively than in Nagrota block i.e. 15.3 per cent each. Respondents from Baijnath block had less freedom to travel alone 71.2 per cent against i.e. 90.2 per cent in Nagrota block. There was no difference between both blocks about the freedom to entertain social gatherings and local fairs.

Table 4.9 Freedom enjoyed by the respondents in social customs and rituals

S.No.	Statements	N = 59 Bajnath f(%)	N = 41 Nagrota Bagwan f(%)	N = 100 Overall f(%)
1.	Joyful celebration of female child birth	35 (59.3)	9 (15.3)	44 (44.0)
2.	Remarriage of women	29 (49.2)	9 (15.3)	38 (38.0)
3.	Acceptance of changes in fashion	18 (30.5)	15 (36.6)	33 (33.0)
4.	Freedom for travel without male members	42 (71.2)	37 (90.2)	79 (79.0)
5.	Freedom for attending social gathering and local fairs	39 (66.1)	27 (65.9)	66 (66.0)
6.	Freedom for entertaining guests	54 (91.5)	37 (90.2)	91 (91.0)
7.	Eating practice			
	a) Along with male members	59 (100.0)	40 (97.6)	99 (99.0)
	b) After male members	---	1 (2.4)	1 (1.0)

Freedom in choice of career

Results regarding the freedom enjoyed by respondents in reference to choice of career have been presented in Table 4.10. The data showed that 69 per cent respondents had freedom to do job and out of these 29.1 per cent respondents had freedom to choose career of their own choice. The decision related to area and type of job, majority (78.2 per cent) of the respondents took joint decision (with husband/parents) and 21.8 per cent only by herself. It was also observed that in Baijnath block respondents had more freedom (72.9 per cent) to do job as compared to Nagrota block (63.4 per cent).

Table 4.10 Freedom enjoyed by the respondents in choice of career

S. No.	Statements	N=59 Baijnath f(%)	N=41 Nagrota Bagwan f(%)	N=100 Overall f(%)
1.	Freedom to do job	43 (72.9)	26 (63.4)	69 (69.0)
2.	Career of own choice	15 (34.9)	5 (19.2)	20 (29.1)
3.	Decision for job in reference to area and type of job			
	a) Herself	13 (30.2)	2 (7.7)	15 (21.8)
	b) Joint decision	30 (69.8)	24 (92.3)	54 (78.2)

4.3.5 Participation in community development programmes

In the study area, Mahila Mandal organisation was active. Besides Mahila Mandal, participation of women was monitored with other village level organisations and workers such as Gram Sevikas and health workers. The pattern of participation is presented in Table 4.11. Out of total sample, one half of the sample attended Mahila Mandal programmes. Their

Table 4.11 Participation in community development programmes

S.No.	Statements	N = 59 Bajnath f(%)	N = 41 Nagrota Bagwan f(%)	N = 100 Overall f(%)
1.	Participation in Mahila Mandal	<u>26 (44.1)</u>	<u>24 (58.5)</u>	<u>50 (50.0)</u>
2.	In meetings participate as :			
	a) Chairperson	1 (3.8)	---	1 (2.0)
	b) Initiate for decisions	23 (88.4)	22 (91.7)	45 (90.0)
	c) Only participating member	2 (7.8)	2 (8.3)	4 (8.0)
	Total	26(100.0)	24(100.0)	50(100.0)
3.	Consult Gram Sevikas	<u>19 (32.2)</u>	<u>12 (29.3)</u>	<u>31 (31.0)</u>
	a) Always	6 (31.6)	7 (58.3)	13 (41.9)
	b) Some times	13 (68.4)	5 (41.7)	18 (58.1)
4.	Consult health workers	<u>29 (49.2)</u>	<u>25 (61.0)</u>	<u>54 (54.0)</u>
	a) Always	---	---	---
	b) Some times	29 (100.0)	25 (100.0)	54 (100.0)

participation level was observed at three levels i.e. as chairperson (2 per cent), main initiator for decisions (90 per cent) and quiet participants (8 per cent).

In Baijnath block women's participation in Mahila Mandal programmes was less (44.1 per cent) as compared to Nagrota block (58.5 per cent). However, in reference to consultation with Gram Sevikas Baijnath block showed higher percentage against Nagrota block. About consultation with health workers reverse trend was observed. The results revealed that respondents from Baijnath block had less participation in Mahila Mandals and consultation with health workers as compared to Nagrota block.

4.3.5.1 Reasons for non-participation in community development programmes

The reasons for non-participation in community development programmes were attributed to lack of facility, lack of time, interest and other reasons may be mentioned as other family members participation and new marriage of respondents. Lack of time was reported by majority (42 per cent) of the respondents as the main reason for their non-participation. About one fourth of respondents observed lack of facility as the reason for non-participation followed by lack of interest (Table 4.12). Table further revealed that in both blocks, lack of time was main reason for non-participation. It was more prominent in Nagrota block as compared to Baijnath block.

4.3.5.2 Impact of participation in Mahila Mandal as perceived by the respondents

In the study area, one half of the total respondents participated in Mahila Mandal. Out of these 56 per cent stated that participation in Mahila Mandal had increased their knowledge and skill. Majority (84 per cent) of the respondents opined that due to participation in Mahila Mandal, their status had increased amongst family (Table 4.13). In Baijnath block its impact

Table 4.12 Reasons for non-participation in community development programmes

Reasons		N = 33 Bajnath f(%)	N = 17 Nagrota Bagwan f(%)	N = 50 Overall f(%)
1.	Lack of facility	8 (24.2)	5 (29.4)	13 (26.0)
2.	Lack of time	12 (36.4)	9 (52.9)	21 (42.0)
3.	Lack of interest	6 (18.2)	2 (11.8)	8 (16.0)
4.	Other reasons	7 (21.2)	1(5.9)	8 (16.0)
Total		33(100.0)	17(100.0)	50(100.0)

Table 4.13 Impact of participation in Mahila Mandal- as perceived by the respondents

S.No.	Participation C.D. Programme	N=26 Bajnath f (%)	N= 24 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)	N=50 Overall- f (%)
1.	Increased knowledge and skill	24(92.3)	4(16.7)	28(56.0)
2.	Increased status amongst family	26(100.0)	16(66.7)	42(84.0)

was significant. About 92.3 per cent respondents accepted that due to participation their knowledge and skill increased. It has been further observed that in Baijnath block the respondents stated that due to participation in Mahila Mandal their status increased in the family. The corresponding figure for Nagrota block was found to be 66.7 per cent.

4.3.5.3 Level of status on the basis of selected indicators

Level of status with respect to selected indicators of status was determined by calculating mean score and standard error. It was further grouped in three categories i.e. high, medium and low (Table 4.14). Analysis of the data revealed that decision-making and freedom enjoyed in family and society scored maximum and were categorised for high level. Freedom enjoyed in spending family income scored for medium level whereas, participation in community development programmes and help received in discharging family responsibility scored minimum, categorised for low level of status. Block wise results also showed similar trend.

4.3.5.4 Overall level of status

The over^{-all} levels of status of respondents was measured by computing the score value of each selected indicators of status. Further mean and standard error were calculated from total score value to determine level of status as high, medium and low. The analysis depicted that majority of the respondents had either high (46 per cent) or low (45 per cent) level and least number (9 per cent) had medium level of status. Similar trend was seen for both the blocks as far as level of status was concerned (Table 4.15).

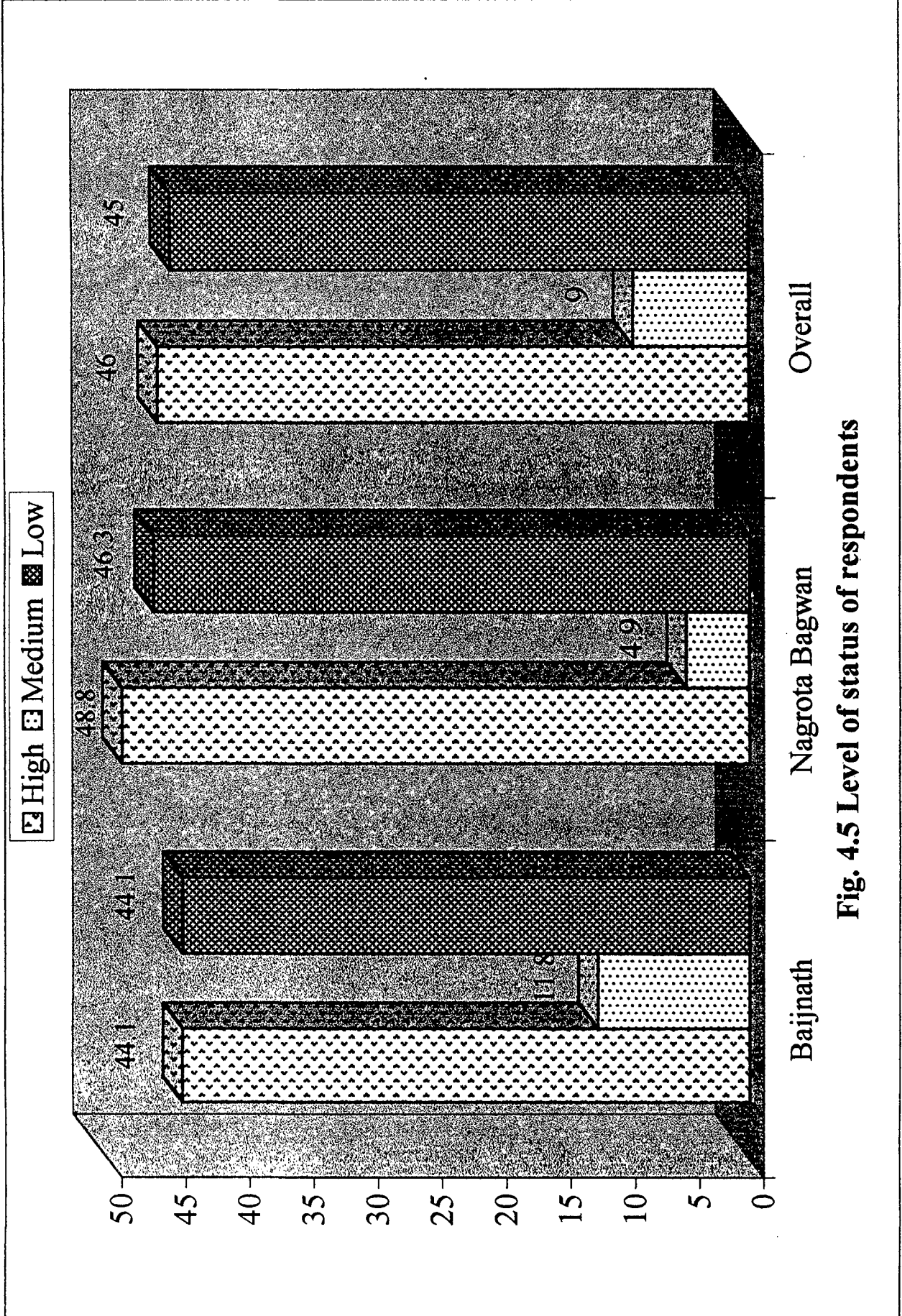


Fig. 4.5 Level of status of respondents

4.14 Level of status of respondents on the basis of selected indicators of status

S.No.	Indicators of status	Assigned score in decending order		
		Bajjnath	Nagrota Bagwan	Overall
1.	Decision making	129.12	86.90	215.67
2.	Freedom enjoyed in family and society	111.25	76.85	188.00
3.	Freedom enjoyed in spending family income	87.28	60.42	133.42
4.	Participation in community development programme.	74.20	52.40	126.60
5.	Assistance recieved in discharging family responsibilities	70.44	45.68	116.12

Mean \bar{X}_1	=	94.458	Standard Error	SE_1	=	10.044
\bar{X}_2	=	64.450		SE_2	=	6.8455
\bar{X}_3	=	155.962		SE_3	=	17.3772

Note : H = High, M = Medium, L = Low

Table 4.15 Overall level of status of respondents

S. No.	Level	N 59 Bajnath f (%)	N = 41 Nagrota Bagwan f (%)	N = 100 Overall f (%)
1.	a) High	26 (44.1)	20 (48.8)	46 (46.0)
	b) Medium	7 (11.8)	2 (4.9)	9 (9.0)
	c) Low	26 (44.1)	19 (46.3)	45 (45.0)
	Total	59 (100.0)	41 (100.0)	100 (100.0)

Mean \bar{X} = 205.48, standard error SE = 3.2088

4.4 Opinion of menfolk

For judging the status of women in family and society it is important to know that in the society, how menfolk think about women's rights, responsibilities, their freedom and authority. It is evident from Table 4.16 that 100 per cent respondents (husbands) appreciated that women should be treated equal to men; have equal right in income and property. The menfolk were also of the opinion that females were good decision-makers. In reference to educational level, majority (95 per cent) of the husbands responded that women's level of education should be to get hold of job. They also accepted that women should take part in politics.

Table 4.16 Opinion of menfolk regarding status of women

S. No.	Opinion	N = 20 f (%)
1.	Equality of women to men	20 (100.0)
2.	Equal Right in husband's income and property	20 (100.0)
3.	Women the good managers/decision-maker	20 (100.0)
4.	Educated women should get employment	19 (95.0)
5.	Women should take part in politics	20 (100.0)

4.5 Hypothesis

4.5.1 (H₀) : There is no significant influence of personal, family and situational variables on the respondent's participation in decision-making.

4.5.2 (H₀) : There is no significant influence of personal, family and situational variables on the status of women.

4.5.3 (H₀) : There is no correlation between husband's education and women's participation in decision-making, community development programme and status.

Personal variables

- a) Age
- b) Education
- c) Marital status

Family variables

- a) Family type
- b) Caste
- c) Income

Situational variable

- a) Participation in community development programmes

4.5.1 (H_0) : There is no significant influence of personal family and situational variables on the respondents participation in decision-making.

All selected variables were regressed against scores obtained in decision-making by the respondents. The results obtained are presented in Table 4.17.

For overall sample, the results showed that the maximum influence was of the marital status on decision-making by women alone (Y_1). The value of coefficient of determination was also found to be highest amongst all the variables. It was followed by education and age. The education of respondents and decision-making by them independently was found to have negative relationship, whereas positive relationship was found with age. Here it is remarkable that other variables like family type, income, caste and participation in community development programme had no significant influence when taken independently with Y_1 .

Table 4.17 further showed that in case of joint decision by husband and wife, age and marital status had negative relationship whereas education was positively correlated. All other factors were found to be non-significant. The marital status explained 21 per cent of total variation in Y_2 .

Table 4.17 Results of regression function showing impact of personal, family and situational variables on women's participation in decision-making

Variables	Alone (Women) (Y ₁)		Joint (Women + Husband) (Y ₂)		Alone + Joint (Y ₃)	
	b ₀	b ₁ r ²	b ₀	b ₁ r ²	b ₀	b ₁ r ²
1. Age	-2.6181	0.2613** (4.257) 0.1560	22.8807	-0.1930* (2.100) 0.0430	20.2626	0.0683 ^{NS} (0.684) 0.0048
2. Education	9.6140	-0.5130** (4.018) 0.1414	13.8514	0.3778* (1.988) 0.0388	23.4653	-0.1352 ^{NS} (0.657) 0.004
3. Marital status	-3.6271	9.8322** (5.850) 0.2588	29.3366	-12.5015** (5.128) 0.2116	25.7095	-2.6693 ^{NS} (0.917) 0.0085
4. Family type	6.6980	0.2861 ^{NS} (0.222) 0.005	16.4588	0.3977 (0.219) 0.0005	22.9528	-0.1115 ^{NS} (0.058) 0.0000
5. Caste	5.1341	0.7793 ^{NS} (0.948) 0.0091	18.9344	-1.2846 ^{NS} (1.114) 0.0125	24.0684	-0.5054 ^{NS} (0.409) 0.0017
6. Income	8.1718	-0.0003 ^{NS} (1.408) 0.0198	15.9052	0.0000 ^{NS} (0.179) 0.0003	24.0770	0.0003 ^{NS} (1.106) 0.0123
7. Participation in community development programme	6.8147	0.0453 ^{NS} (0.129) 0.0002	11.6358	0.6701 ^{NS} (1.371) 0.0188	18.4505	0.7154 ^{NS} (1.375) 0.0189

Figures in parentheses indicate t-values

To examine the impact of all these variables on overall decision-making by women, the score obtained from women's alone decision and joint decisions by husband and wife were pooled together that is Y_3 . Table 4.17 shows the results. It can be seen from the table that all the variables were found to be non-significant. The value of r^2 was also found to be very low.

4.5.2 (H_0) : There is significant influence of personal family and situational variable on women' status.

All selected variables were regressed independently with the status of respondents. The results are presented in Table 4.18. It is clear from the table that only marital status had significant influence. The negative sign represents inverse relationship. Rest of the variables were non-significant.

Table 4.18 Results of regression function showing impact of personal family and situational variables on women's status

Variables	b_0	b_1	r^2
1. Age	210.6838	-.1401 (.403)	.0017
2. Education	204.9801	.1016 (.142)	.0002
3. Marital status	246.1619	-372.29** (3.959)	.1379
4. Family type	205.5247	-.0326 (.0048)	.0000
5. Caste	218.7580	-5.2901 (1.242)	.0155
6. Income	207.1207	.0004 (.407)	.0017
7. Participation in community development programmes	5.6662	.3020 (.816)	.0067

Figures in parentheses indicate 't' value

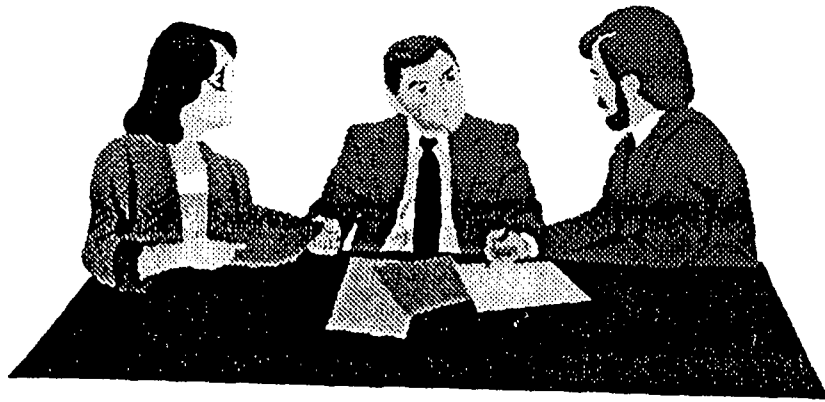
4.5.3 (H₀) : There is no significant correlation between husband's education and women's participation in decision-making, community development programme and status.

The results are presented in Table 4.19. The results showed significant positive correlation between variables viz., for decision-making ($r = 0.4294$, $t = 4.6608$), participation in community development programme ($r = 0.3436$, $t = 3.4677$) and status ($r = 0.5565$, $t = 6.2566$).

Table 4.19 Correlation between husband's education and women's participation in decision-making community development programme and status

Variables	Correlation coefficient	t-calculated	Degrees of freedom
Decision-making	0.4294	4.6608*	98
Participation in C.D. programme	0.3436	3.4677*	98
Status	0.5565	6.2566*	98

*Significant at 5 per cent level of significance



DISCUSSION

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

This Chapter contemplates the findings of the study constructed by providing reasonable explanations and citing supporting evidences. The discussion has been presented section wise.

5.1 Description of the sample characteristics

Description of the sample portrays the socio-economic characteristics of personal and family variables of households. In reference to personal characteristics of respondents it was found that majority of the respondents were married, belonged to middle age group (31-44 years) having educational level upto high school.

Family characteristics revealed trend of nuclear families having average family size of 5 to 7 members. The average land holding size was 4 kanals. Main family occupation was service (Government/private). The reason or prevalence of nuclear family system may be that in Kangra district average land holding size/business is not large, hence family income is not enough to run the joint family households easily. Therefore, menfolk have to look after their own families individually. The findings are similar to the results of research conducted by Thakur (2000) that in Kangra district nuclear family system is common and male members migrate to other place for job purpose.

In the study area, majority of the respondents belonged to lower caste category including scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes. Their average monthly income was about Rupees four thousand (Rs. 3997.80). There was more variation in distribution of households according to income ranges. Majority of the respondents belonged to income group of Rs.1000-3000 because they were employed in petty occupations such as driver, conductor or in garment shop. Besides this, few households run their business like vegetable and fruit vendors and as carpenters.

5.2 Participation in decision-making

Decision-making was observed in two types of decisions, expenditure related and general decisions. It was found that expenditure related decisions in reference to food, clothing, housing and furnishing were largely taken by husbands whereas, in child care, social ceremonies, farm input and allied activities, joint decision-making by both husband and wife was more common. Awasthy (1982) studied the decision-making role of Jammu women and reported that women's role was limited to purchase of food items and directly needed clothing for self. Sangvan *et al.* (1987) examined that in economic activity joint decision-making was more prevalent. Various aspects of general decisions under study included household, agricultural and allied activities. In all these aspects joint decision-making was more common. Similar findings were observed by a study conducted by Badiger and Rao (1985) which reported joint decision-making pattern in the household as well as farm related decisions.

The extent of participation of women in both general and expenditure related decisions was categorized as high, medium and low. It has been observed that extent of women's

participation was high and medium in household decision both expenditure related and general. However, low level of participation in decision-making was observed in case of decision-making related to agricultural and allied activities. The reason for this may be that male members mainly take the responsibility of earning and women take all managerial responsibility to run the household. Bal (1989) reported that participation of women in decision-making was active in food management, clothing management, home decoration, social ceremonies, health hygiene, recreational activities and educational decisions.

Women's level of participation in decision-making was either high or low for expenditure related decisions and general decisions and also for overall decisions. Thus, here it can be concluded that in the study area, about one half of the respondents had greater hold in managerial responsibilities. It was observed that in sampled area, majority of the respondents were married, having monthly family income range of Rs.3000 to above 10,000. Nearly one half of the sampled respondents participated actively in community development programmes whereas, other one half did not do so. There was much variation in the data this may be the reason for having either high or low level of participation in decision-making.

5.3 Help received in discharging family responsibility

Family responsibilities were categorised in three work areas viz., household, agricultural and allied. After analysis it was inferred that women's alone participation was higher in all three areas of work i.e. household, agricultural and allied activities. Data showed that respondents received maximum help of family members in carrying out agricultural activities followed by allied activities and least in household activities, respectively. The reason

may be that in Indian society household activities are considered as women centered domain. Similarly Rani (1989) also observed that women do all these activities, viz., cooking food, caring for children, managing water, looking after cattle's house, filling the manure in pits, whereas, in other spheres family member's assistance was available.

5.4 Freedom enjoyed in family and society

Women's freedom in family and society was observed in terms of freedom enjoyed in spending family income and participation in social customs and rituals. It was found that very few women had their own saving account. This may be because all the respondents did not have their earning and meagre earning from daily labour or allied activities such as knitting and weaving was used in fulfilling daily family needs. Nearly one half of respondents had freedom to participate in sale and purchase of property such as land and building. This may be because most of the times their male counter parts remained away from home doing jobs in other cities. All the respondents had freedom to spend family income, majority of them could spend it in direction of head of family. This may be because nuclear family system was more prevalent in study area and it led to manage all the financial responsibility either by husband or wife. In case of absence of husbands from home due to migration the respondents had freedom to spend money.

Freedom enjoyed in reference to social customs and rituals was examined which depicted about one half of the sampled households welcomed the female child birth joyfully. Majority of the respondents argued that they do not welcome girl's birth because they can not economically support their parents, their rearing is difficult

because their marriage is expensive and also a great responsibility, very few families accepted the remarriage of widows. All women were free to travel without male members, attend local fairs and gatherings and to entertain guests. Almost all women follow the trend of eating alongwith male members. This shows that there was not any kind of restriction from family members for women to eat separately or after the male members. . In reference to job, majority of the women had freedom to do it but the decision was taken jointly by husband and parents alongwith respondents.

5.5 Participation in community development programmes

In the sampled area, only Mahila Mandal organisation was working actively and one half of the women participated in its activities. Majority of the respondent's participation was of an active initiator for decisions. In reference to consultation with village level and Government workers it was found that about half of the sampled women consulted with health workers and consultation with Gram Sevika was less as compared to health workers. The main reason for non-participation in Mahila Mandal was stated as lack of time because most of the women were single in their family so they could not spare the time as well as they had to perform the agricultural operations also.

5.6 Status of women

The status of women was judged by combining the scores obtained by the respondents in various identified indicators of status. These included mainly the decision-making and others were freedom enjoyed in use of family income, freedom enjoyed in reference to social

customs and rituals and participation in community development programmes. It was found that women had higher status in decision-making and freedom enjoyed in family and low level of status in other selected indicators such as help received in discharging family responsibility and participation in community development programmes.

The overall status of respondents was analysed and it was found that they had either high or low status with almost equal proportion.

5.7 Opinion of menfolk

The opinion of husbands was sought in reference to status of respondents. They accepted that women are equal to men, they have equal right in their husband's income and property. They also accepted that women are good managers and decision maker. Majority of the husband opined that women's education should be upto a level to manage household work, a very few men responded upto high school level of education. Menfolk also accepted that women should be gainfully employed and should take part in politics. Here it can be concluded that in sampled area rigid restriction in reference to education and career do not exist and women's performance is praised by the society.

5.8 Factors influencing the women's participation in decision-making and status

5.8.1 Influence of personal, family and situational variables on women's participation in decision-making

Results for overall sample (Table 4.17) revealed that in case of women's alone participation in decision-making (Y_1) education of the respondent showed negative effect. The reason may be that in the sampled households it was observed that those respondents who had higher education, generally belonged to economically sound families and were from nuclear family system hence took joint decisions. However, where women's education was low/illiterate, simultaneously their spouses also had low educational level. They used to be away from home for wage earning. In such case women had to take the maximum decisions.

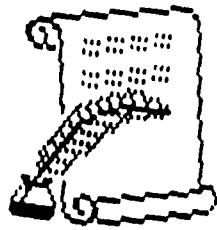
About joint participation (Y_2) age and marital status showed significant negative relationship whereas, education had positive significant relationship. The fact behind the negative relationship may be that as women got older their children used to take part in sharing the managerial responsibilities. The advice of the older women was taken but final decision was taken by the younger generation. In case of marital status, the reason of negative relationship may be that widows and separated women had to take all managerial responsibilities and decision by themselves. For women's overall participation in decision-making (Y_3) none of the variables showed significant influence. The caste and family type did not affect the women's participation in decision-making. In case of income and participation in community development programme it was observed that there was much variation in the data thus the linear relationship did not come out to be significant.

5.8.2 Influence of personal, family and situational variable on women's status

From the Table 4.18 it is inferred that only marital status had significant influence on women's overall status. The negative relation represents that widow and separated women had higher status in the family. The reason may be that they had more say in decision-making as well as in other social activities. Other variables like age, education, family type, caste, income and participation in community activities showed non-significant influence. For overall status, score value of women's participation in decision-making was pooled together (i.e. Y_3). As the decision-making was considered to be the major indicator of status, here also non-significant influence was found similarly as for decision-making (Y_3) all the factors were estimated to be non-significant. This may be because of the fact that the variations in the variables were very high.

5.8.2 Correlation between household's education and women's participation in decision-making, community development programme and status

From the results (Table 4.19) it is clear that women's participation in decision-making, participation in community development programme and status were positively correlated with husbands education. It indicates that husband with higher education had an open mind to women's higher participation in decision-making and make joint decisions which ultimately led to high status.



SUMMARY

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

Women constitute about one-half of population in our country and around 77 per cent of total female population reside in rural areas. Most of the women in rural areas are engaged for major part of the day in household work and many of them take part in various economic activities also. Thus, the burden shared by women is of two fold, one on domestic front and the other on the economic front.

Any successful development effort depends on effective participation of both men and women in family and community life. Today such participation has been more or less the sacred preserve of the menfolk; usually with just one or two women present as representative of their kind. Power, however in terms of decision-making has usually been in hands of men. Women in decision-making and influential power are exceptions rather than rule and they do not enjoy the equal status. Hence, there is great need to pay attention on their role performance and status in family as well as in society. With this back ground the present study has been under taken to examine the role played by the women of Himachal Pradesh in family and society, what is their extent of participation in decision-making, what are the other factors which accord status to them, what is the perception of menfolk of the Himachal Pradesh regarding the status of women and finally to determine the overall status of women. The framed objectives were as follows:

6.1 Objectives

1. To identify the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of rural women and their households.
2. To study the extent of women's participation in managerial role in reference to decision-making in household, agricultural and allied activities.
3. To determine the status of rural women in family and society.
4. To know the opinion of men folk about status of rural women.

6.2 Methodology

Descriptive type of survey design was considered appropriate to achieve the objectives of present investigation.

6.2.1 Variables

1. Dependent variable

- a) Status of women

2. Independent variables

a) Personal variables:

- i) Age of respondents
- ii) Education of respondents
- iii) Employment status
- iv) Marital status

b) Family variables:

- i) Family type

- ii) Family size
 - iii) Main family occupation
 - iv) Caste
 - v) Size of land holding
 - vi) Income of the family
- c) Situational variable:
- i) Participation in community development programmes.

6.2.2 Tool construction

Structured interview schedule was used to record the complete data. The schedule consisted of the following sections:

Section I

This section incorporated questions regarding personal and family characteristics of respondents and their family members.

Section II

In this section questions were framed to elicit the information about the participation of respondents in decision-making in different aspects of household, agricultural and allied activities.

Section III

In this section questions were incorporated to elicit the information about actual position of women in family and society based on following indicators of status.

1. Assistance of family members while discharging family responsibility.
2. Freedom enjoyed in use of family income.

3. Freedom enjoyed in reference to social customs and rituals.
4. Choice of career and participation in labour force.
5. Participation in social and community activities.

Section IV

It included questions framed to know the opinion of respondent's husbands regarding the status of women.

6.2.3 Selection of sample

A multi stage random sampling technique was used to select the blocks, villages and ultimate respondents. In first stage of sampling two development blocks were chosen at random from Kangra district. These blocks were Baijnath and Nagrota Bagwan. In these selected blocks a complete list of villages was prepared. From this list a sample of ten villages from each selected block was chosen at random and complete list of households was prepared with the help of local institutions like Panchayat. In the final stage of sampling 100 respondents were chosen at random through proportional allocation method for the purpose of interview.

6.2.4. Pre-testing

Pre-testing of schedule was carried out in order to seek suggestions of the respondents regarding clarity of the interview schedule. Ten respondents were selected randomly for pre-testing from non-sampled area and ambiguous or difficult questions were modified or re-framed.

6.2.5 Data collection

Both primary and secondary data were collected to achieve the objectives of the study. Primary data were collected by survey method on structured and pre-tested interview schedules through personal interview method from the respondents. The secondary information was obtained from various government offices, publications, reports and books.

6.2.6 Analysis of data

The data were analysed by applying descriptive statistics (frequency, percentages, mean, standard error, scores) and relational statistics such as linear regression, correlation, and student's t-test. The quantification of status has been done by using likert type of scale.

6.3 Major findings of the study

6.3.1 Description of the sample

1. Majority of the respondents (43 per cent) belonged to the middle age group (31-44 years).
2. A little less than half of the respondents (41 per cent) were illiterate and among literate sample, majority had either high school level of education (19 per cent) or upto middle level (18 per cent). The least number (1 per cent) was found to be graduate. The average educational level was of primary level.
3. Majority of the respondents (63 per cent) belonged to nuclear family. Out of whole sample majority of families (51 per cent) had family size of 5 to 7 members. The average family size was found to be 5 to 6 members.
4. The main family occupation of households was service (government/private) besides this the other family occupations were farming, business and wage earning .

5. In reference to caste wise distribution of households, it was found that majority (69 per cent) belonged to other castes (OBC, SC, ST) followed by Rajput (17 per cent) and Brahmin (14 per cent).
6. It was found that majority of the household (38 per cent) had land holding size of upto 5 kanals, 27 per cent households 6 to 15 kanals and the least number (3 per cent) had 16 kanals or more than it. The average size of land holding was found to be of four kanals.
7. The monthly income wise distribution of respondents showed that majority of the households (43 per cent) belonged to the monthly income range of Rs.1001 to 3000, followed by income range of 5001 to 10,000 (24 per cent), 3001-5000 (16 per cent), 500-1000 (12 per cent) and least number (5 per cent) of households belonged to high income range i.e. above ten thousand rupees. The average monthly income was found to be four thousand rupees.

6.3.2 Women's participation in decision-making

8. In reference to women's participation in expenditure related decisions, it was found that on the aspect of food and clothing, decisions were taken by majority of the husbands only (38.8 per cent) followed by wife only (34.7 per cent), jointly by husband and wife (11.2 per cent) and other family members (15.3 per cent).
9. On the aspect of housing and furnishing, the expenditure related decision were mostly taken by the husbands only, (44.2 per cent), followed by joint decision (33.0 per cent), others decision (13.5 per cent) and the least number 9.3 per cent by wife alone.

10. About expenditure related decisions on child care/social ceremonies, it was found that joint decision-making was more common (51.1 per cent) followed by husband's decision (25 per cent), wife's (14.1 per cent) and least by other's decisions only i.e. 9.8 per cent.
11. Regarding expenditure related decision on agricultural and allied activities, it was found that joint decision-making (by husband and wife) and other members participation in decision-making was equal (i.e. 31.8 per cent each). It was followed by husband's decision (20.5 per cent) and wife's alone decision-making (15.9 per cent).
12. About women's participation in general decisions, it was found that joint decision-making was more common (50 per cent) in children centered decisions. It was followed by other family members (31.2 per cent), husband alone (13.3. per cent) and wife alone (5.5 per cent).
13. In reference to general decision on housing and furnishing, trend of joint decision making pattern was most common (30.9 per cent). It was followed by wife (28.9 per cent) others (23.7 per cent) and husband's decision (16.5 per cent).
14. In agricultural activities also the general decisions were mostly taken jointly by husband and wife (50 per cent), followed by wife (22.5 per cent), husband (15 per cent) and other members (12.5 per cent).
15. Women's extent of participation in decision-making was measured for all aspects of expenditure related and general decisions. It was observed that from expenditure related decisions, out of all aspects participation of women was higher in the areas of food and clothing, housing and furnishing, childcare and social ceremonies. From general decisions out of all other aspects children related and housing and furnishing related decisions,

participation of women was high. Extent of participation in decision-making by women in case of agricultural and allied activities was found to be medium.

16. Pooled scores of overall decision-making depicted that respondents were either had a high level of participation in decision-making (47 per cent) or low level (45 per cent). Only 8 per cent respondents showed a medium level of participation in decision-making.

6.3.3 Status of women in family and society

17. Regarding assistance received by respondents in household activities, it was found that majority of women (35.2 per cent) performed the household work alone whereas, 21.2 per cent women got assistance from husbands and 21.2 per cent from children followed by all family members (11.8 per cent) and other family members (10.6 per cent) while doing household related work.
18. In Agricultural activities, all family member's assistance was found to be maximum (i.e. 38.5 per cent) followed by children and other members (15.4 per cent each) women's alone participation in agricultural activities was 19.2 per cent only.
19. In allied activities women's alone participation was maximum (34.6 per cent). Assistance provided by husbands was maximum (23.1 per cent) followed by children and other family members (15.4 per cent each). All family members assistance was least i.e. 11.5 per cent.
20. The remarriage of widows was accepted by only 38 per cent of families.
21. In reference to freedom enjoyed in use of family income it was found that majority of the women (90 per cent) had freedom to spend it in direction of head of family.

22. Majority of the women had freedom to travel without male members (79 per cent) in social gathering local fairs (66 per cent) and to attend guests (91 per cent).
23. In reference to choice of career, majority of the women (69 per cent) had freedom to do job out of which 29.1 per cent women could exercise their own choice. Final decision about area and type of job were jointly decided (78.2 per cent) only (21.8 per cent) could decide it by themselves.
24. In study area, only Mahila Mandal Organisation was working actively and 50 per cent women attended it. Majority of them (90 per cent) participated as an initiator for decisions, 8 per cent women's participation was not very active. Only 2 per cent participated as head of the organisation (as chairperson).
25. Women's frequency of consultation with Gram Savikas was less (31 per cent) as compared to health workers (54 per cent).
26. The main reason for non-participation in Mahila Mandal was found to be lack of time (42 per cent) followed by lack of facility (26 per cent), lack of interest (16 per cent) and other reasons 16 per cent.
27. The impact of participation in Mahila Mandal was found to be good as 56 per cent women opined that due to participation their knowledge and skill increased and 84 per cent women stated that due to participation their status increased among family.
28. Women's level of status (within selected indicators) was found to be high in decision-making and freedom enjoyed in family and society. The other activities like freedom in spending family income, participation in community development programmes and help received in discharging family responsibility showed low level.

29. Women's overall level of status was found to be either high (46 per cent) or low (45 per cent), only 9 per cent women showed medium level of status.
30. Opinion of menfolk about the status of women was positive. The total male respondents opined that women are equal to men, have equal right in husband's income and property. In reference to educational level of women, majority of men (95 per cent) opined that it should be upto level where women can seek employment and total sampled men accepted that women should be gainfully employed and take part in politics.
31. It was observed that women's participation in decision-making is influenced by their age, education and marital status, whereas, women's overall status is influenced only by their marital status.
32. It was observed that husband's education had positive significant correlation with women's participation in decision-making ($r = 0.4294$, $t = 4.6608$), participation in community development programme ($r = 0.3436$, $t = 3.4677$) and status ($r = 0.5565$, $t = 6.2566$).

6.4 Conclusion

1. Majority of the respondents belonged to middle age group.
2. In the study area, nuclear family system was common. The main family occupation of households was service (government/private) followed by farming, business and wage earning.

3. Majority of the respondents belonged to other castes such as backwards, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes followed by Rajput and Brahmins.
4. Majority of households had land holding size of upto 5 kanals. The average land holding size was found to be of 4 kanals.
5. Majority of the families had monthly income in the range of Rs.1001 to 3000, very few families belonged to high income range i.e. above Rs.10,000. The average monthly income was found to be four thousand rupees.
6. The expenditure related decision on food, clothing, housing and furnishing, were mostly taken by husbands alone whereas, in the aspects of child care, social ceremonies, and farm inputs resources, it was found that joint decision-making (by husband and wife) was more common.
7. In reference to general decision, it was found that in all areas i.e. household, agricultural and allied, joint decision-making was common.
8. Women had high level of participation in decision-making on food, clothing, housing and furnishing from expenditure related decision and children centered decisions from general decision. Child care and social ceremonies from expenditure related decisions showed medium level of participation whereas in agriculture and allied related both types of decisions showed low level of participation.
9. Women's level of participation in decision-making was either high or low, very few women had medium level of status.
10. In reference to assistance received by the respondents, it was found that in household activities women's alone participation was high and maximum assistance was provided

by either husband or children, whereas in agricultural activities all family member's assistance was maximum. In allied activities, women's alone participation was high.

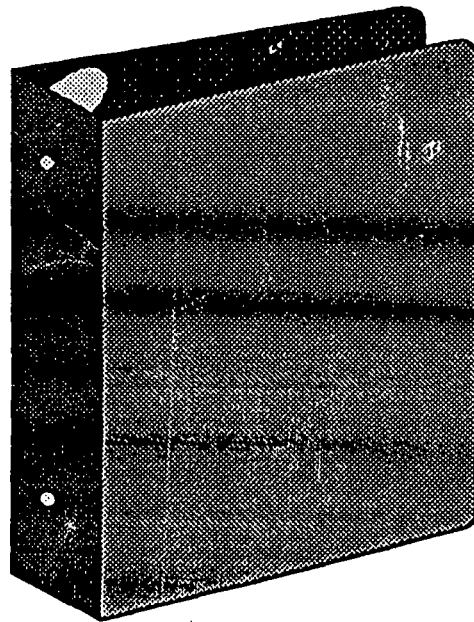
The maximum assistance was provided by husbands.

11. Very few families accepted the remarriage of widows.
12. In reference to choice of career, it was found that majority of the women had freedom to do job and out of them majority of women decide jointly alongwith their husband and parents in reference to area and type of job whereas a few could decide it by themselves.
13. About women's participation in community development programme it was found that in Mahila Mandal Organisation women showed active participation in decision-making.
14. The main reason for non-participation in Mahila Mandal was found to be lack of time followed by lack of working organisations, lack of interest and other reasons.
15. The impact of participation in Mahila Mandal was found to be good. Majority of women opined that participation in Mahila Mandal increases their knowledge and skill.
16. Women's level of status with in selected areas was found to be high for decision-making and freedom enjoyed in family and society, whereas the activities like freedom enjoyed in use of family income, participation in community development programme and help received in discharging family responsibility showed low level.
17. The overall level of status of women was found to be either high or low. Few women had medium level of status.

18. In reference to women's status, majority of menfolk opined that women are equal to men, they have equal rights in income and property, they should be gainfully employed and take part in politics and women should have high level of education.
19. Through investigation it is inferred that women's age, education and marital status influence their participation in decision-making.
20. About overall status of women it was observed that marital status significantly influence the status of women.
21. The husband's education influence the women's participation in decision-making, participation in community development programme and overall status. Husband's higher educational level leads to higher status of women in all areas.

Recommendation

1. It was observed that although women have freedom to do job and also they are not strictly bound by old traditional obligations, yet women's access is limited in public sectors and private sectors. The main reason is that their low educational level and lack of participation in women welfare programmes.
2. There is great need to enhance the educational facilities in rural areas.
3. Besides this some training institutions (regarding small scale industry) and other facilities like co-operative society etc. should be provided so that women can become economically independent.



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APPENDIX

Appendix-I

Block-wise sample villages and respondents

Sr. No.	Block/village	Respondents (No.)
I.	Baijnath	
1.	Ner	6
2.	Chogan	4
3.	Bir-khas	7
4.	Deol-khas	7
5.	Kandral	17
6.	Paprola	2
7.	Baijnath	3
8.	Usthehar	5
9.	Sakri	2
10.	Chaubin	6
Sub total		59
II.	Nagrota Bagwan	
1.	Nagrota Bagwan	2
2.	Masal	3
3.	Mundla	7
4.	Khas-Sihund	5
5.	Hatwas	4
6.	Darang	2
7.	Kir-Chamba	2
8.	Malan	5
9.	Sidhbari	6
10.	Tangh	5
Sub total		41
Grand Total		100

Appendix-II

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Managerial role and status of rural women of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh

Section I

1. Back ground information

Code No. _____

a) Name of the respondent

Caste _____

b) Village _____ Block _____

District Kangra

c) Occupation

- i) Main
- ii) Subsidiary

d) Family type

- i) Nuclear
- ii) Joint

e) Head of family _____

f) Personal characteristics of respondents/husbands

Respondent	Husband
Age (Years)	
Education	
Occupation	
Income	

g) Marital status

i) Married

ii) Widow

iii) Divorced

iv) Separated

h) Family structure

Sr. No.	Relationship with respondent	Sex		Age (Years)	Education	Occupation	Income (Rs./month)
		Male	Female				

i) Land inventory (Kanals)

Particulars	Irrigated	Un-irrigated	Total	Remarks
Cultivated (owned)				
Uncultivated (ii)				
Leased-in				
Leased out				
Fallow land				
Orchard				
Gardens				
Net operational holding				

j) Live stock inventory

Sr. No.	Particulars	Numbers	Value of product/day
1.	Draft animals		
2.	Milch animals		
a)	Cow		
	i) Milking		
	ii) Non-milking		
b)	Buffaloes		
	i) Milking		
	ii) Non-milking		
3	Young stock		
	a) Male		
	b) Female		
4.	Any other		

k) Source of income

i)	Farm income	Rs.	/m
ii)	Income from side business	Rs.	/m
iii)	Other source of income	Rs.	/m
iv)	Total Income	Rs.	/m

Section-II

Who takes decisions related to following activities

I. Expenditure related decisions

	Items	W	H	Both (W+H)	Others	Remarks
A.	Food and clothing					
	Amount to be spent on					
a)	Food items					
b)	Vegetables and fruits					
c)	Fuel					
d)	Clothes and foot wear					
B.	Housing and furnishing					
a)	New construction					
b)	Addition/Renovation					
c)	Care and maintenance of house					
d)	Consumers durables					
i)	Furniture					
ii)	Radio/Television					
iii)	Electric gadgets					
iv)	Utencils					
v)	Sewing machine					
vi)	Ornamentals					
C.	Child care					
a)	Education					
b)	Health (Medical care)					
c)	Miscellaneous (toys, chocolates)					
D.	Social ceremonies					
a)	Family functions					
b)	Festivals					
c)	Marriage					
d)	Medical care					
e)	Recreation					
f)	Saving					
E.	Farm inputs/allied activities					
a)	Purchase of land					
b)	Purchase of Farm implements					
c)	Scale of agricultural/animals products					
d)	Purchase of seed/fertilizers					
e)	Maintenance of side business					
f)	Management of credit					
g)	Source of credit					

II) General decision

	Items	W	H	Both (W+H)	Others	Remarks
A.	Children related					
a)	Having No. of children					
b)	Admission of children					
c)	Their home work					
d)	Clothes and foot wear					
d)	Selection of subject/branch					
e)	Choice of profession					
f)	Educational level of children					
g)	Marriage age					
h)	Selection of match (marriage)					
B.	Household related					
a)	Making choice while buying durable goods and furnishings					
i)	Furniture					
ii)	Radio/Television					
iii)	Electric gadgets					
iv)	Sewing machine					
v)	Utencils					
vi)	Ornaments					
b)	Place of medical care					
c)	Participation in family functions/ rituals					
d)	Participation in social festivals					
C.	Farm/Allied related					
a)	Selection of crop/variety					
b)	Use of chemical fertilizers					
c)	Quantity of food grains to be stored					
d)	Marketing of produce for side business					
e)	Price of the product					

Note : W = wife, H = husband

Section III

Status of women in family and society

A) Freedom in spending family income		
1.	Do you have your own saving account	Yes/No
2.	Do you have fixed share in family income	Yes/No
3.	Do you have any property in your name (if yes specify)	Yes/No
4.	Do you have right to take part in the sale and purchase of property	Yes/No
5.	Do you have freedom to spend family income (if yes, at which level)	Yes/No
i)	Fully	
ii)	Only in direction of male/head of the family	
iii)	Rarely	
6.	Who takes the benefit of your personal income	
i)	Yourself	
ii)	Yourself and children	
iii)	Whole family	
iv)	Any other (specify)	
7.	In your family by whom cash is kept	
i)	Husband	
ii)	Yourself	
iii)	Any other (specify)	
8.	In your opinion what is the extent of over all participation in family (decision-making)	
i)	To a great extent	
ii)	To some extent	
iii)	Not at all	
10.	Do you have independence and authority to distribute and supervise work at home	Yes/No

B) Help received in discharging family responsibilities

Do you get assistance of family memberwise doing the following activity

	Activities	Jointly				
		S	S+H	S+C	S+O	All
A.	Bringing fuel					
	Pre-cooking					
	Cooking					
	Dishwashing					
	Fetching water					
	Personal care of children					
	Teaching children					
	House cleaning					
	Kitchen gardening					
	Stitching clothes					
	Mending clothes					
	Washing clothes					
	Hanging for drying					
	Ironing					
	Storage of clothes					
	Shopping					
	i) General items					
	ii) Costly items					
	Arrangement for festivals/functions					
	Attending guests					
	Attending sick person					
	Care of other family members					
B.	Participation in field work like					
	Hoeing					
	Weeding					
	Transplanting					
	Processing of crops like threshing					
	Winnowing etc.					
	Storage of grains					
	Fodder management					

Contd....

C.	If animal rearing like (dairy, poultry etc.)					
	Maintenance and care of animals					
	Purchase of kids					
	Sale of produce					
	(if any craft work is practiced)					
	Purchase of raw material					
	Making of goods					
	Sale of goods					

Note : S = self (respondent), S+H = self + husband, S+C = self + children, S+O = self + others

C) Freedom enjoyed in reference to social customs and rituals

1.	Does the birth of female child is treated joyfully (if no, why)	Yes/No
2.	Does dowry system exist in your family	Yes/No
3.	Do you and your family accepts the trend of remarriage (if yes)	Yes/No
	i) Only for males	
	ii) Male female both	
4.	Do you follow the 'Purdah' system (if yes)	Yes/No
	i) Always	
	ii) Some times	
	iii) Never	
5.	Do you feel you self free to adopt the present fashions of dresses and make up (Popular in nearest town)	Yes/No
6.	Are you free to travel alone	Yes/No
7.	Are you free to go out side job (if you have) (if no give reasons)	Yes/No
8.	Do you have freedom to entertain the social gathering/local fairs	Yes/No
9.	Do you have freedom to entertain guests (if yes)	Yes/No
10.	Do you eat	
	i) Along with male members	
	ii) Before male members	
	iii) After male members have served	

D. Choice of a career and participation in labour force

1.	Do you have freedom to do job	Yes/No
2.	Do you have freedom to make a better career of your own choice	Yes/No
3.	Who takes decisions regarding the choice of career (in reference to area or type of job)	
4.	What type of occupation you do	
	i) Agricultural labour	
	ii) Casual labour	
	iii) Both	
	iv) Any other	
5.	When you do this job (labour)	
	i) Always	
	ii) Peak season	
	iii) Occasionally	
6.	What is reason of getting your self employed	
	i) To run the family easily	
	ii) To be independent for pocket money	
	iii) To improve the level of living	
	iv) Any other (specify)	

E. Participation in social and community activities

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 1. | Do you participate in community development programmes | Yes/No |
| a) | If no give reasons | |
| | i) | |
| | ii) | |
| | iii) | |
| | iv) | |
| b) | If yes give details about: | |
| | i) Nam of organisation | |
| | ii) Designation | |

iii) Duration (years) of your job

iv) If job is continued (Since _____ till these days)

2. How many organisation you have joined till these times (specify)

3. In meetings you participate

i) As a chair person of organisation

ii) Exercise your views and initiate for decisions

iii) As participating member and provide cooperation

iv) You never go in depth of discussion

4. Do you meet "Gram sevikas"

Always	Sometimes	Never

5. Do you meet health workers

Always	Sometimes	Never

6. Are these centres/programmes operating in your village

i) Mahila Mandal

ii) Adult education

iii) Income generating (DWCRA)

iv) Anganwadi

If yes, you participate in decision-making

Always

Sometimes

Never

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 7. | Participation has increased your knowledge | Yes/No |
| 8. | Do you think that it helps in providing employment/generating income | Yes/No |
| 9. | Participation has/will increased your status amongst family | Yes/No |

Section IV

Opinion of menfolk

- | | | |
|----|---|--------|
| 1. | Do you think that women should be treated as equal to the men | Yes/No |
| 2. | Do you accept that your wife have equal right in your income and property | Yes/No |
| 3. | Do you think that women are good manager/decision-maker | Yes/No |
| 4. | What is your opinion regarding level of education of women | |
| | i) She should be literate only | |
| | ii) She should able to manage household financial and other matters | |
| | iii) To hold job | |
| | iv) Any other | |
| 5. | Women should be gainfully employed outside home
(if no, give reason) | Yes/No |
| | i) | |
| | ii) | |
| | iii) | |
| | iv) | |
| 6. | Women should take part in politics
(if no, give reasons) | Yes/No |
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