



ABUNDANT ASPECTS OF RURAL WOMEN 'S LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Rural women have a special role in society. They contribute to the development of agriculture and foremost the improvement of their family. The prime objectives are to study the general information of the respondents, to assess the household and caregiving responsibilities of rural women, to find out the Socio-Economic & Cultural Challenges of rural women, and to study the factors affecting abundant aspects of rural women. The 232 samples have been considered for the study at Jambhulkheda village, Dist Gadchiroli. The findings show that most of the rural women belong to middle age group of 41-50 years. Nearly 50.0% of the rural women busy in parenting and caregiving responsibilities. Rural women restrict to limited availability of resources in their village.

Keyword: Rural women, Household.

INTRODUCTION

Globally, rural women constitute one-fourth of the world's population. They are the vital force for rural development through the well-being of families. They reside in rural areas that are diverse in their geography, economic, demographics, and development.

Rural women play a major role in the rural economy as farmers, wage earners and entrepreneurs. They also take responsibility for the well-being of the members of their families, including food provision and care for children and the elderly.

Rural women undertake extensive household and caregiving responsibilities, including childcare, household management, preparing food, and providing healthcare, often in an unpaid capacity. They are also deeply involved in agricultural and income-generating activities, manage natural resources, and are central to community well-being and nutrition security.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the general information of the respondents.
2. To assess the household and caregiving responsibilities of rural women.



3. To find out the Socio-Economic & Cultural Challenges of rural women.
4. To study the factors affecting abundant aspects of rural women.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research methodology is like a plan for carrying out research and helps keep researchers on track by limiting the scope of the research. A good research methodology also helps ensure the reliability and validity of the research findings. There are three types of research methodology like quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method, which can be chosen based on the research objectives. The total 232 sample of rural people were selected from the Jambhulkheda village, Kurkheda block, Gadchiroli district. Education and skills, gender discrimination and economic access accorded I rank order as each statement is equally important for rural women. Upgradation of rural women is major prime duty of every citizen but due to obstacles life becomes difficult and face lot of challenges and many factors are responsible for it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1.1 General information of the Respondent

Sr. No.	Age of the Respondent	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Upto 20 years	09	3.87
2	21 yrs. to 30 yrs.	18	7.75
3	31 yrs. to 40 yrs.	44	18.96
4	41 yrs. to 50 yrs.	114	49.13
5	51 yrs. to 60 yrs.	47	20.29
	Total	232	100.0

It is revealed from the above table that most of the respondents belongs to (49.13%) 41 yrs. to 50 yrs. age group whereas nearly 18.00 to 20.00% had 51 yrs. to 60 yrs and 31 yrs. to 40 yrs. of category respectively. Negligible respondents found in the 21 yrs. to 30 yrs. and upto 20 yrs. age group altogether.



Table 1.2 Education of the Respondent

Sr. No.	Education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	32	13.79
2	Std. 1-5	13	5.60
3	Std. 6-10	119	51.29
4	Std. 11-12	24	10.34
5	Graduation	44	18.98
	Total	232	100.0

The above table indicate that most of the respondents had education upto std. 6-10 (51.29%), 18.98% of respondents had done graduation, 5.60% respondents had educated from Std. 1-5, 13.79% found to be illiterate, 10.34% of the respondents had educational level from Std. 11- 12 only.

Table 1.3 Household & caregiving responsibilities of the rural women

Sr. No.	Household & caregiving responsibilities	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Parenting and caregiving	111	47.84
2	Home organization	32	13.79
3	Resource planning	18	7.75
4	Emergency and medical care	23	9.91
5	Geriatric care	12	5.17
6	Healthcare providers	36	15.54
		232	100.0



It is revealed from the above table that rural women are primarily responsible for parenting and caregiving like the daily care, feeding, and emotional support of children reported by 47.84 % of rural women whereas 15.54% reported that they work to improve patient outcomes, promote overall health, and provide care for physical and mental conditions of people at home. It is quite surprising that 13.79% home organizer helps clients maximize their living space. The goal is to make spaces like closets, kitchens, or garages organized and easy to use. 9.91% rural women care at the time of emergency and take people to doctor for treatment. 7.75% are resource planning and 5.17% of women Geriatric care is a specialized field of medicine and healthcare focused on the comprehensive well-being of older adults in the family.

Table 1.4 Social and cultural challenges of the rural women

Sr. No.	Social and cultural challenges	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Poverty	35	15.08
2	Domestic violence	56	24.13
3	Limited availability of resources	63	27.15
4	Gender inequality	33	14.22
5	Assault & safety	23	9.94
6	Economic exclusion	22	9.48
		232	100.0

It is opined from the above table that 27.15% had limited availability of resources, 24.13% facing domestic violence, 15.08% had poverty problem, 14.22% had gender inequality found in the area, and negligible i.e. 9.94% assault and safety, 9.48% had economic exclusion challenges faced by the rural women. Rural women face a higher risk of limited availability of resources and domestic violence in the society.

Table 1.5 Factors affecting rural women's life

Sr. No.	Factors	No. of Respondents	Rank order
1	Education & skills	222	I
2	Economic reliance	221	II
3	Male centric society	219	III
4	Gender discrimination	222	I



5	Weak institutional infrastructure	193	V
6	Inadequate credit facilities	110	VII
7	Resource optimization	121	VI
8	Task management	201	IV
9	Educational progress	193	V
10	Economic access	222	I
11	Expanding infrastructure	110	VII
12	Collective decision making	221	II
13	Supporting a policy	219	III

It is clearly indicated from the above table that as there are more replies for each statement rank order has been considered. Education and skills, gender discrimination and economic access accorded I rank order as there is limited access to quality education, women often face physical, sexual, and psychological violence, including domestic violence and harmful traditional practices, which negatively impacts their health and well-being. This shows gender discrimination in the society due to poor economic access in women's life. Encouraging women's participation in household and community decision-making processes is key to empowering them but still it lacks behind and scored II rank order. Supporting a policy, male centric society stood III rank order. Rural women often bear a disproportionately heavy workload, managing household responsibilities, childcare, and agricultural tasks, leaving little time for other activities and hence task management accorded IV rank order. Educational progress and weak institutional infrastructure nearly found everywhere in communities and hence V rank order. Resource optimization Rural women often have limited access to and control over resources like land, which is essential for economic independence and rural livelihoods and stood VI rank order. Inadequate credit facility and expanding infrastructure is major aspect of rural women 's life. Women face barriers in accessing loans and financial services due to factors like lack of collateral or land ownership, limiting their ability to start businesses for their future life.



CONCLUSION

Women are the backbone of the rural community and key actors in designing structural entities of rural livelihoods, being responsible for achieving, generating income, and improving rural livelihoods and overall wellness of the society. Women play critical role in rural structure and functional development. Rural women efficiently and effectively manage rural livelihood by supporting their households and community. However, these crucial roles often go unrecognized, and rural women face numerous challenges including socioeconomic responsibilities of their communities and the families. Access to education for rural girls is improving, but the gender gap widens at higher levels of education, and they may rely on male relatives for informal learning.

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