ROLE OF FARM WOMEN IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF A FARMING COMMUNITY IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT

BY

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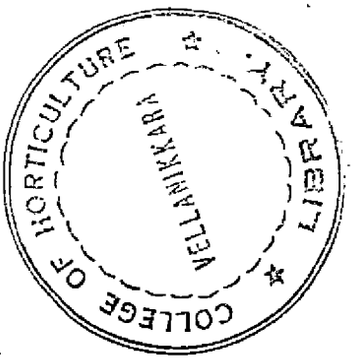

THESIS

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled "Role of Farm Women in the Decision Making Process of a Farming Community in Trivandrum District" is a bonafide record of research work done by me during the course of research and that the thesis has not previously formed the basis for the award to me of any degree, diploma, associateship, fellowship or other similar title of any other University or Society.

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CERTIFICATE

Certified that this thesis entitled "Role of Farm Women in the Decision Making Process of a Farming Community in Trivandrum District" is a record of research work done independently by Smt. Seema.B under my guidance and that it has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, fellowship or associateship to her.

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"Oars alone can never prevail
To reach the distant coast
The breath of heaven must swell the sea
Or all the toil is lost"

(Cowper)

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INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Kerala is one of the few states in India, where the females exceed the male population. The rural women play an important role in agricultural production in our country. The changing roles of women in rural societies in India is nowhere more dramatically demonstrated than in the "feminization of agriculture". This is true in the case of Kerala also. It is not only the farmers, but the women in the house also, who play a significant role in farm and home management. As Cernea (1977) rightly puts it, "If agriculture is a task to be carried out on the shoulders of giants, the giants are now-a-days mainly the women". Castillo (1977) in a review paper had mentioned about the U.N. Commission for Africa which report, "production of food has always been a major role played by women. It has been estimated that women perform 30-60 per cent of the agricultural labour in Africa. They cultivate, weed, harvest, process and store food crops. They also assist men in the production of cash crops".

An important aspect of change of rural women has been the increasing consciousness of individualism, which is manifested in their interest in equality of opportunity with men. Anti-discrimination laws for

women have provided employment protection as well as encouraged expectations of more equitable consideration in many social arrangements. These expectations also extend into role relationships in their home and vocation. As a result, the decision making authority of the women within the family group has also increased.

The decision making role of farm wives has been a subject of some interest in the diffusion of agricultural innovation and acceptance of technological changes. The role of women in development has increasingly concerned both policy makers and economists. In Indian society, the housewife is the custodian of the tradition of the family, who has much say in the total behavioural pattern of the family members. As the mother and lady of the family, she is fully responsible for the gfood habits and home management. Hence disregarding her opinion, farmers may not be able to make changes in the farm.

There are many communities in Kerala of which Nadars form one of the major communities. They were known as 'Shanars' until 1921, after which they changed their caste name to 'Nadars', which means 'lord of the land' (Gladstone, 1984). This community is confined to the southern parts of Kerala. During the 19th

century, Nadar community was one of the major agricultural castes. The hereditary occupations of the Nadars were cultivating and climbing of the palmyra palms for collecting toddy. Till the middle of 19th century, there were no opportunities for them to progress because of the prevailing social structure which imposed many regulations on them, especially the women folk. As a result of the various measures adopted by the government, the situation is gradually changing. These changes are expected to be accompanied by changes in the role relationships of women folk also. In this context, it would be worthwhile to know how women exercise influence in farm and family related matters, what would be the quality of her input into the decision making process and what could be done to enhance the content of what she contributes. The present study is an attempt in this direction.

Need for the study

It is a known fact that the success or failure of agricultural development programmes depends upon the role played by women in rural areas. It has been indicated that in many production enterprises such as crop production, dairying, poultry etc., women play a dominant role. Inspite of this, rural women had not

been the focus of any development efforts. However, now there is a feeling that the farm women, who contribute not only to management of agriculture, but also to the very decision making process, need to be induced into the mainstream of agricultural development programmes.

It has to be admitted that emperical evidences are lacking about the involvement of women in decision making, although it has been shown that the wife's farm decision making role is related to her farm work role (Wilkening and Bharadwaj (1968). Except a handful of studies done in southern states like Karnataka and Tamilnadu (Deepali, 1979; Badiger,1979; Govind, 1984; etc.) studies on farm women were mainly conducted in northern states of India. However, the role of farm women in Kerala has not been attempted by any researcher in Agricultural Extension and as such is an unexplored area.

As in other communities, it is quite likely that womenfolk of Nadar community also may help their men by way of making decisions related to the different walks of their life. Hence it is assumed that a study of this type would help to understand the intricacies of decision making and means of utilizing the womenfolk for betterment of the economic life of Nadar community.

Objectives of the study

1) To identify the areas of decision making by the farm women related to their socio economic life.
2) To study the role perception and role performance of the farm women in decision making.
3) To study the extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions related to their socio economic life.
4) To correlate the selected characteristics of farm women with their role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

Scope and limitation of the study

The study was confined to one taluk in Trivandrum District. A wider coverage encompassing all the areas was not possible due to the shortage of time and other resources at the disposal of the investigator as this study was undertaken as part of the requirement for M.Sc.(Ag) programme. Hence the findings of this study can be generalised only to that extent and may not be applicable to the entire Nadar population in the State. In spite of these limitations, it is expected that the results would contribute valuable information which could be of great use to those people who are engaged

in the development of women and youth and also development programmes related to agriculture.

Organisation of the thesis:

The study is presented in six chapters, of which the first chapter gives an introduction to the study. The second chapter which follows the introductory chapter, deals with the theoretical framework of the study. The third chapter presents the methods and procedures employed in the study. The fourth chapter deals with the results of the study. In the fifth chapter, the findings have been discussed. In the concluding chapter, the study is summarised and conclusions are drawn. The references and appendices are given at the end.

THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

CHAPTER II

Theoretical Orientation

The main objective of this chapter is to give an orientation to the concepts pertaining to the study and to link whatever research findings that exist in the area of study with the research problem. For the same, a probe into the past research studies have been attempted. This helps to give a proper orientation to the study and also to locate the problem on a theoretical perspective.

The literature that appeared relevant is presented under the following heads.

1. Role
   a) Role perception
   b) Role performance
2. Decision Making
   a) Stages in decision making
   b) Areas of decision making and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.
   c) Consultation between husband and wife in decision making.
3. Studies on the relationship of decision making with selected variables.

1. Role

Many authors have defined role in different ways. According to Cottrel (1942), the term role is used to

refer to an internally consistent series of conditioned responses by one member of a social situation which represent the stimulus pattern for a similar internally consistent series of conditioned responses of others in that direction.

Linton (1945) defined role as the sum total of cultural patterns associated with a particular status.

Davis (1949. (a)) described role as the manner in which a person actually carries out the requirements of his position.

Wilson and Kolb (1949) defined role as a pattern of behaviour corresponding to a system of rights and duties associated with a particular position in a social group.

Newcomb (1951) opined that the ways of behaving that are expected of any individual who occupies a certain position constitute the role associated with that position.

Coutu (1951) has stated that role may be defined as socially prescribed way of behaving in particular situations for any person occupying a given social position or status.

Sarbin (1954) defined role as a patterned sequence of learned actions or deeds performed by a person in an interaction situation.

Argyris (1957) defined role as a set of behaviour which is expected of every one in a particular position, regardless of who he is. The behaviour is a course socially ordained and the role, therefore, sets a kind of limit on the types of personality expression possible in any given situation.

Role as defined by Lundberg et al. (1958) is a pattern of behaviour expected of an individual in certain groups or situations.

Ogburn and Nimkoff (1964) defined role as a set of socially expected and approved behaviour patterns consisting of both duties and privileges associated with a particular position in a group. In other words, role refers to the obligation which an individual has towards his group.

According to Hodge and Johnson (1970), role means a unique combination of talent and attitude adopted to discharge a specific assignment.

For the purpose of the study, role may be defined as a set of behaviour pattern consisting of duties and privileges associated with the position of women as housewives in making decisions related to their socio-economic life.

a) Role Perception

The meaning of perception is the awareness of objects, consciousness and is generally concerned with that which interests an individual.

Sargent (1951) defined role perception as a pattern or type of social behaviour which seems situationally appropriate to an actor in terms of demands of expectations of those in his group.

According to Crow and Crow (1956), perception is the meaningful sensation that assume an important role in the life of an individual.

According to Pfiffner and Sherwood (1968), accuracy in role perception has a definite impact on effectiveness and efficiency in organisations. Generally it is expected that the perception of an individual will influence his performance of an assigned job or task or goal.

Guttman (1971), while emphasising the significance of role perception, stated that 'perceiving is behaving'. He holds that the concepts of perceiving and behaving are systematically interchangeable. He opined that all human activities whether of the so-called mental type or covert actions or interactions of the organisms, react to objects that have stimulated them.

Mitchell (1973) also reported that behaviour was a function of one's perception and that changing perception would result in changing behaviour. Thus perception is a determinant of performance.

For the purpose of this study, role perception is defined as thinking and feeling function of women towards decision making regarding socio economic life.

b) Role Performance:

Davis (1949.(b)) defined role performance as how an individual actually performs a task in a given situation as distinct from how he is supposed to perform.

Klinger and Mc Nelly (1969) suggested that role enactments are socially supported and controlled and presumably develop as the behavioural product of social operant shaping process. Each role thus comes to suggest and delimit an individual's permissible aspirations, rewards, strategies and acts in each particular kind of social content and also specifies a number of role - in appropriate aspirations, rewards, strategies and acts. In simpler terms, role performance is what the actors do as position occupants.

Role performance is defined for the purpose of this study as "action function" performed by women in relation to decision making in the family regarding socio-economic life.

2. Decision Making

The process of choice or decision making involves selection of goals to be attained and also alternative means to be evaluated for their efficacy in attainment of selected goals. This process of choice has been studied considerably by many research workers in the field of Sociology, Psychology, Social Psychology and Economics.

According to Bates (1954), decision making process involves a decision maker (actor), an environment (situation) in which the decision makers must operate, a set of actions available (means) and a set of goals to be accomplished.

According to Deacon and Firebaugh (1981), decision making is a process of evaluation in making choices or resolving alternatives. All decision making involves a subjective aspect (goals) and an objective or resource aspect. Decision making is the process through which the subjective and objective evaluation takes place and the decision is a form of value.

Nandapurkar (1982) defined decision making as the degree to which an individual justifies by selection of most efficient means from among the available alternatives on the basis of scientific criteria for achieving maximum economic profit.

a) Stages in decision making

Singh and Sinha (1970) pointed the framework of decision making process as desire for change, getting information, recognition ofproblem, legitimization and getting additional information, consideration of alternative uses of means, decision choice, getting information before action and evaluation.

Rogers and Shoemaker (1971) postulated the four sequential functions or stages in innovation-decision process as knowledge, persuasion, decision and confirmation.

Pillai (1971) stated that decision making started with the awareness of the issue and was followed by the interest.

Sinha and Singh (1974) stated that the dairy farmers passed through the stages of awareness, interest, trial and evaluation before adopting the innovation.

Chatterjee (1976) has delineated the stages involved in decision making process as making diagnosis, analysing the problem searching alternative situation,

selecting best solution, putting the decision into effect and following up the decision.

Deacon and Firebaugh (1981) stated that decision making process generally contain three steps (1) recognising that a decision is needed; (2) identifying or weighing appropriate alternation, and (3) choosing among or resolving alternativas. This process is the basis for a rational approach to decision making.

Harding (1982) indicated that the farm management process is essentially one of decision making, incorporating the two stages of search and choice. The search involved an indentification and evaluation of alternative production strategies. The choice required strategy selection. By providing relevant information, decision making perspective was broadened and choice was facilitated.

Rajagopalan (1982) reported that while making decisions, adherance to the following five percepts should be ensured; think before act, make the right appropriate decisions in the right of facts/circumstances, ensure the decisions are in conformity with the corporate goals of organisation and decision does not in any way conflict with the goals, ensure implementation with the least deviation through organised team work and avoid negative response from those who are affected by it.

b) Areas of Decision Making and Extent of participation in implementing the decisions

Sengupta (1960) reported that women worked in harvesting crops, weeding, planting, thrushing, manuring and field irrigation and also at times helped in terracing fields on the slopes of hills.

Thangamani (1971) found that farm women participated in all agricultural activities. The extent of their usual participation was higher in transplanting and hoeing than in others.

Devadas et al. (1972) observed that the extent of participation was higher in storing (77.7%), followed by sowing and transplanting seedling (38.3%). Women supervised all other activities such as arranging for the sale of produce (81.1%), operating implements (80.5%) and selling of produce (80.0%).

Sundararajan (1972) reported that involvement of farm women either directly or indirectly in different farm roles ranged from 30.8 percentage to 55.0 percentage whereas in supervisory role, the percentage ranged from 42.5 to 60.0. The role as supervisor alone was more in seeds and sowing (60.0%) followed by preparatory cultivation (55.0%).

Devadas (1975) concluded that in modern agriculture, women shared a number of farm operations with men. Activities such as seed selection, storage, sowing

behind the plough, dibbling and planting, field irrigation, weeding and cleaning of grains, collection and storage of manure and most other farm operations were mainly carried out by women. Feeding cattle, looking after the milch animals and poultry keeping were also entirely the jobs of farm women.

Mazumdar (1975) reported that the job traditionaly done by women in most parts of country were transplanting, sowing, weeding and harvesting.

Sithalakshmi (1975) found that women participated mainly in activities like storage of produces, sowing seeds and transplanting. They supervised all activities on the farm and also the arrangement of sale of produce.

Badiger (1979) concluded that the participation of women in decision making was high in case of animal management and storage of grain, but it was less in the case of selection and use of fertilizers.

Deepali (1979) observed that farm women participated to a very large and considerable extent in the farming operations like sowing, weeding, storage, land preparation, cleaning seeds for sowing, gap filling, manure and fertilizer application, harvesting, threshing and winnowing, rodent control

and preparation of manure and compost.

Bhagat (1980) stated that employed rural women played a dominant role in the decision making process especially on money and management of family.

Hiranad and Kumar (1980) concluded that most important areas in which women were found to influence the decisions were purchase and sale of land, borrowing and purchase and sale of animals.

Savarimuthu (1981) reported that farm women participated and supervised to the extent of 75.00% on activities related to seeds and sowing following by other cultural practices (44.17%), on irrigation (23.30%) on plant protection (17.50%), and manuring (16.67%) in that ordered sequence.

Puri (1981) indicated that all the tasks related with farm animals were predominantly carried out by wives and they took decisions with regard to bringing fodder from the field, chaff cutting, preparing feed for cattle, bathing and cleaning cattle, cleaning the cattle shed, making cowdung cakes, compost making milking and making curd and ghee.

Achanta (1982) reported that women continued to share a number of farm operations with men.

Activities such as transplanting of rice, weeding crops, sowing behind the plough, reaping, winnowing, threshing, storage of seeds and food grains, preparing compost and manure pits and most other farm operations were mainly carried out by farm women.

Heggade (1982) stated that women's participation in economic decision making was a vital means by which their economic dependency and social inequality could be removed. Their participation in decision making resulted in increasing the employment opportunity for women, increasing the produce and income level of community, reducing the exploitative elements in the economic system, co-operativizing the production, marketing and distribution.

Dubey et al. (1982) revealed that majority of farm women participated highly in decision making on aspects such as the number of milch animals to be kept, quantity and type of green fodder to be fed to milch animals.

Rani and Bhave (1982) opined that majority of farm women were participating passively in different areas of decision making with regard to production-oriented expenditure. A fair majority of respondents played a dominant role in the decisions regarding

the amount to be spent on labour charges. They further reported that in case of desired type of participation, majority expressed their willingness to participate actively in taking decisions regarding the purchase of land, amount to be spent on land, purchase of seed, amount to be spent on seeds, purchase of fertilizers and purchase of farm implements.

Sadhu and Renuka (1982) reported that farm women played an important role in taking decisions related to farm such as the procurement of farm credit, the purchase and sale of cattle and the crops to be sown. She further concluded that farm home makers emerged as independent decision makers after the onset of technological break-through.

Singh and Chander (1983) stated that women played a key role in performing various tasks related to cattle management. It was noticed that women implemented various decisions regarding development of farm and exercised greater influence on farm policies and practices. Women made decisions on procuring loans and credits. They further reported that in general, women's participation at procurement, utilization and repayment stages was at a very high level.

Venkatachalam (1983) observed that all over the country cattle were being looked after by women in rural areas. As the housewife and mother, the lady of the

house is concerned with utilization of milk and milk products in the house, are backbones of dairy industry and were regarded as entrepreneurs of rural dairying.

Singh and Rani (1983) found that the participation of females in dairying ranked third after domestic and labour in case of landless labourers; whereas it ranked second after domestic work for marginal and small farmer categories.

c) Consultation between husband and wife in decision making

Syekle (1952) showed that both husband and wife participated in most of the planning and that they made many purchases together.

Dube (1956) observed that in all ideal homes, major decisions were taken by husband in consultation with his wife.

Stranus (1958) did a study on family role in differential and technological changes in farming and found that the farm operations technological competence was associated with an integrative and supportive role of wife.

Abell (1958) stated that the farm matters were discussed more frequently with wife and further it was reported that the family was a closely knit social unit

in which husband and wife did their share on farm and helped to make decisions.

Benjamin (1962) reported that joint decision making appeared to be at its peak in the 'beginning stage' with largest amount of consultation in decision making. Women appeared to be active in home management and men in money management.

Jurghan and Rahudkar (1963) reported that the farmers of 55 years and above consulted their wives in matters of seasonal farm operations. Also illiterate farmers and those having primary education took the advice of their parents, wives and sons while the farmers having education beyond the middle school made decisions themselves.

Arya (1963) observed that families with high education status took decisions consulting their wives. Wives took upper hand in sale and purchase of land and agricultural marketing.

Wilkening and Morrison (1963) stated that joint decision making was done where major issues were involved.

Bhamrah (1966) observed that farmers sought the advice of their wives in decision making on improved seeds of crops, on purchase and use of plant protection measures and vegetable cultivation. Older respondents consulted mostly their wives with a view to arriving at decisions for the purchase and sale of livestock,

leasing in land, loans or credit taking and disposal and storage of farm produce.

Sharma and Singh (1970) found that in majority of cases, the husband and wife decided together issues concerning seed storage, care of animals, selection of seeds and time of selling farm produce.

Devadas (1972) indicated that farm women were almost 'always' consulted in making decisions on various farm operations like getting new seeds, selecting crops, getting fertilizers and pesticides, approaching labourers, etc.

Puri (1972) observed that the decisions on farm activities were predominantly husband-oriented. In case of spending additional income from farm decisions were made jointly by 36 per cent and 43 per cent couples respectively.

Rajagopal and Jagatheswari (1972) indicated that in 81 per cent of urban and 59 per cent of rural households, the husband made decisions either jointly or alone.

Devadas (1975) reported that women were more often consulted before important financial transactions were made. In complex and significant decisions such as purchasing a new piece of land, selling a part of holding or borrowing money to meet the farm and home obligation, the farmer consulted women more than in any other aspect.

Castillo (1977) in a review paper opined that the decision making pattern in the Filipine household is more egalitarian and joint with husband rather than patriarchal. In contrast to the women of Zaria, the Filipine wife is the keeper of family finances. She participated in the management not only of matters concerning household and family, but also of farming and livelihood.

Badiger (1979) observed that the farm women participate independently more in house aspects and joint decisions were more common in farm aspects.

Savarimuthu (1981) indicated that women made lesser independent decisions on matters relating to farming when compared to collective decisions.

Achanta (1982) revealed that women were consulted with regard to the adoption of improved seeds, marketing of foodgrains and adoption of improved agricultural implements and fertilizers.

Singh and Chander (1983) stated that while working together in the fields, men and women usually discussed matters with each other, and the final decision was taken by men in consultation with women only.

3. Studies on the relationship of decision making with selected independent variables

Age

Singh and Sinha (1970) observed that age had significantly influenced the decision making in artificial fertilization and vegetable cultivation, which resulted in emergence of different patterns of decision making process.

Sharma and Singh (1970) reported that women belonging to middle age having no formal education, belonging to low caste and having frequent urban contacts participated in farm operations more than others.

Sundarajan (1972) observed that respondents of young age were found to have more joint consultation on all farm activities.

Sawer (1973) stated that equilitarian decision making was more likely to prevail among young couple than among older couple.

Badiger (1979) established that the independent variables associated with the degree of involvement and decision making were age and marital status.

However Deb et al (1968) reported that the rationality in decision making was not associated with young age.

Also Singh and Chander (1983) reported that age was found to exercise non-significant effect on women's participation in decision making.

In most of the studies mentioned above, age is found to have positive relation with decision making. Hence in the present study also it is postulated that age will influence the decision making process.

Education status

Dean et al. (1958) found that rationality in decision making positively correlated with amount of education.

Deb et al. (1968) reported that the rationality of farmers is related to extent of education.

However, Sharma and Singh (1970) and Singh and Sinha (1979) reported a nonsignificant relation of education with decision making.

Anantharaman (1977) stated that at the consultation level, education did influence tha consultation process with regard to plant protection measures and cultural operations.

Dubey et al.(1982) concluded that participation of rural women in decision making regarding animal hasbandry practices remained mostly the same irrespective of their educational level and herd size.

Singh and Chander (1983) reported that education

was found to exercise nonsignificant effect on women's participation.

From the review of above studies, it appears that education though in many cases influences the extent of participation in decision making, in some cases it has not established any relation with decision making. For highly technical aspect of cultivation such as plant protection measures, education is found to have positive relation with decision making.

Perception of one's role is highly essential for performance. Education may help to perceive correctly what to do in a particular situation. Hence in this study, it is hypothesised that education would have positive relationship with decision making.

Family education status

Arya (1963) observed that families with high educational status took decisions consulting their wives.

Deepali (1979) found that the family education profile was positively related with the degree of participation of rural women in agricultural operations.

In this study also it is hypothesised that family education status and decision making will be positively correlated.

Size of holding

Dean et al. (1958) found that rationality in decision making was positively correlated with size of holding.

Arya (1964) reported that smaller the size of holding, the more was the self reliance of the family in decision with wives. The larger the size of holding, the greater is the voice of son and brother as compared to female members, ie. mother and wife.

Deb et al. (1968) revealed that rationality of farmer in decision making was related to size of farm.

Singh and Sinha (1970) reported that the pattern of decision making process for artificial fertilizer was influenced by the size of holding of farmers while it had non-significant influence for vegetable cultivation.

Sharma and Singh (1970) found that the size of holding had significantly affected the extent of participation.

Sawer (1973) observed that women's participation in decision making was negatively associated with farm size.

Dubey et al. (1982) concluded that participation of rural women in decision making regarding animal husbandry practices remained almost the same irrespective of land holding and herd size.

Aswathi (1983) reported that in large size farms, the task performed by women and their share in decision making regarding them vary from place to place and country to country.

From these studies, it is seen that size of holding and extent of participation of women in decision making are not related in many cases. But in rare cases it is found to have influences either in the positive direction or negative direction. However, for this study, it is hypothesised that size of holding will have relation with decision making.

Farming experience

Chambers English Dictionary (1972) defines experience as practical acquaintance with any matter gained by trial or wisdom derived from the changes and trials of life.

Farming experience is operationalised as the number of years since the farm women is involved in farming.

Sundararajan (1972) observed that joint decision and consultation was more in groups having more than 15 years of farming experience, in selection of strains. Respondents with 10-35 years of experience had more joint consultation on matters such as application of manures, plant protection and disposal of kapas. Respondents with 5-10 years of experience had more joint consultation in availing credit facilities.

Sawer (1973) pointed that opportunities for women to participate in farm management was influenced by their limited knowledge and farming experience.

Practice makes man perfect and practice is achieved through experience. The more experienced a woman is in farming, more will be her wisdom in handling the farm problems. She will be more confident and hence her extent of participation in decision making will be more. Hence in this study, it is hypothesised that farming experience will have positive significant relationship with decision making.

Contact with extension agency

Dean et al. (1958) revealed that rationality of farmers in decision making was related to extension contact.

Deb et al. (1968) found that rationality of farmers was related to extension contact.

Grunig (1970) while studying communication and economic decision making process of Colombian peasants found that economic rationality of decisions were more in those farmers with high exposure to authoritative sources.

Sawer (1973) reported that wife's extension contact was not significantly related to involvement in either general decision or decisions leading to adoption.

Deepali (1979) concluded that extension contact is one of the important variables which established relationship with the degree of participation of rural women in agricultural operations.

In most of the above mentioned studies, it is seen that extension contact of women and their decision making are related. Exposure to information sources helps to up-to-date the knowledge of the farm women and hence for the present study it is hypothesised that contact with extension agency and decision making will be positively related.

Attitude towards farming

Thurstone (1946) defined attitude as "the degree of positive or negative affect associated with some psychological object towards which people can differ in varying defrees".

According to Krech and Crutchfield (1948), attitude is a function of perception.

Katz and Scotland (1959) stated that attitude is a tendency or disposition to evaluate an object or the symbol of that object in a certain way.

Sharma (1972) defined attitude as a personal disposition which impels an individual to react to some object, or situations.

There are not much studies available on the relation between attitude towards farming and decision making. However, Singh (1978) showed that high scores on attitude towards farming and continuous decision making were associated with progressive farm behaviour.

Based on theoretical perspective and logical reasoning, it is hypothesised that attitude towards farming will be positively related with decision making.

Achievement Motivation

Mc Clelland (1961) stated that achievement motivation is the desire to do well not so much for the sake of social recognition or prestige, but to attain an inner feeling of personal accomplishment.

Grunig (1970) while studying communication and economic decision making processof Columbian peasants indicated that problem solving, economic rationality as a decision criterion, adoption and achievement motivation were high.

Devi and Reddy (1984) reported that achievement motivation has no relation with role expectation and role performance of rural women in farm activities.

Based on these studies and logical perspective, it is hypothesised that achievement motivation and decision making are positively related.

Income

Wilkening and Johnson (1958) have reported that wife's status was positively associated with her involvement in major decision only in those families having both high income and social participation.

Deb et al. (1968) revealed that rationality of farmers was related to farm income.

Singh and Sinha (1970) observed that socio-economic status had no significant influence on decision making.

Sundararajan (1972) stated that farmers belonging to high income group consulted their family members in all major decisions.

Sawer (1973) found that involvement of women in decision making was negatively associated with income.

Singh and Chander (1983) reported that income was found to exercise nonsignificant effect on women's participation in decision making.

From these studies, it could be inferred that income has some influence on women's participation. It is hypothesised that there will be relationship between income and the decision making of the women.

Knowledge in farming

One of the main tasks of extension education is to provide or improve the knowledge of the people about

the improved practices, because knowledge as a component of behaviour plays an important role in the total behaviour of individuals. Greater knowledge of improved practices would lead to higher adoption. Once knowledge is acquired and retained in the mind, it produce changes in the thinking process and a sort of 'mental alchening' will take place. The result of this active functioning of knowledge may sometimes be seen in overt behaviour of individual as in the actions or in decisions taken.

English and English (1958) defined knowledge as a body of understood information possessed by an individual or by a culture. Knowledge is knowing what to do next, skill is knowing how to do it and virtue is doing it.

Ramsey et al. (1959) suggested that cognitive adoption, ie, in decisions taken, includes obtaining knowledge and critical evaluation of practices in terms of individual situation.

Deepali (1979) revealed that there was positive relationship between level of knowledge of rural women in farm practices and their degree of participation in agricultural operations.

Devi and Reddy (1984) reported that knowledge in management and role expectation and role performance of rural women in farm activities have no relation.

It was hypothesised in the present study that knowledge and decision making will be related.

Occupational status

Sawer (1973) observed that wives who were active in farm work roles were also active in farm decision making.

Singh and Chander (1983) stated that occupation was found to exercise nonsignificant effect on women's participation.

A woman whoes main occupation is farming will be having more participation in decision making. Hence it is hypothesised that women who are basicaly farmers will have more participation in decision making.

Level of Aspiration

Lewin (1951) has defined level of aspiration as the degree of difficulty of the goal towards which a person is striving.

Aspiration is the degree to which the individual sets his goals realistically in relation to his physical and mental attributes and in accordance with his environment.

Studies were not available which establish the relationship between level of aspiration and decision making. However, based on logical reasoning it is hypothesised that level of aspiration will be positively related with decision making.

Based on the above reviews and hypotheses set for the study, a conceptual model has been developed for the study which is presented in Fig.I.

Conceptual orientation of the study

A. Dependent variables

Role perception in decision making

This is operationaly defined as thinking and feeling function of farm women towards decision making regarding socio-economic life*

Role performance in decision making

Role performance in decision making is operationalised as action function performed by farm women in relation to decision making in the family regarding socio-economic life.

Extent of participation in implementing the decision

This is defined as the extent of actual involvement, both mental and physical of farm women by way of supervision or doing a farm activity or operation.

* Since Nadars form one of the major agricultural caste in Kerala, 'Socio-economic life' in this study relates mainly to farming and allied aspects.

B. Intervening variables

Attitude of women towards their status

This is operationally defined as the degree of status a woman holds in various activitiesof socio-economic life as perceived by her and her positive feeling or affect towards the status.

C. Independent variables

Age:-

Operationally defined as number of years the farm woman has completed since birth.

Educational status:-

This is operationally defined as extent of formal education acquired by a farm woman.

Family educational status:-

This is operationalised as the average educational status of family members of the farm woman.

Size of holding:-

This is operationally defined as the area (wet land and total land) in cents possessed by the family of the farm women.

Farming experience:-

This is operationally defined as the number of years since the farm woman is actively involved in farming.

Contact with extension agency:-

This is operationally defined as the frequency with which a farm woman comes in contact with the extension agency within a fixed period.

Attitude towards farming:-

This is operationally defined as the positive or negative feeling of farm woman associated with farming.

Achievement motivation:-

This is operationally defined as spontaneously expressed desire of a farm woman to do something well for its own sake rather than to gain power, recognition or profit.

Income:-

This is operationally defined as total income (from agriculture and other sources) of the family for one year as reported by the farm woman.

Knowledge in farming:-

This is operationally defined as cognitive domain of farm woman regarding scientific crop production and animal management.

Occupational status:-

This is operationally defined as the position of farm woman which acts as a source of income in which she spends major part of her time and attention.

Level of aspiration:-

This is operationally defined as the possible goal a farm woman sets herself in her performance.

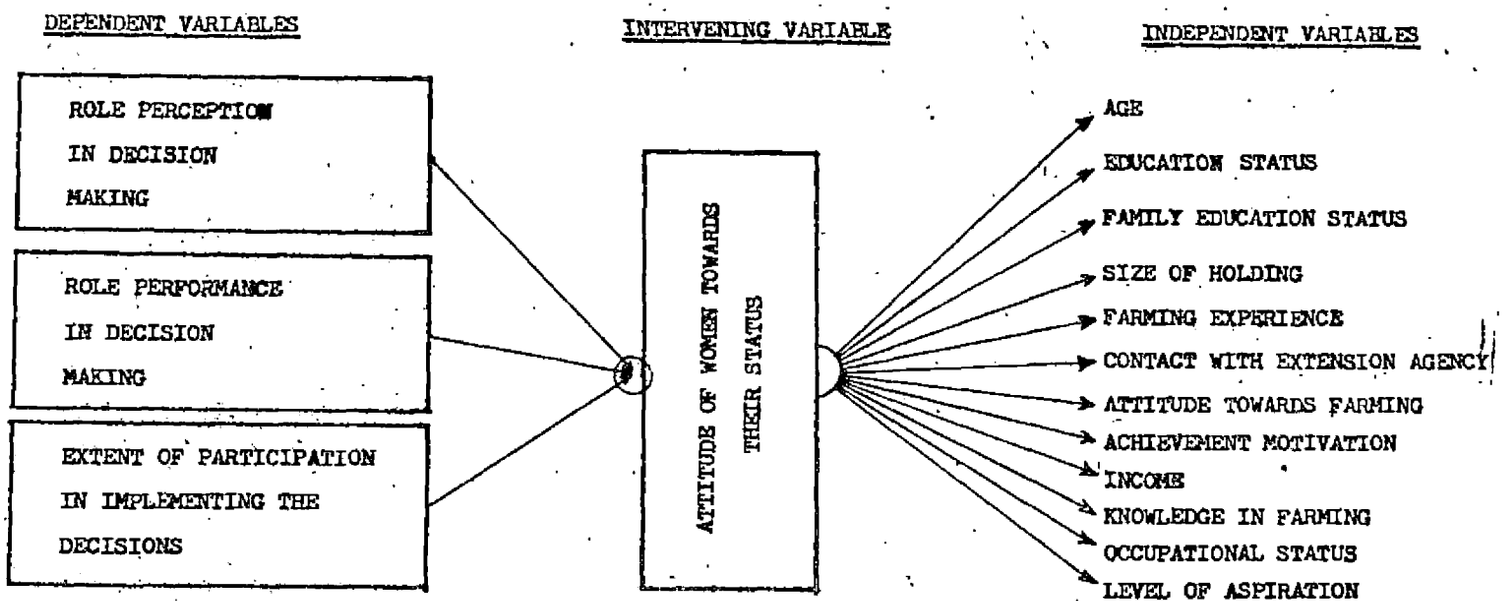


FIG: 1 THEORETICAL MODEL SHOWING THE EXPECTED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONCEPTS SELECTED FOR THE STUDY AND THE VARIABLES

METHODOLOGY

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methods employed in the study which are presented under the following heads.

1. Location of study
2. Sampling procedure employed for the study
3. Selection of variables for the study
4. Delineation of Decision making areas
5. Operationalization and measurement of variables included in the study
6. Data collection procedure
7. Statistical tools used in the study

Location of study

The study was confined to the district of Trivandrum where the Nadar community is mostly concentrated. A sizeable proportion of the Nadars of Trivandrum District live in Neyyattinkara taluk and hence this taluk was purposively selected as the study area.

Unfortunately, no authentic records are available on the demographic status of the Nadar community. The researcher contacted many political leaders and Government Officials who belonged to this community and hailed from the selected taluk, with a view to obtain a definite picture about the locations having high Nadar population.

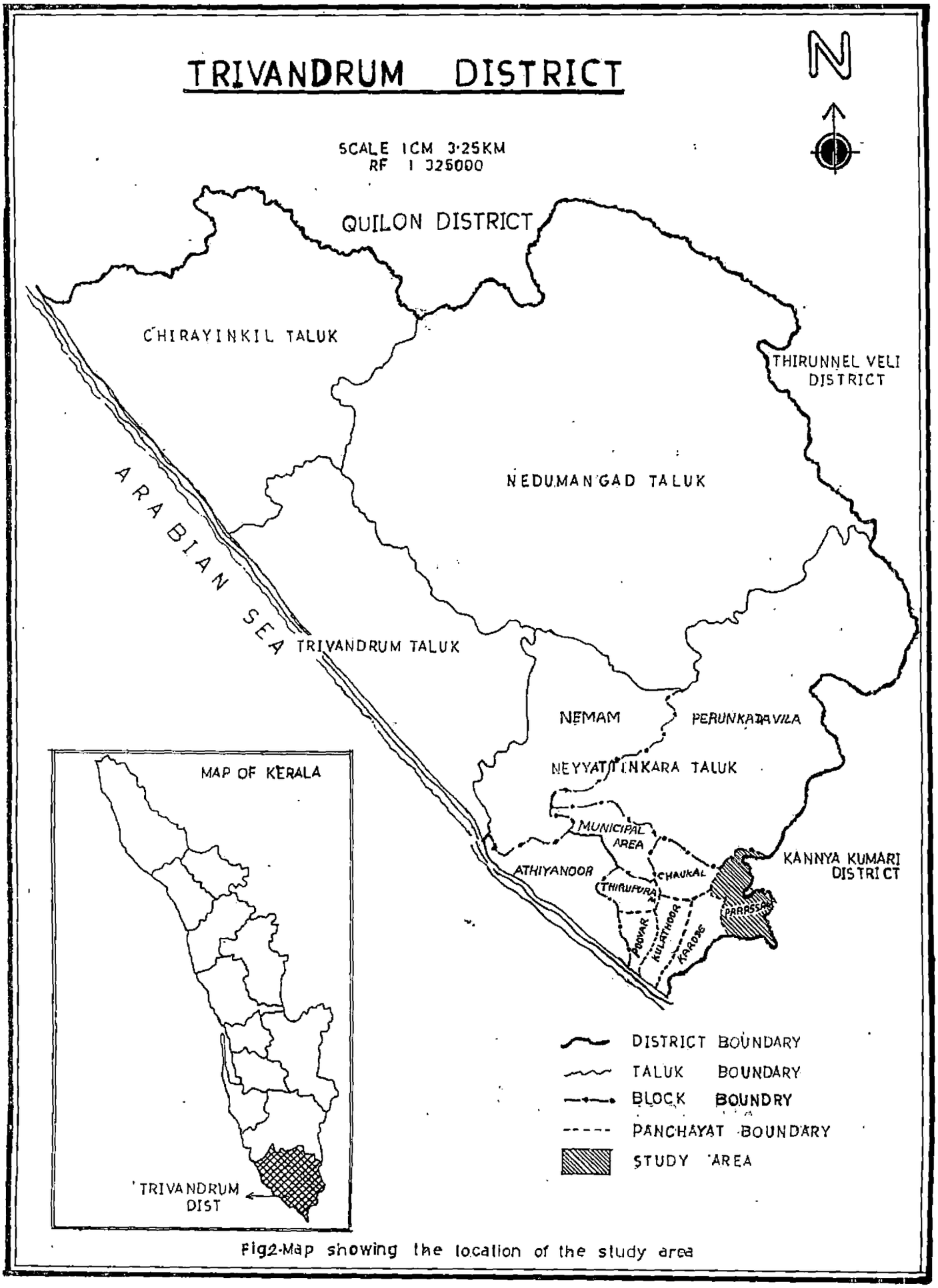


Fig2-Map showing the location of the study area

There are four NES Blocks in Neyyattinkara taluk. The Block Development Officers of the four Blocks were contacted and based on the opinion of these officers, one Block (Parassala) was purposively selected which was reported to have high Nadar population. As a cross-check, 25 farmers in each Block were contacted at random to know the caste to which they belong and it was revealed that a higher percentage of Nadar farmers were from Parassala Block.

Sampling procedure

Parassala Block having higher population of Nadars was selected as the sample Block for the study. This block consists of six Panchayaths namely Parassala, Chenkkal, Kulathur, Karode, Thirupuram and Poovar. Out of these, Parassala Panchayat was purposively selected. The two criteria used for selection of the block and the Panchayat were (1) the selected block/Panchayat should have high Nadar population (2) the selected block/ Panchayat should have more area under paddy cultivation.

In the selected Panchayat (Parassala Panchayat), there are 14 wards. Since the sample of respondents that could be obtained from one ward was not enough for the study, two wards were purposively selected which also fulfiled the criteria of selection. The selected wards were ward No.1 (Nediyamkonam) and ward No.3

Table 1 - Population of Parassala Panchayat

(Ward-wise)

Ward Number	Name	Number of households
1	Nediyamkonam	570
2	Pullurkonam	695
3	Parasuvakkal	936
4	Kizhathottam	596
5	Karimannur	729
6	Nediyankode	728
7	Idyankara	817
8	Town ward	787
9	Mulluvila	480
10	Injivila	479
11	Iyngkamam	632
12	Cheruvarakonam	685
13	Muriyathottam	596
14	Melakonam	655

Source:- Census of India 1981 series - 10 Kerala

(Part II B)

(Parasuvakkal). The total population of each ward is given in Table 1.

Systematic random sampling procedure was followed for selecting the households. The sample size was fixed as 120 respondents, 60 from each ward.

The 'K' value was different in each ward, where $K = \frac{N}{n}$ where N = total population, n = sample size. If the K^{th} household belonged to some other community, the next nearest farm family of this community was included. Only married farm women were included as respondents for the purpose of present study, with all single, widowed, divorced or separated respondents eliminated.

Selection of variables for the study

Based on the objectives and review of relevant literature, 14 variables were initially identified. The relevance of the variables was tested by administering the variables to 40 judges. The judges were drawn from the field of Agricultural Extension of the Kerala Agricultural University, Department of Sociology and Department of Home Science of the Kerala University. The following procedure was employed for the purpose.

A judgement sheet was prepared (Appendix I) in which variables along with their operational definitions

were included. The judges were requested to indicate their opinion regarding the inclusion of the variables in the study on a three point continuum as 'Most relevant' 'Relevant' and Not relevant'.

The coefficient of relevancy was worked out for the variables (Appendix II). Since all the coefficient values were above 0.50, all the variables were selected based on which a draft interview schedule was prepared.

With the help of the draft interview schedule, a pilot study was conducted which revealed that the two variables viz, social participation and religion had no relevance for the study. Though there are both Hindu Nadars and Christian Nadars, the Hindu Nadars in the study area were so sparse that the researcher was forced to eliminate religion as a variable. Similarly, it was observed that the Nadar women did not participate in any of the social organisations. Hence social participation was also not included in the final interview schedule.

Delineation of decision making areas

Based on the review of past studies and a pilot study conducted in the study area, 14 areas of decision making were chosen on which the present study is concentrated. In this case, emphasis has been given to areas related to agriculture. Only two decisions

were included which are non-agricultural in nature. These are decisions with respect to family budget and decisions regarding children's education.

The areas of decision making related to agriculture were

1) Selection of crop and variety to be grown
2) Deciding the type of weeding to be adopted.
3) Deciding the type of manures/fertilizer to be applied in the field.
4) Deciding the plant protection measures.
5) Deciding the time of harvest.
6) Deciding the wages.
7) Deciding the hired labourers to be employed
8) Decisions regarding the type of implements to be used.
9) Decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land.
10) Decisions regarding storage of produce
11) Decisions with respect to marketing of produce
12) Decisions regarding care and management of animals.

Operationalization and measurement of variables included in the study

A. Dependent variables

1. Role perception in Decision making
2. Role performance in decision making
3. Extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

B. Intervening variable

1. Attitude of women towards their status

C. Independent variables

1. Age
2. Education status
3. Family education status
4. Size of holding
5. Farming experience
6. Contact with extension agency
7. Attitude towards farming
8. Achievement motivation
9. Income
10. Knowledge in farming
11. Occupational status
12. Level of aspiration

A. Dependent variables

1. Role perception in Decision making:

This is operationally defined as thinking and feeling function of farm women towards decision making regarding socio-economic life.

Singh and Arya (1968) studied the perception of leadership behaviour with the help of two instruments namely paired comparison method and rating scales.

In the present study the selected 14 decision making areas were administered to the farm women and they were asked to indicate responses regarding their perception about each decision making area on a three point continuum viz. very important, important and not important. The scoring wad done as follows:-

Category	Score
Very important	2
Important	1
Not important	0

After computing the role perception score of the respondents, they were categorised into three groups as low, medium and high.

2. Role performance in Decision making

Role performance in decision making is operationalised as action function performed by farm women in relation to decision making in the family regarding socio-economic life.

Flanagan (1954) has developed critical incident technique to measure the role performance of leaders which has been used by Singh (1973) to measure the role performance of key communicators.

In this case, the performance was measured as either joint performance by both husband and wife or

as independent performance with no consultation with the husband. In each case the responses to the 14 decision making ageas were obtained on a three point continuum as always, sometimes and never.

The scores assigned were as follows:

Category	Score
Always	2
Sometimes	1
Never	0

3. Extent of participation in implementing the decisions:

Two alternate methods open to researcher to find out the extent of participation in implementing the decisions could be direct observation and self reporting by respondent.

In this case, out of the 14 areas, those areas in which their actual involvement could be measured were selected. All the areas excluding the four areas were included. Decisions regarding wages, hired labourers to be employed, purchase and sale of land and children's education were excluded. In order to understand the extent of actual involvement of the respondents in the other 10 areas, they were asked about the nature of labour that they put in managerial or manual work. The responses were measured on a three point continuum as

always, sometimes and never. The scoring pattern followed was:

Category	Score
Always	2
Sometimes	1
Never	0

The total score obtained by each woman was calculated by summing up the score for each. The respondents were then classified into three categories as low, medium and high.

B. Intervening variable

Attitude of women towards their status

This is operationally defined as the degree of status held by women in various activities of socio-economic life as perceived by her and her positive or negative feeling or affect towards the status.

Aarnon et al. (1969) had developed a scale to measure the attitude of women towards modernization which is popularly known as 'Modernization Attitude Scale'. Attitude towards position of women forms a part of this scale, which measures the status of women as perceived by them in the society. This specific scale was used in this study to measure the attitude of women towards their status.

The responses were dichotomised as either agree or disagree. The scores assigned were:

Agree - 1

Disagree- 0

For negative statements, the scoring pattern was reversed. The respondents were then categorised into three groups as low, medium and high.

C. Independent variables

1. Age:

This is operationally defined as the number of years the farm woman has actually completed at the time of interview.

This was measured by directly asking the respondent the number of years she has completed at the time of investigation.

2. Education

This is operationally defined as extent of formal education acquired by a farm woman.

Trivedi (1963) developed a scale to measure the educational status of the respondent.

Kanakasabai (1975) credited respondents with scores based on their academic qualification.

In this study Trivedi's (1963) scale was used to measure the educational status of the respondent as follows:-

Category	Score
Illiterate	0
Read only	1
Can read and write	2
Primary School	3
Middle School	4
High School	5
College	6

3. Family education status

Ray (1967) measured the family education status by averaging the total education status with the effective family size. Here the effective family size refers to the size of family excluding members below the age of five.

The same procedure was used in this study also. The same categories and scoring procedure as in the case of measuring education status was employed. To illustrate, suppose the total score obtained by the family is 27 and the effective family size is six. Then the family education will be obtained by dividing 27 by six ie. $\frac{27}{6} = 4.50$. If oneof the members is below the age of five years then the family education status will be $\frac{27}{5} = 5.40$.

After computing the total score the respondents were categorized into three groups as low, medium and high.

4. Size of holding

This is operationally defined as the area possessed by the family of the farm women measured in cents. The area under dryland and wetland were measured separately.

After computing the total score of the respondent for wetland and total land, they were grouped into three as low, medium and high.

5. Farming experience

This is operationalised as the number of years since the farm woman is involved in farming.

Sreenivasan (1974) measured the experience in farming as number of years when the respondent assumed actual entreprenurial responsibility.

Rajendran (1978) in his study measured farming experience in terms of total number of years the farmer had been engaged in farming.

In this study also, the procedure followed by Rajendran (1978) was used. The question was put as "For how many years have you been engaged in farming"?.

The respondents were then categorised into three groups as low, medium and high.

6. Contact with extension agency

This is operationally defined as the frequency with which a farm woman comes in contact with the extension agency within a fixed period.

In this study the frequency with which a farm woman comes in contact with different personnel of the different agencies, such as B.D.O., G.E.O., V.E.O., J.A.O., A.D. etc. were measured. The frequencies of contact were categorised as more than once in a week, once in a week, once in a fortnight, once in a month and never with scores of 4,3,2,1, and 0 respectively. The total scores was arrived at by summing up the scores obtained by the respondent for each category of extension personnel.

After computing the total score the respondents were categorised into three groups as low, medium and high.

7. Attitude towards farming

This variable is operationally defined as the positive or negative feeling of farm women associated with farming.

Sadamate (1978) developed a scale to measure the attitude of tribal farmers towards farming. The same scale was used with slight modification in this study to measure the attitude of farm women towards farming.

The responses were collected on a three point continuum as agree, undecided and disagree. In the case of positive statements a score of three was given for agree, score of two for undecided and score of one for disagree. For negative statements, the scoring procedure was reversed.

The total score of a respondent was the summation of numerical weights assigned to the responses of the different items. Then the respondents were grouped as low, medium and high.

8. Achievement motivation

This is operationally defined as spontaneously expressed desire of farm woman to do something well for its own sake rather than to gain power, recognition or profit.

Achievement motivation scale developed by Singh (1974) was used for measuring this variable. It is a six item scale with five alternative responses to each item. The respondent was asked to select one of the alternatives to each item. The scoring was done using the method of summated rating. The total score was obtained and then the respondents were grouped into three categories as low, medium and high.

9. Income

This is operationally defined as the total earnings of the family for one year including income

from agriculture and non-agricultural sources.

This was obtained by directly asking the respondent the total income of her family for one year. The income from agriculture and other sources were noted separately. After computing the total score under each head the respondents were categorised into three groups as low, medium and high.

10. Knowledge in farming

This is operationally defined as cognitive domain of farm women regarding scientific crop production and animal management.

Prasad (1978) had developed a scale to measure the knowledge of the farmers in rice farming.

This scale was used in the present study with slight modifications. The scale consists of eight questions which the respondent has to answer. A score of one was assigned for correct response and if response was not correct, the respondent was given a score of zero. The last two items combined two questions, each of which was given a score of one only if responses for both the questions were correct. The sum of scores obtained for all items indicated the knowledge score of a respondent. The total score ranged from 1-10.

11. Occupational status

This is operationally defined as the position of farm woman which provides a source of income and in which she spends major part of her time and attention.

The various categories and score assigned were as follows:-

Category	Score
Farming	6
Business	5
Professional	4
Clerical	3
Class IV employee	2
Labourer	1

12. Level of aspiration

Level of aspiration is operationally defined as the possible goal a farm woman sets herself in her performance.

Cantril and Free (1962) developed a self anchoring striving scale for measuring the general level of aspiration.

Chattopadhyay (1963) used a semi structured projective technique to measure the level of aspiration of farmers.

For the present study, an arbitrary scale was developed by the researcher which consisted of eight questions with different alternate choices. A score of one was given if the response was related to agriculture. In the case of fifth question, a score of one was given if a response pattern showing higher level of aspiration from the two alternate choices was selected. The total

score of a respondent was the summation of numerical weights assigned to the different responses.

After computing the total score, the respondents were classified into three groups as low, medium and high.

Data collection procedure

An interview schedule including all question was prepared in English (Appendix III). A Malayalam version of the same was also prepared to use at the time of interview (Appendix IV).

The data collection was done during the months of August-September. All the 120 respondents were directly interviewed by the researcher. The respondents were contacted in their respective houses and rapport was established. The questions were put in a conversational manner and responses were transcribed in the schedule itself. In case of responses which were not clear, rechecking was done.

Statistical tools used in the study

The following statistical methods were employed in the tabulation and analysis and interpretation of data.

A. Tabulation

1. Percentage analysis

Percentages were used for finding out the distribution of the respondents along the role

perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

2. Categorisation

The following method was employed to categorise the respondents into low, medium and high groups in respect of the different variables.

Low $<$ Mean $-2S.E$

Medium Mean $\pm$ 2 S.E

High $>$ Mean + 2 S.E

B. Statistical Analysis

1. Simple correlation analysis

This is defined as the intensity of association between two variables. The formula used to compute the simple correlation was

$$r_{xy} = \frac{C_{xy}}{\sigma x \sigma y}$$

Where r_{xy} = Correlation between x and y

C_{xy} = product moment of x and y

σ x and σ y = standard deviations of the distribution of x and y

2. Multiple correlation and regression analysis

This gives the percentage of variation that a unique set of antecedent and/or stimulus variables explain the consequent variable. The following prediction equation

was used in the present study to determine multiple regression.

$$x_o = a + b_1 x_1 + b_2 x_2 + \ldots\ldots\ldots + b_n x_n$$

where a = constant

b = Coefficient which appears in the equation which represent the amount of change in x_o(dependent variable) that can be associated with a given change in one of the x's with the remaining independent variable held constant. This is referred to as partial regression coefficient or partial 'b'.

The formula used for testing the significance of 'b' was $t = \frac{b_1}{s_e (b_i)}$

where b_i = partial regression coefficient of x_o on x_i

$s_e(b_i)$ = standard error of the partial regression coefficient

The significance of the multiple correlation coefficient (R) was tested using formula

$$F_{n,n-k-1} = \frac{R^2}{1-R^2} \quad \frac{n-k-1}{k}$$

Where F = variance ratio

K = Number of independent variables

n = Number of respondents in the sample

R = Multiple correlation coefficient.

RESULTS

C H A P T E R I V

RESULTS

In this chapter the results of the study are presented under the following heads.

A. Role perception of the farm women about decision making.

B. Role performance of the farm women in decision making.

C. Extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions.

D. Correlation of selected characteristics of farm women with role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

E. Inter correlation among the dependent variables and the independent variables.

F. Predictive power of selected variables in explaining the variation in dependent variables - Result of multiple regression analysis.

A. Role perception of the farm women about decision making

Table 2 furnishes the distribution of respondents based on their perception about decision making.

It could be seen from the table that more than 40 per cent of the respondents perceived six areas of

Table 2 - Role perception of farm women in decision making

N = 120

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Very important		Important		Not important	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Selecting the crop and variety to be grown in the field.	27	22.51	62	51.66	31	25.83
2.	Deciding the type of manures and fertilizers to be applied in the field	22	18.33	53	44.16	45	37.50
3.	Deciding the type of weeding to be adopted	22	18.33	58	48.33	40	33.33
4.	Deciding the plant protection measures	23	19.17	37	30.83	60	50.00
5.	Deciding the time of harvest	19	15.83	54	45.00	47	39.17
6.	Deciding the wages	43	35.83	45	37.50	32	26.67
7.	Deciding the numbers of hired labourers to be employed	32	26.67	55	45.83	33	27.50
8.	Decisions regarding type of implements to be used	28	23.33	29	24.17	63	52.50
9.	Decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land	80	66.67	35	29.17	5	4.16
10.	Decisions regarding the storage of produce	93	77.50	25	20.83	2	1.67
11.	Decisions with respect to marketing of produce	89	74.17	31	25.83	-	-

(Contd...)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12.	Decisions regarding care and management of animals	91	75.85	28	23.33	1	0.83
13.	Deciding family budget	78	65.00	40	33.33	2	1.67
14.	Decisions regarding children's education	82	68.33	37	30.83	1	0.83

decision making as'very important'. They are decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land, decisions regardings the storage of produce, decisions with respect to marketing of produce, decisions regarding care and management of animals, deciding family budget and decisions regarding children's education.

More than 50 percent of the respondents had perceived five areas as 'important'. They are selecting the crop and variety to be grown in the field, deciding the type of manures and fertilizers to be applied in the field, deciding the type of weeding to be adopted, deciding the time of harvest and deciding the number of hired labourers to be employed.

However, two areas viz. deciding the plant protection measures and decisions regarding the type of implements to be used were perceived 'not important' by more than 50 percent of the respondents.

The distribution of respondents based on their scores on role perception is furnished in Table 3. The mean and S.E. were 16.708 and 0.465 respectively.

Table 3 - Distribution of respondents based on their scores on role perception.

N = 120

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (below 15.78)	53	44.16
Medium (between 15.78 and 17.64)	29	24.17
High (above 17.64)	38	31.67
Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 16.708 S.E. = 0.465.

It could be seen from the table that a sizeable number of respondents (44.16%) belonged to the low group with respect to their scores on role perception, while only 31.67 per cent of the respondents belonged to the high group.

B. Role performance of Farm women in decision making

More than 50 per cent of the respondents 'always' made joint decisions in the following three areas viz. decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land, decisions regarding care and management of animals and decisions regarding children's education (Table 4).

Table 4 - Role Performance of the farm women in decision making

N = 120

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Role Performance											
		Joint						Single					
		Always		Sometimes		Never		Always		Sometimes		Never	
		F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P
1.	Selecting the crop and variety to be grown in the field	11	9.16	62	51.67	44	36.67	-	-	3	2.50	-	-
2.	Deciding the type of manures/fertilizers to be applied in the field	9	7.50	53	44.17	55	45.83	-	-	2	1.67	1	0.83
3.	Deciding the type of weeding to be adopted	8	6.67	33	27.50	76	63.33	-	-	2	1.67	1	0.83
4.	Deciding the plant protection measures	4	3.33	20	16.67	93	77.50	-	-	1	0.83	2	1.67
5.	Deciding the time of harvest	5	4.17	42	35.00	69	57.50	-	-	3	2.50	1	0.83
6.	Deciding the wages	9	7.50	75	62.50	32	26.66	-	-	3	2.50	1	0.83
7.	Deciding the hired labourers to be employed	15	12.50	55	45.83	45	37.50	1	0.83	3	2.50	1	0.83

(Contd.....)

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Role Performance											
		Joint						Single					
		Always		Sometimes		Never		Always		Sometimes		Never	
		F	P	F	P	F	P	F	P	E	P	F	P
8.	Decisions regarding type of implements to be used	5	4.17	16	13.33	75	90.00	-	-	2	1.67	2	1.67
9.	Decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land	78	65.00	34	28.33	1	0.83	5	4.17	1	0.83	1	0.83
10.	Decisions regarding the storage of produce	50	41.66	15	12.50	1	0.83	52	43.33	1	0.83	1	0.83
11.	Decisions with respect to marketing of produce	50	41.66	17	14.16	2	1.67	49	40.83	2	1.67	-	-
12.	Decisions regarding care and management of animals	60	50.00	19	15.83	2	1.67	36	36.00	3	2.50	-	-
13.	Deciding family budget	55	45.83	56	30.00	1	0.83	6	5.00	1	0.83	1	0.83
14.	Decisions regarding Children's education	62	51.66	48	40.00	3	2.50	5	4.17	2	0.17	-	-

F = Frequency P = Percentage.

A considerable number of respondents (45.83 per cent) were found to make joint decision always with respect to family budget. Similarly, more than 50 per cent only 'sometimes' made joint decisions in the two areas viz. selecting the crop and variety to be grown in the field, and deciding the wages.

It could be observed from the table that the number of respondents making independent decisions in the different areas were negligible. However, a considerable number of respondents were found to make independent decisions regarding the storage of produce and also marketing of produce.

The distribution of the respondents based on their scores on role performance (joint) is furnished in Table 5. The mean and the S.E. of role performance score for the total sample were 11.433 and 0.443 respectively.

Table 5 - Distribution of the respondents based on their scores on role performance (joint)

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (below 10.55)	46	38.34
2	Medium (between 10.55 and 12.32)	28	23.32
3	High (above 12.32)	46	38.34
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 11.433 S.E = 0.443

The respondents were equally distributed between high and low groups (38.34%) with 23.32 per cent of the respondents in the medium group.

The mean and S.E of role performance score (single) for the total sample were 2.89 and 1.89 respectively. Since the variation in scores as indicated by the S.E was high, grouping of respondents into high, medium and low category was not possible based on mean and S.E.

C. Extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions

The extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions is presented in Table 6.

Out of the ten areas, more than 90 per cent of the respondents participated in implementing the decisions with respect to storage of produce, marketing of produce and care and management of animals.

However, more than 80 per cent of the respondents were found not participating in implementing the decisions in the following areas viz. selecting crop and variety to be grown in the field, deciding the type of weeding to be adopted, deciding the type of manures/fertilizers to be applied, deciding the time of harvest and decisions regarding type of implements to be used.

Table 6 - Extent of participation of Farm women in implementing the decisions

N = 120

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Extent of participation in implementing the decisions					
		Always		Sometimes		Never	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1.	Selecting the crop and variety to be grown in the field	3	2.50	10	8.33	107	89.17
2.	Deciding the type of weeding to be adopted	6	5.00	9	7.50	105	87.50
3.	Deciding the type of manures/fertilizers to be applied	2	1.67	13	10.83	105	87.50
4.	Deciding the plant protection measure	1	0.83	4	3.33	115	95.83
5.	Deciding the time of harvest	-	-	10	8.33	110	91.63
6.	Decisions regarding the type of implements to be used	1	0.83	3	2.50	116	96.67
7.	Deciding the family budget	53	44.17	63	52.50	4	33.33
8.	Decisions regarding storage of produce	115	95.83	5	4.17	-	-
9.	Decisions with respect to marketing of produce	115	95.83	5	4.17	-	-
10.	Decisions regarding care and management of animals	110	91.67	10	8.33	-	-

F = Frequency P = Percentage.

The distribution of respondents based on their scores on extent of participation in implementing the decisions is furnished in Table 7. The mean and S.E. for the same were 7.83 and 0.168 respectively.

Table 7 - Distribution of the respondents based on their scores on extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

N = 120

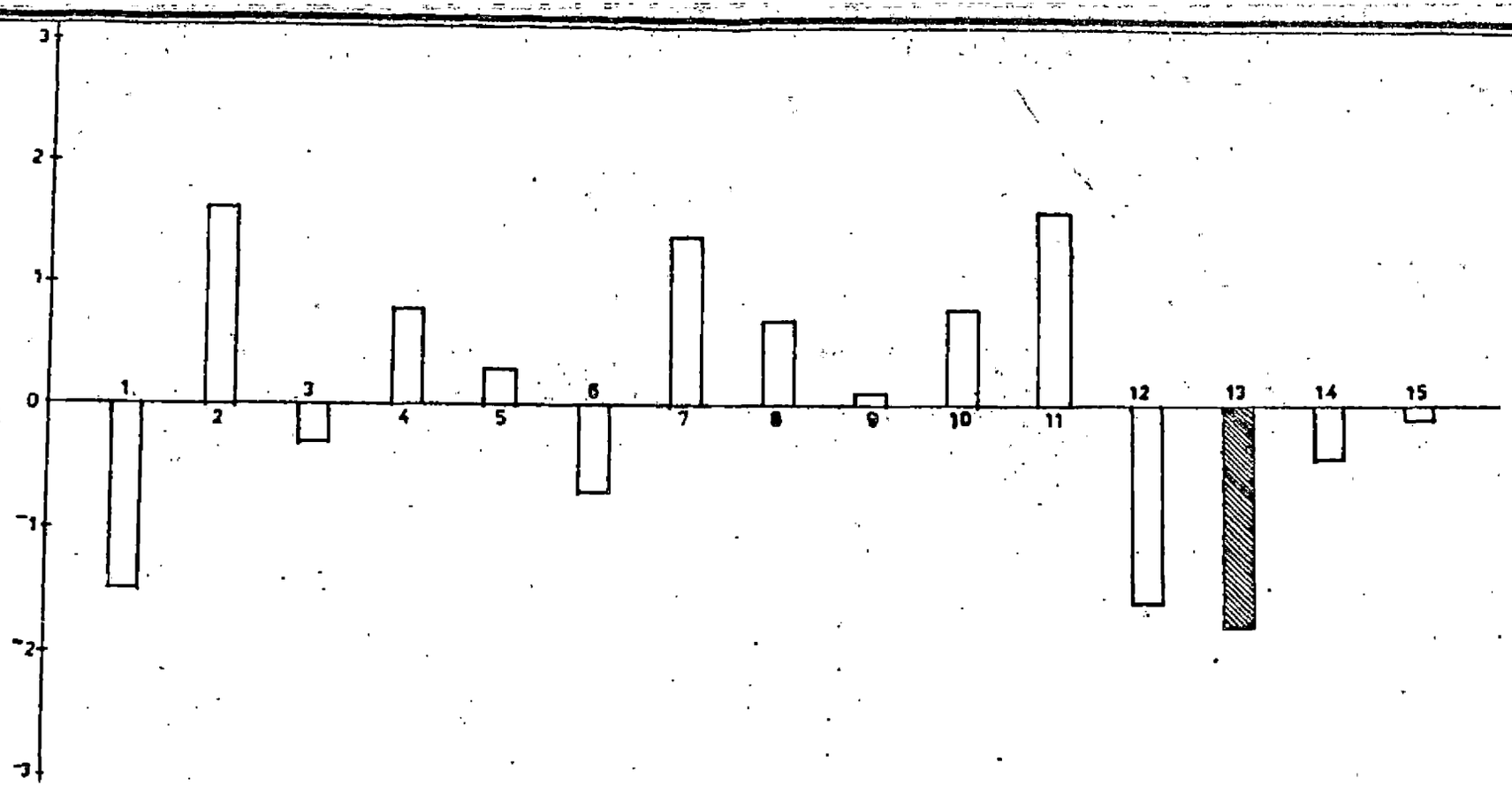
Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 7.49)	52	43.33
2.	Medium (between 7.49 and 8.17)	48	40.00
3.	High (above 8.17)	20	16.67
	Total	120	100.00
	$\bar{x}$ = 7.83	S.E = 0.168	

Of the total 120 respondents, 16.67 per cent belonged to high group, whereas large number of respondents (40.00% and 43.33%) were found to belong to medimm and low group respectively.

D. Correlation of selected characteristics of farm Women with role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

1. Age.

The distribution of respondents based on age is



1. Age
2. Education status
3. Family education status
4. Size of holding (wet land)
5. Size of holding (total land)
6. Farming experience
7. Contact with extension agency
8. Attitude towards farming
9. Achievement motivation
10. Income from agriculture
11. Income from other sources
12. Knowledge in farming
13. Occupational status
14. Level of aspiration
15. Attitude of women towards their status

▨ significant at 5% level of probability

Fig 3 . CORRELATION BETWEEN ROLE PERCEPTION AND THE SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

furnished in Table 8.

Table 8 - Distribution of the respondents based on age.

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	20-29	8	6.66
2	30-39	36	30.00
3	40-49	37	30.83
4	50-59	25	20.83
5	60-69	10	8.34
6	70-79	4	3.34
	Total	120	100.00

Of the total 120 respondents, majority (60.83%) were between 30 and 49 years in age. 20.83 per cent were between 50 and 59 years.

From the Tables 9, 10, and 11 in which the results of the correlation between independent variables and the dependent variables are furnished, it could be seen that age has no significant relationship with any of the dependent variables.

2. Education status

The distribution of respondents based on education is furnished in Table 12. It was found that 47.50 per cent of the respondents were having either high school

Table 9 - Correlation between Role perception and the selected independent variables. N = 120

Sl.No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient 'r'
1.	Age	-0.15
2.	Education	0.16
3.	Family education status	-0.03
4.	Size of holding	
	a) Wet land	0.08
	b) Total land	0.03
5.	Farming experience	-0.07
6.	Contact with extension agency	0.14
7.	Attitude towards farming	0.07
8.	Achievement motivation	0.01
9.	Income	
	a) Income from agriculture	0.08
	b) Income from other sources	0.16
10.	Knowledge in farming	-0.16
11.	Occupational status	-0.18*
12.	Level of aspiration	-0.04
13.	Attitude of women towards their status (intervening variable)	-0.01

* Significant at 5% level of probability

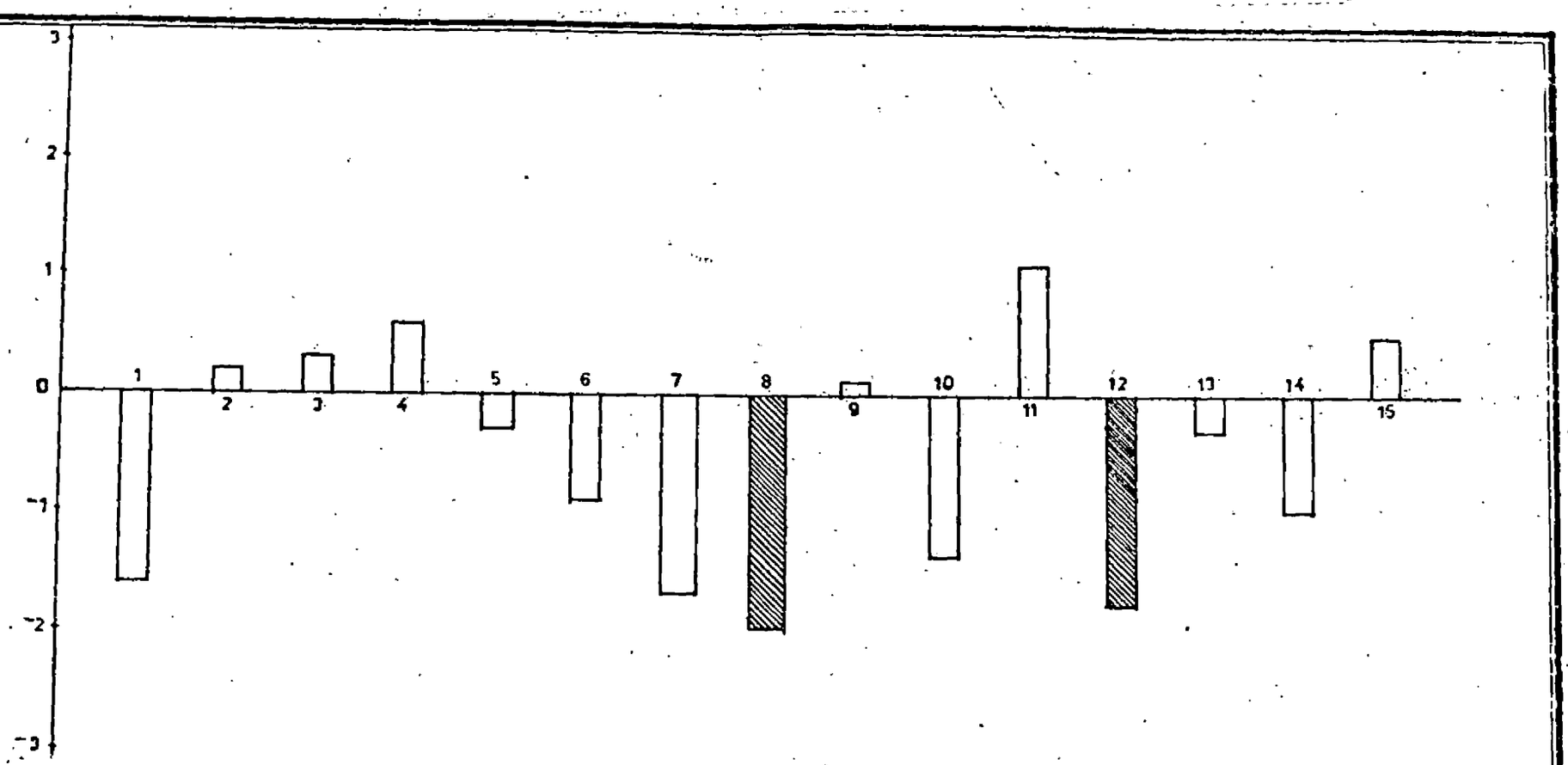
Table 10 - Correlation between Role performance (joint and single) and the selected independent variables.

N = 120

Sl. No.	Independent variables	Correlation Coefficient 'r'	
		Joint	Single
1.	Age	-0.16	0.15
2.	Education	0.02	0.05
3.	Family education status	0.03	-0.06
4.	Size of holdings		
	a) Wet land	0.06	-0.11
	b) Total land	-0.03	-0.05
5.	Farming experience	-0.09	0.11
6.	Contact with extension agency	-0.17	0.28**
7.	Attitude towards farming	-0.20*	0.05
8.	Achievement motivation	0.01	0.02
9.	Income		
	a) Income from agriculture	-0.14	0.05
	b) Income from other sources	0.06	-0.06
10.	Knowledge in farming	-0.18*	-0.05
11.	Occupational status	-0.03	0.06
12.	Level of aspiration	-0.10	0.04
13.	Attitude of women towards their status (intervening variable)	0.05	-0.05

* Significant at 5% level of probability

** Significant at 1% level of probability



1. Age
2. Education status
3. Family education status
4. Size of holding (wet land)
5. Size of holding (total land)
6. Farming experience
7. Contact with extension agency
8. Attitude towards farming
9. Achievement motivation
10. Income from agriculture
11. Income from other sources
12. Knowledge in farming
13. Occupational status
14. Level of aspiration
15. Attitude of women towards their status

▨ significant at 5% level of probability

Fig 4. CORRELATION BETWEEN ROLE PERFORMANCE (JOINT) AND THE SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Table 11 - Correlation between Extent of participation in implementing the decisions and the selected independent variables.

N = 120

Sl.No.	Independent variables	Correlation Coefficient 'r'
1.	Age	0.04
2.	Education	-0.11
3.	Family education status	-0.10
4.	Size of holding	
	a) Wet land	-0.03
	b) Total land	-0.11
5.	Farming experience	0.06
6.	Contact with extension agency	-0.03
7.	Attitude towards farming	-0.22*
8.	Achievement motivation	-0.14
9.	Income	
	a) Income from agriculture	-0.09
	b) Income from other sources	-0.24**
10.	Knowledge in farming	0.04
11.	Occupational status	0.16
12.	Level of aspiration	0.05
13.	Attitude of women towards their status (intervening variable)	0.43**

* Significant at 5% level of probability

** Significant at 1% level of probability

education or above. 39.17 per cent of the respondent were having primary and middle school education. Only 8.33 per cent were found to be illiterate.

Table 12 - Distribution of respondents based on education

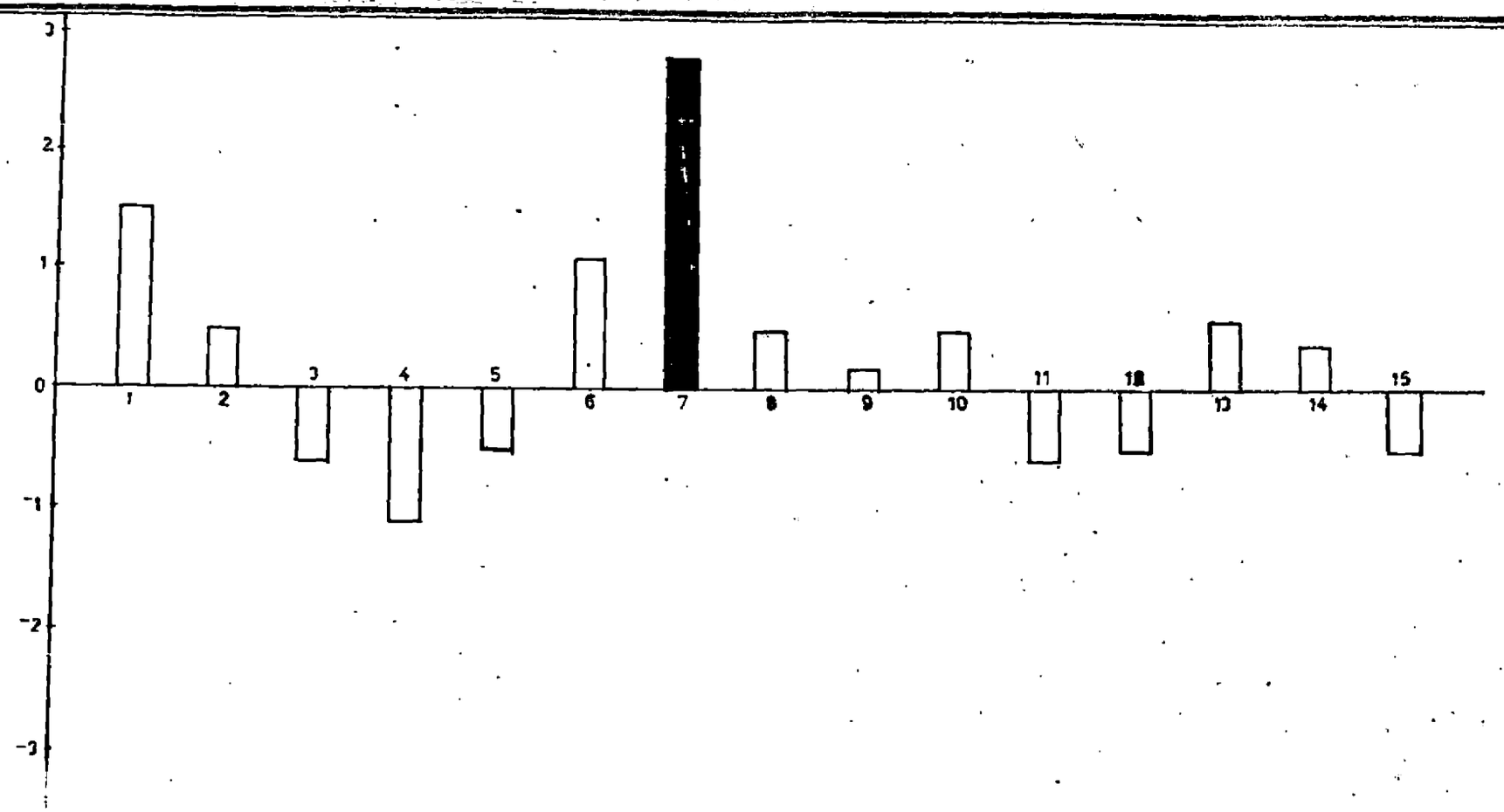
N=120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	10	8.33
2.	Read only	2	1.67
3.	Can read and write	4	3.33
4.	Primary school	23	19.17
5.	Middle school	24	20.00
6.	High school	44	36.67
7.	College	13	10.83
	Total	120	100.00

From the tables 9,10 and 11 in which the relationship between the dependent and independent variables are given, it could be seen that education had no significant relationship with any of the dependent variables.

3. Family education status.

The distribution of respondents based on family education status is furnished in Table 13. The mean and S.E. of family education status for the total sample were



1. Age
2. Education status
3. Family education status
4. Size of holding (wet land)
5. Size of holding (total land)
6. Farming experience
7. Contact with extension agency
8. Attitude towards farming
9. Achievement motivation
10. Income from agriculture
11. Income from other sources
12. Knowledge in farming
13. Occupational status
14. Level of aspiration
15. Attitude of women towards their status

■ Significant at 1% level of probability

Fig 5. CORRELATION BETWEEN ROLE PERFORMANCE (SINGLE) AND THE SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Table 13 - Distribution of respondents based on family education status.

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 4.27)	41	34.16
2.	Medium (between 4.27 and 4.61)	36	30.00
3.	High (above 4.61)	43	35.84
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 4.44 S.E. = 0.084

4.44 and 0.084 respectively.

The distribution of the respondents in the three groups viz. high, medium and low were more or less equal with 35.84 per cent, 30 per cent and 34.16 per cent respectively in different groups.

From the Tables 9,10 and 11 it was noticed that family education status had no significant relation with the dependent variables.

4. Size of holding.

The distribution of respondents based on the wet land possessed by them is furnished in Table 14. The mean and S.E of the total sample were found as 32.68

and 2.52 respectively.

Table 14 - Distribution of respondents based on their size of holding.(wet land)

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 27.64)	62	51.67
2.	Medium (between 27.64 and 37.72)	24	20.00
3.	High (above 37.72)	34	28.33
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 32.68 S.E. = 2.52

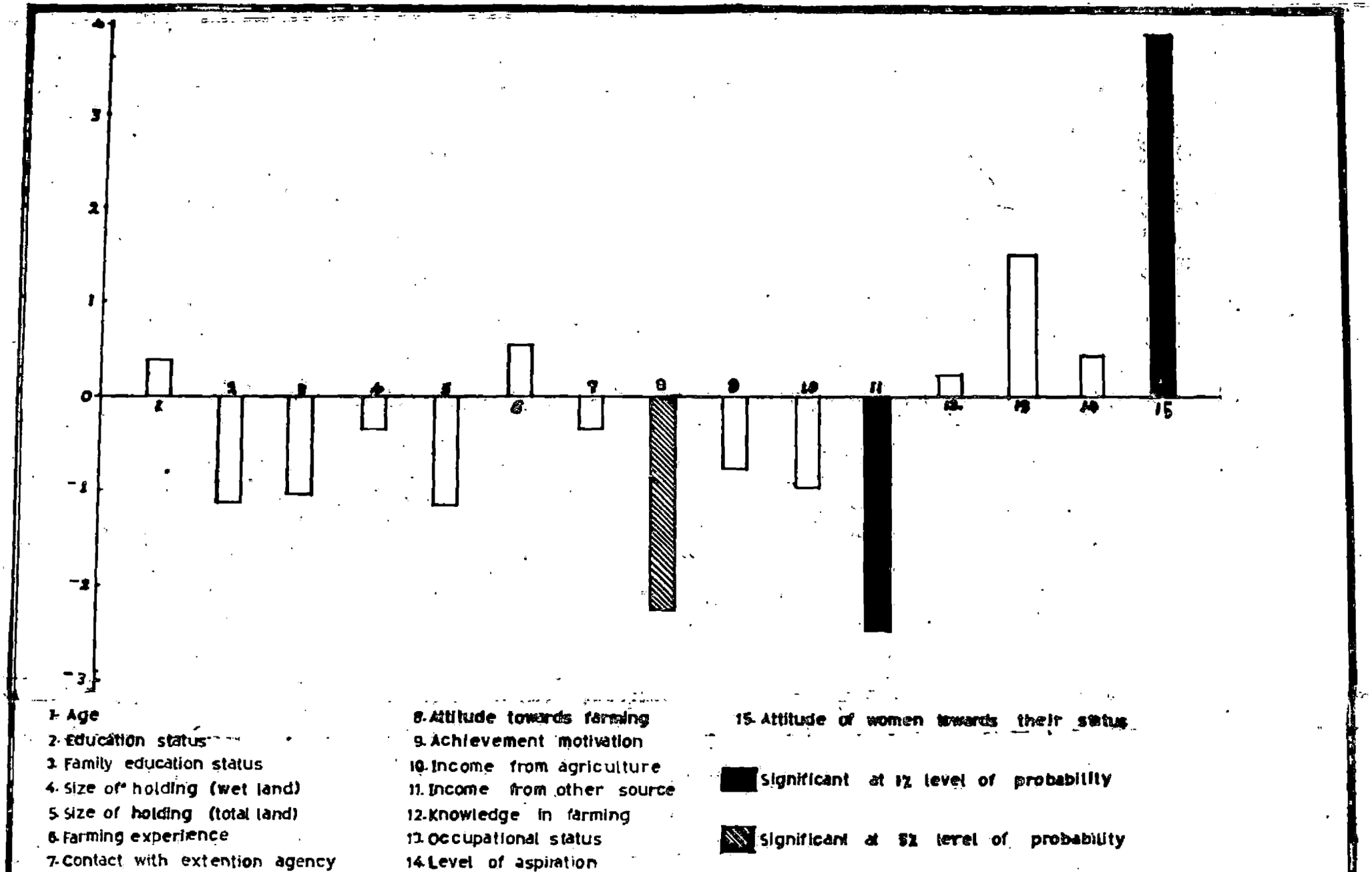
51.67 per cent of the respondents belonged to low group whereas the distribution of respondents in the other two groups, viz. medium and high were 20 and 28.33 per cent respectively.

Table 15 - Distribution of respondents based on their size of holding (total land)

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 139.65)	67	55.84
2.	Medium (between 139.65 and 187.13)	18	15.00
3.	High (above 187.13)	35	29.16
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 163.39 S.E. = 11.87



1- Age
2- Education status
3. Family education status
4- Size of holding (wet land)
5- Size of holding (total land)
6- Farming experience
7- Contact with extention agency
8- Attitude towards farming
9. Achievement motivation
10- Income from agriculture
11. Income from other source
12- Knowledge in farming
13. Occupational status
14- Level of aspiration
15- Attitude of women towards their status

Significant at 1% level of probability

Significant at 5% level of probability

Fig6- CORRELATION BETWEEN EXTENT OF PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS AND THE SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

The distribution of respondents based on the total land possessed by the respondents is furnished in Table 15. The mean and S.E. of the total sample with respect to possession of total land were 163.39 and 11.87 respectively.

Majority of the respondents (55.84%) belonged to the low group while only 29.16 per cent belonged to the high category.

From the tables 9,10 and 11 it could be seen that wet land and total land possessed by the respondent had no significant relation with any of the dependent variables.

5. Farming experience.

The distribution of the respondents based on their farming experience is furnished in Table 16.

Table 16 - Distribution of respondents based on farming experience

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 23.94)	53	44.17
2.	Medium (between 23.94 and 28.57)	13	10.83
3.	High (above 28.57)	54	45.00
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 26.27 S.E. = 1.15

The mean and S.E. of the farming experience for the total sample were found as 26.27 and 1.15 respectively.

Of the total 120 respondents, only 10.83 per cent belonged to medium group, almost equal number of respondents were distributed between high and low groups.

From the Tables 9,10 and 11 in which the relationship between the dependent and independent variables are furnished, it could be seen that farming experience had no significant relation with any of the dependent variables.

6. Contact with extension agency.

Table 17 - Distribution of respondents based on contact with extension agency

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 1.57)	61	50.83
2.	Medium (between 1.57 and 2.10)	25	20.83
3.	High (above 2.10)	34	28.34
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 1.83 S.E. = 0.132

The distribution of respondents based on contact with extension agency is furnished in Table 17. The mean and S.E. of contact with extension agency were found as 1.83 and 0.132 respectively.

A good number of the respondents (50.83%) belonged to low group whereas 28.34 per cent belonged to high group with 29.83 per cent in the medium group.

The results of the relationship of contact with extension agency with the dependent variables obtained from the Tables 9,10 and 11, indicate that contact with extension agency had positive and significant relation (0.28) with role performance (single). However, there was no significant relation of contact with extension agency with role perception (joint), role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

7. Attitude towards farming.

The distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards farming is furnished in Table 18.

Table 18 - Distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards farming.

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 24.68)	38	31.67
2.	Medium (between 24.68 and 26.34)	25	20.83
3.	High (above 26.34)	57	47.50
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 25.51 S.E. = 0.416

The mean and S.E. of attitude towards farming were found as 25.510 and 0.416 respectively.

Of the total 120 respondents, 47.50 per cent belonged to the high category whereas only 31.67 per cent belonged to low category with respect to attitude towards farming.

The relationship between attitude towards farming and the dependent variables are presented in Tables 9, 10 and 11. Attitude towards farming was found to have negative significant relation with joint role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions. (-0.20 and -0.22 respectively).

8. Achievement motivation

The distribution of respondents based on achievement motivation is furnished in Table 19. The mean and S.E. of achievement motivation scores of the total sample were found to be 21.49 and 0.393 respectively.

The distribution of respondents in the three categories were 34.17 per cent in high group 21.67 per cent in medium group and 44.16 per cent in low group.

From the tables 9,10 and 11 which depicts the relationship of achievement motivation with the various dependent variables, it could be seen that there was no significant relation between achievement motivation and any of the dependent variables.

Table 19 - Distribution of the respondents based on achievement motivation

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 20.70)	53	44.16
2.	Medium (between 20.70 and 22.28)	26	21.67
3.	High (above 22.28)	41	34.17
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 21.49 S.E. = 0.393

9. Income

a) Income from agriculture

The distribution of respondents based on their income from agriculture is furnished in Table 20.

Table 20 - Distribution of respondents based on income from agriculture

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 5957.2)	51	42.51
2.	Medium (between 5957.2 and 7044.36)	19	15.83
3.	High (above 7044.36)	50	41.66
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 6319.59 S.E = 362.39

The mean and S.E. for the same were obtained as 6319.59 and 362.39 respectively.

The distribution of respondents were almost equal in the high group and the low group (41.66% and 42.51% respectively) with only 15.83 per cent in the medium group.

b) Income from other sources

Table 21 - Distribution of respondents based on income from other sources

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 3718.46)	78	65.00
2.	Medium (between 3718.46 and 6287.36)	8	6.67
3.	High (above 6287.36)	34	28.33
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 5002.92 S.E. = 642.23

The distribution of respondents based on income from other sources is furnished in Table 21. The mean and S.E. of income from other sources were found as 5002.92 and 642.23 respectively.

Majority (65.00%) of the respondents belonged to low group whereas only 28.33 per cent belonged to high group.

In the Tables 9,10 and 11 the relationship between income and the dependent variables are presented. It was found that there was no significant relationship between income from agriculture and any of the dependent variables.

Income from other sources was found to have negative significant relation with extent of participation in implementing the decisions (-0.24). However, there was no significant relationship of income from other sources with role perception, and role performance.

10. Knowledge in farming

In the case of knowledge, the mean value obtained was 0.875 and the S.E. 0.042. Here the since the variation was very low, grouping of the respondents into low, medium and high categories was not possible. Hence the following procedure of categorisation was adopted, and accordingly grouping was done as follows:-

Table 22 - Distribution of respondents based on knowledge in farming

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Score of 0	17	14.17
2.	Score of 1	102	85.00
3.	Score greater than 1	1	0.83
	Total	120	100.00

Majority (85.00%) of the respondents had obtained a score of 1 for knowledge, whereas only 0.83 per cent had secured a score greater than 1.

Tables 9,10 and 11 furnished the relationship between knowledge in farming and the dependent variables. From these tables it could be noted that knowledge in farming established negative significant relation with role performance (joint) (-0.18). There was no significant relationship established between knowledge and other dependent variables.

11. Occupational status

The distribution of the respondents based on their occupational status is furnished in Table 23.

Table 23 - Distribution of respondents based on occupational status

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Farming	102	85.00
2.	Business	2	1.67
3.	Professional	16	13.33
4.	Clerical jobs	-	-
5.	Class IV employee	-	-
6.	Labourer	-	-
	Total	120	100.00

A sizeable majority of the respondents (85.00%) had farming as their occupation. 13.33 per cent of the respondents were professionals. Only 1.67 per cent of the respondents belonged to the business category.

The correlation coefficient worked out between occupational status and the dependent variables are furnished in Tables 9,10 and 11. It could be seen from these tables that there was no significant relation between role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions with occupational status. However, role perception and occupational status were found negatively and significantly related (-0.18).

12. Level of Aspiration

The distribution of respondents based on their level of aspiration is given in Table 24. The mean and S.E. of the level of aspiration of the total sample were 7.12 and 0.114 respectively.

More than 50 per cent of the respondents had high level of aspiration. Only 25.83 per cent of the respondents belonged to low aspiration group.

Tables 9,10 and 11 provide the results of relationship between level of aspiration and the dependent variables. From these tables, it could be inferred

Table 24 - Distribution of the respondents based on their level of aspiration.

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 6.89)	31	25.83
2.	Medium (between 6.89 and 7.35)	27	22.50
3.	High (above 7.35)	62	51.67
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 7.12 S.E. = 0.114

that there was no significant relationship between level of aspiration and the dependent variables.

13. Attitude of women towards their status.

The distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards their status are furnished in the Table 25. The mean and S.E. of the attitude of women towards their status were found to be 11.05 and 0.203 respectively.

The distribution of the respondent in the three categories viz. high, medium, and low are almost equal (33.33%, 29.17% and 37.50% respectively).

Table 23 - Distribution of respondents based on their attitude towards their status.

N = 120

Sl.No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (below 10.64)	45	37.50
2.	Medium (between 10.64 and 11.46)	35	29.17
3.	High (above 11.46)	40	33.33
	Total	120	100.00

$\bar{x}$ = 11.05 S.E. = 0.203

The relationship between the attitude of women towards their status and the dependent variables are furnished in the Tables 9,10 and 11. These tables indicate that there was positive and significant relation between attitude of women towards their status and extent of participation in implementing the decisions (0.43). There was no significant relationship for role preception and role performance with attitude of women towards their status.

E. Inter correlation among dependent and independent variables

The relationship among the dependent variables viz., role perception, role performance (joint), role

performance (single) and extent of participation in implementing the decisions were worked out and are presented in Table 26.

Table 26 - Inter correlation among the dependent variables.

	Y_1	Y_2	Y_3	Y_4
Y_1		0.240**	0.103	0.033
Y_2			-0.683**	0.190
Y_3				-0.092
Y_4				

** Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

Y_1 = Role perception

Y_2 = Role performance (Joint)

Y_3 = Role performance (Single)

Y_4 = Extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

From the table, it is noted that there was significant positive relation between role perception and role performance (joint). The relation between role performance (joint) and role performance (single) were also significant, but negative. Role performance (single) and extent of participation in implementing the decisions were negatively related though not significant.

Teble 27 - Inter-relationship among the independent variables.

	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_{4-1}	X_{4-2}	X_5	X_6	X_7	X_8	X_{9-1}	X_{9-2}	X_{10}	X_{11}	X_{12}
X_1		-0.376	0.167	-0.003	0.192*	0.897**	0.088	-0.052	-0.211*	0.132	0.110	-0.052	-0.138	-0.026
X_2			0.533**	0.209*	0.229*	-0.367**	0.049	-0.090	0.352**	0.157	0.284**	0.193*	-0.398**	-0.262**
X_3				0.245**	0.433**	0.135	0.073	-0.172	0.138	0.251**	0.392**	0.044	-0.409**	-0.269**
X_{4-1}					0.658**	0.032	0.069	-0.047	0.063	0.458**	0.261**	0.089	-0.290**	-0.356**
X_{4-2}						0.183**	0.032	-0.133	0.055	0.579**	0.403**	-0.017	-0.333**	-0.290**
X_5							0.073	-0.089	-0.361**	0.072	0.077	-0.091	-0.115	-0.016
X_6								0.011	0.023	0.050	-0.180*	0.093	0.146	0.118
X_7									0.104	0.071	0.046	-0.014	0.058	0.325**
X_8										0.170	0.165	0.234*	-0.111	-0.112
X_{9-1}											0.210*	-0.035	-0.287**	-0.160
X_{9-2}												-0.059	-0.490**	-0.308**
X_{10}													-0.039	0.026
X_{11}														0.449**
X_{12}														

X_1 - Age

X_2 - Education status

X_3 - Family education status

X_{4-1} - Size of holding (Wet land)

X_{4-2} - Size of holding (Total land)

X_5 - Farming experience

X_6 - Contact with extension agency

X_7 - Attitude towards farming

X_8 - Achievement motivation

X_{9-1} - Income from agriculture

X_{9-2} - Income from other sources

X_{10} - Knowledge in farming

X_{11} - Occupational status

X_{12} - Level of aspiration

* Significant at 5% level of probability

** Significant at 1% level of probability

The inter-relationship among the independent variables are presented in Table 27. Table 28. summarizes the results obtained in Table 27.

Table 28 - Relative Importance of different independent variables in establishing relationship among themselves.

Independent variables	No. of other variables with which significantly related		
	At 5 per cent level	At 1 per cent level	Total
X_1	2	-	2
X_2	3	6	9
X_3	-	7	7
X_{4-1}	1	6	7
X_{4-2}	2	7	9
X_5	1	2	3
X_6	1	-	1
X_7	-	2	2
X_8	2	2	4
X_{9-1}	1	5	6
X_{9-2}	2	6	8
X_{10}	2	-	2
X_{11}	1	7	8
X_{12}	1	7	8

It could be seen from this table that two variables viz. education and size of holding (total land) could establish inter relationship with maximum number (nine) of other variables followed by annual income (from other sources), level of aspiration and occupational status (eight number), which was followed by family education status and size of holding (wet land) (seven number). The least number of relationship was in the case of contact with extension agency.

F. Predictive power of selected variables in explaining the variation in dependent variables- Result of multiple regression analysis.

1. Role perception

Table 29 (a). Regression analysis of role perception on independent variables

Source	d.f	S.S.	M.S.	F
Total	119	3110.79	26.14	
Regression	15	1993.70	132.91	12.375*
Error	104	1117.09	10.74	

$R^2 = 0.64$

* Significant at 5% level of probability

The F value of the ANOVA of the multiple regression equation of role perception with independent variables presented in Table 29 (a) was significant which revealed that all the variables taken together could explain a significant amount of variation in the dependent variable Y_1 (role perception about decision making). R^2 value of 0.64 indicated that 64 percentage of variation in Y_1 could be explained by the 13 variables taken together.

Since the multiple correlation was statistically significant, it was thought desirable to analyse the relative importance of each independent variable in order to determine which independent variable is most important.

The partial regression coefficients were obtained for the variables included in the regression equation. The partial 'b' values obtained were tested for significance with the help of 't' test. The partial 'b' s and corresponding t values are presented in Table 29 (b).

From the Table 29 (b), it is evident that only three variables viz., contact with extension agency, size of holding (total land) and knowledge in farming were found to have significant influence in predicting the variation in role perception.

Table 29 (b). Regression analysis of Role perception on independent variables.

Sl. No.	Independent variables	Partial 'b'	S.E of 'b'	t value
1.	Age	-0.07094	0.04062	1.7464
2.	Education status	0.33596	0.28797	1.1666
3.	Family education status	-0.00001	0.50413	0.00002
4.	Size of holding			
	a) Wet land	-0.00604	0.01686	0.3582
	b) Total land	-0.00256	0.00112	2.2857*
5.	Farming experience	0.00133	0.03696	0.0359
6.	Contact with extension agency	0.72712	0.32243	2.2551*
7.	Attitude towards farming	-0.02451	0.10211	0.2400
8.	Achievement motivation	-0.18100	0.10806	1.6749
9.	Income			
	a) Income from agriculture	0.00017	0.00370	0.0459
	b) Income from other sources	0.00019	0.06609	0.0029
10.	Knowledge in farming	2.04250	1.01666	2.0090*
11.	Occupational status	-0.71000	0.66195	1.0726
12.	Level of aspiration	-0.05003	0.37296	0.1341
13.	Attitude of women towards their status (intervening variable)	-0.10437	0.20931	0.4986

* Significant at 5% level of probability

2. (a) Role Performance (joint)

The F value (1.60) of ANOVA of multiple regression of role performance (joint) with independent variables presented in Table 30 was not significant, which revealed that all the variables taken together do not explain a significant amount of variation in Y_2 - (role performance (joint). R^2 value of 0.18 indicated that only 18 percentage of the variation in Y_2 could be explained by the 13 variables taken together. Since the R^2 value was not significant, partial regression analysis was not attempted.

Table 30 - Regression analysis of role performance (joint) on independent variables.

Source	d.F	S.S	M.S	F	
Total	119	2817.48	23.68		
Regression	15	516.30	34.42	1.60	N.S
Error	104	2301.18	21.51		

R^2 = 0.18
N.S. = Not significant.

(b) Role Performance (single)

The F value of the ANOVA of the multiple regression equation presented in Table 31 (a) was significant, which revealed that all the variable taken together could explain a significant amount of variation in Y_1 (role

performance (single). R^2 value of 0.44 indicated that 44 per cent of the variation in Y_3 could be explained by the 13 variables taken together.

Table 31 (a). Regression analysis of role performance (single) on independent variables.

Source	d.F	S.S.	M.S.	F
Total	119	1621.56	13.62	
Regression	15	709.14	47.28	
Error	104	912.42	8.77	5.39*

$R^2 = 0.44$

* Significant at 5% level of probability

When the multiple correlation was statisticaly significant, it was thought desirable to analyse the relative importance of each independent variable in-order to determine which independent variable is most important.

The partial regression coefficients were derived for the variables included in the regression equation. The partial 'b' values obtained were tested for significance with the help of 't' test. The partial 'b' s and corresponding t values are presented in Table 31 (b).

Table 31 (b) - Regression analysis of role performance (single) on independent variables

Sl. No.	Independent variables	Partial 'b'	S.E. of 'b'	't' value
1.	Age	0.09231	0.02933	3.1473*
2.	Education status	0.76638	0.20791	3.6861*
3.	Family Education status	-1.11336	0.36398	3.0588*
4.	Size of holding			
	a) Wet land	-0.01911	0.01217	1.5703
	b) Total land	-0.00081	0.00255	0.3176
5.	Farming experience	-0.00075	0.02655	0.0282
6.	Contact with extension agency	0.70781	0.23279	3.0406*
7.	Attitude towards farming	0.01757	0.07373	0.2383
8.	Achievement motivation	0.00569	0.07802	0.0729
9.	Income			
	a) Income from agriculture	0.00008	0.08457	0.00092
	b) Income from other source	-0.00002	0.04772	0.00042
10.	Knowledge in farming	-0.91395	0.73403	1.24511
11.	Occupational status	0.04998	0.47793	0.1046
12.	Level of aspiration	-0.10375	0.26928	0.3853
13.	Attitude of women towards their status (intervening variable)	-0.11381	0.15112	0.7531

* Significant at 5% level of probability

3. Extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

The F value of the ANOVA of the multiple regression equation presented in Table 32 (a), was significant, which revealed that all the variables taken together could explain a significant amount of variation in Y_4 (extent of participation in implementing the decisions)

Table 32 (a) - Regression analysis of extent of participation in implementing the decisions.on independent variables

Source	d.f	S.S.	M.S.	F
Total	119	405.36	3.41	
Regression	15	135.48	9.03	3.47*
Error	104	269.88	2.60	

$R^2 = 0.33$

* Significant at 5% level of probability

R^2 value of 0.33 indicated that 33 percent of the variation in Y_4 could be explained by 13 variables taken together.

When the multiplecorrelation was statistically significant, it was thought desirable to analyse the

Table 32 (b) - Regression analysis of extent of participation in implementing the decisions on independent variables.

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Partial 'b'	S.E. of 'b'	't' value
1.	Age	0.00623	0.01466	0.4249
2.	Education status	-0.04895	0.10395	0.4708
3.	Family education status	0.06616	0.18198	0.3636
4.	Size of holding			
	a) Wet land	0.00785	0.00608	1.2911
	b) Total land	-0.00084	0.00126	0.6667
5.	Farming experience	-0.00057	0.01332	0.0428
6.	Contact with extension agency	-0.10884	0.11639	0.9351
7.	Attitude towards farming	-0.06434	0.03686	1.7455
8.	Achievement motivation	-0.01011	0.03901	0.2592
9.	Income			
	a) Income from agriculture	-0.00002	0.04228	0.0005
	b) Income from other source	-0.00008	0.02386	0.0034
10.	Knowledge in farming	0.13245	0.36700	0.3609
11.	Occupational status	0.07268	0.23896	0.3042
12.	Level of aspiration	0.11735	0.13463	0.8716
13.	Attitude of women towards their status (intervening variable)	0.3819	0.07556	5.0543**

** Significant at 1% level of probability

relative importance of each independent variable inorder to determine which independent variable is most important.

The partial regression co-efficients were obtained for the variables included in the regression equation. The partial 'b's thus obtained were tested for significance by using 't' test. The partial 'b's and corresponding 't' values are presented in table 32 (b).

Of the 13 variables, only one variable viz. attitude of women towards their status was found to be significant in explaining the variation in extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

DISCUSSION

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

In this chapter a detailed discussion of the results obtained are presented under the following sections.

A. Role perception of the farm women about decisions making.

B. Role performance of the farm women in decision making.

C. Extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions.

D. Correlation of selected characteristics of farm women with role perception, role performance and participation in implementing the decisions.

E. Inter correlation among the dependent and independent variables.

F. Predictive power of selected variables in explaining the variation in dependent variables - Results of multiple regression analysis.

A. Role perception of farm women about decision making

The distribution of respondents based on their role perception has been presented in Table 2. A perusal of the table revealed that more than 50 per cent of the respondents perceived six areas as 'very important'. They were decisions with respect to

purchase and sale of land, decisions regarding the storage of produce, decisions with respect to marketing of produce, decisions regarding care and management of animals, deciding family budget and decisions regarding children's education.

Two decision making areas perceived as 'not important' were deciding the plant protection measures and decisions regarding the type of implements to be used.

One could very clearly infer from the results that the farm women perceive those areas linked with management of household and family as important and those linked with farming and farm management as less important. So also, the technicality involved in decision making is another factor which the farm women might have taken into consideration while perceiving an area of decision making as important or less important for them. Those areas which have long term influence on the farm and home and those related with home economy were also likely to be perceived as important.

It has been rightly brought out that farm women had perceived two areas of decision making viz. family budget and children's education as very important. This could be explained using Coughnour's (1976) theory of instrumental activity,

which narrates that the most important decisions which an individual makes relate to future commitments, and that planned commitments are crucial to future profits.

It was revealed from Table 3 that a sizeable number of respondents had low perception. Perception is how one feels about an object and interprets in one's neural mechanism. It depends upon an individual's past experience in each area in which the stimulated neural activity functions. It could be argued that the farm women might have perceived only those roles in which their mothers and grand mothers were involved as important and in this process, it is likely that their perception was low.

B. Role performance of farm women in decision making

The distribution of respondents based on their role performance presented in Table 4 indicated that more than 50 per cent of the respondents 'always' made joint decisions in the following areas, viz. decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land, decisions regarding care and management of animals and decisions regarding children's education. At the same time, it could be observed that the number of respondents

making independent decisions in the different areas were negligible.

However, considerable number of respondents made independent decisions regarding storage of produce and also marketing of produce.

An important aspect of decision making is the allocation of means to ends. The ends are multiple and means for achieving them differ from individual to individual. An adjustment has to be struck between the choices of individuals and joint decision making helps to arrive at such adjustment. Based on this argument, the present finding can be substantiated. Hiranad and Kumar (1980) had indicated that the most important area in which the farm women were found to influence the decision was purchase and sale of land.

Deacon et al. (1981) had indicated that patterns of decision making in husband-wife families have traditionally been along role lines with major financial decisions made by the husband or jointly, and more household operation decisions made by the wife.

Sawer (1973) revealed that decisions pertaining directly to the farm are perhaps of less concern to the wife when the allocation of resource between farm and home unit is not particularly critical.

Decisions regarding storage and marketing of produce were independent. The fact that these areas of decision making are not rigid could be one of the reasons for the observed results. Rigidity is, ofcourse, meant in the molar and not in the molecular sense, and is to be differentiated from compulsiveness.

It was seen from Table 5 that the farm women were equally distributed between high and low groups with respect to joint role performance, which is an indication that the traditional pattern in which it is the husband who decides everything making the wife responsible for implementation is gradually undergoing change.

C. Extent of participation of farm wmmen in implementing the decisions.

It is seen from Table 6 that more than 90 per cent of the respondents participated in implementing the decisions in three areas viz. storage of produce, marketing of produce and care and management of animals.

This finding is in concurrence with research findings of Devadas et al (1972). Sithalakshmi (1975), Badiger (1979), Hiranad and Kumar (1980), Puri (1981), Singh and Chander (1982) and Venkatachalam (1983).

Sithalakshmi (1975) had indicated that women participated mainly in activities like storage of produce and supervised all activities on the farm and also the arrangement of sale of produce.

Puri (1981) had shown that all the tasks related with farm animals were predominantly carried out by wives.

Venkatachalam (1983) also observed that all over the country cattle were being looked after by women in rural areas.

Farming is an activity carried out by households on holding that represent managerial unit organised for the economic production of crop and livestock (Ruthenberg 1971). Usually men occupy position as heads of households. Women can be informal heads such as when they have command over resources and make decisions on their intiative. As opined by Shaner et al. (1982), even when they are not heads of households, women usually have a recognised and important role through their contribution of labour, management,

marketing and ownership of resources. So also, as the housewife and mother, the lady of the house is concerned with effective utilization of farm produce, including milk and milk products. These might be the reasons for their participation in storage of produce and care and management of animals.

More than 80 per cent of the respondents were found not participating in implementing the decisions in the following areas - selecting the crop and variety to be grown in the field, deciding the type of weeding to be adopted deciding the type of manures, deciding the plant protection measures, deciding the time of harvest and decisions regarding type of implements to be used.

One cannot afford to over look the expressive element in any culture in a truly scientific behavioural analysis. As it is known, it is our tradition that the men folk engage themselves in the cultivation of crops in the field, while the women manage the home. In this process it is only the male members who actually participate in various operations attached to the crop enterprise, though changes in this general trend can take place as a result of the function of integration, which occurs when the women doing what has traditionally been regarded as women's work nevertheless exerts a unifying or integrating

force on the farming enterprise. But this has not completely occurred in the case of Nadars and hence the observed results.

Badiger (1979) had obtained similar results. She had indicated that farm women participated independently more in home aspects and joint decisions were more common in farm aspects.

Table 7 indicated that quite a large number of respondents had either low or medium participation in agricultural operations. This could probably be due to the fact that the social values do not encourage participation of women in field operations.

D. Correlation of selected characteristics of farm women with role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

Age:

It was observed from Table 8 that majority of the respondents were below 50 years of age. There was more or less equal distribution of women between 30-39 and 40-49 age group.

From Tables 9, 10 and 11 it could be seen that age had no significant relationship with any of the dependent variables. Deb et al (1968) and Singh and Chander (1983) had also reported non-significant relationship of age with decision making.

As we know, past experiences affect and often determine the expectations of the individual, which always have a time perspective. The expectations are not innate nor instinctive forms of behaviour, but rather the results of experience. In this respect, it could be argued that as age advances, the experience of women in farming also increases, and they become wiser and get refined with the result that their performance gets streamlined and the participation in implementing the decisions increases.

With the rapid changes in the society it is quite possible that the young women also change their out look wherein they perceive their roles outside the home also as important and participate in various farm operations. This could be the probable reason for getting nonsignificant relation of age, with role perception performance and participation.

Educationstatus

It was revealed that majority of the respondents were having either high school education, or above (Table 12). Illiterates formed only a very small percentage. This very clearly shows the changing pattern among the Nadars who now consider education

as 'vehicle of modernization' and relate it to over all development goals and to the specific integration of women into the development process.

There was no significant relationship established between education and role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions (Tables 9,10 and 11).

Similar results were obtained by Sharma and Singh (1970) and Singh and Sinha (1970) who reported a nonsignificant relation of education with decision making.

Dubey et al (1982) had also concluded that participation of rural women in decision making regarding animal husbandry remained mostly the same, irrespective of their educational level.

A study conducted by Singh and Chander (1983) also supported the present finding who reported that education had nonsignificant effect on women's participation in decision making.

It is not the formal education that one attains, from schools and colleges that orients an individual to perceive and perform their roles in decision making with regarding farm and home management. It is the actual involvement in

different aspects of farm and home management coupled with the experience obtained by the members that enables women to perceive and perform her role properly. The theory of instinct of imitation may operate, wherein farm women who had not undergone any formal education, during their stay in the home, might have got opportunity to observe the behavioural patterns of their mothers and grand mothers resulting in proper perception of the different roles a woman has to play in farm and home management.

Family education status:

It could be seen from Table 13 that the respondents were more or less equally distributed in three categories, viz. high, medium and low with respect to family education status. This indicated that there was good variation in the educational status of the family members of the respondents.

From the results presented in Tables 9, 10 and 11, it could be seen that family education status had no significant relation with any of the dependent variables.

The conditions of decision formation encompass both psychological field of the person making the

decision and the external field (Katona, 1963). In those families with educated members, opportunities do exist for the head of the family to set realistic goals based on discussion with other members, wherein the house wives may not come into picture. In this way, it is probable that family education status could not establish significant relationship with any of the dependent variables.

Size of holding:

More than 50 per cent of the respondents belonged to the low group with respect to possession of wet land and total land. (Tables 14 and 15). This is an indication that majority of the Nadars are either small or marginal farmers.

Tables 9,10 and 11 evidenced that size of holding had no significant relation with any of the dependent variables.

Dubey et al (1982) had also concluded that participation of rural women in decision making regarding animal husbandry practices remained almost the same irrespective of land holding and herd size.

Women cannot be viewed as a homogeneous group in village society, nor can it be assumed that exploitation will occur primarily along economic lines (Castillo, 1977). Women at all socio-economic levels participate in productive labour which enables them to afford some degree of economic independence. Based on this argument, the nonsignificant relation of size of holding with perception, performance and participation can be justified.

Farming experience:

There was almost equal number of respondents distributed between high and low groups with respect to farming experience (Table 16). This is quite natural in relation to the distribution of respondents based on age.

Tables 9,10 and 11 indicated that farming experience had no significant relation with role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

It is quite possible that farm women who have some experience in farming are in an advantageous position to make habitual decisions, which are mostly of routine behaviour. They do what they did

before in similar situations. Thus here, a type of decision different from the genuine decision making takes place in which the psychological process involved also differs from that in a genuine decision making process.

Genuine decision making requires the perception of the situation and the solution of the problem raised by it, which is altogether different from the habitual decision making. It is not even proper to use the word 'decision' in such circumstances which involve only routine behaviour. Based on this argument, the observed results can be justified.

Contact with extension agency:

The extent of contact with extension agency in the case of majority of the respondents was found to be low (Table 17).

Table 10 revealed that contact with extension agency had positive significant relation with role performance (single) in decision making. But there was no significant relationship of role perception, role performance (joint) and extent of participation in implementing the decisions with extension agency contact.

Those farm women who had opportunities to come in contact with extension agencies might have developed a sense of confidence in their ability to take rational decisions and hence the present finding. Deb et al (1968) and Grunig (1970), had reported that rationality of farmers was related to their extension contact.

Another reason could be that the farm women after getting in contact with different extension agencies might act as an 'information broker', mediating social relations within the family and outside. In this process it is likely that information is chanelled so as to make her perform her role properly.

The present findings are in complete agreement with Sawer (1973) who reported that the wife's extension contact was not significantly related to her involvement in general decisions or decisions leading to adoption.

Attitude towards farming:

Majority of the respondents were found to possess either high or medium level of attitude towards farming (Table 18). Nadars belong to one of the important caste groups engaged in agriculture (Gladstone (1984). It is, therefore, quite probable that the farm women of this community had developed a favourable attitude towards farming.

Tables 10 and 11 evidenced that attitude towards farming had negative significant relation with joint role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions. Role perception and role performance (single) were not significantly related with attitude towards farming.

Attitude is individual - oriented while values are society-oriented. Though the individual develops a favourable attitude towards farming, the values of the society which decides the actions of individuals may come in the way of rational behaviour. In the case of Nadars, the society does not attach a high value in the physical involvement of farm women in the various farm operations and this might be the probable reason for their low participation.

An individual with favourable attitude towards farming is likely to make decisions independently rather than consulting others. All decision making involves a subjective aspect and an objective aspect (Deacon and Firebough (1981). Attitude is subjective while resources can be considered as objective. Decision making is a process through which the subjective and objective evaluation takes place and the decision is a form of value.

Achievement motivation:

It was revealed from Table 19 that majority of the respondent were having either low or medium level of achievement motivation. This could probably be due to the fact that the chances for Nadar women to come in contact with their counterparts in other communities are limited since the area is mostly inhabited by their caste group only. The lack of perception about their potential changes for development might be the main reason for their low level of achievement motivation.

In this study it was found that achievement motivation had no significant relation with role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

This finding is supported by Devi and Reddy (1984) who reported that achievement motivation had no relation with role expectation and role performance of rural women in farm activities.

Mc Clelland's basic theme of achievement motivation locates the 'need to achieve' as an individual's orientation within the value complex of a culture. Achievement motivation thus being embedded in the value system of an individual, it is quite probable that social value might have

influenced their perception and participation in implementing the decisions. Within the accepted value system, there may not be much scope for the dominance of 'needs' of an individual. Rather, the culture and values are very much involved in defining "What a woman should be"?

Annual Income:

The results presented in Table 20 brought to light that the distribution of respondents were almost equal in the high and low agricultural income group. However, majority of the respondents belonged to the low group when income from other sources is taken into consideration (Table 21).

It is seen in this study that annual income from agriculture had no significant relation with any of the dependent variables.

Income from other sources was found to have negative significant relation with extent of participation in implementing the decisions, whereas in the case of other dependent variables, there was no significant relationship. This is quite understandable since farmers with higher income are likely to have higher farm size. As such the opportunities for farm women to participate in management of large farms may be restricted, as hired labourers need be

employed for the farm operations. On the contrary, in the case of farmers with low income, menfolk may be forced to seek wage income to complement the family subsistance, during which the women's role on the management of farm increases both relatively and absolutely. Devi and Reddy (1984) had indicated that the participation in all the agricultural activities was higher in the case of low economic category women.

Knowledge in farming:

Majority of the respondents were found to have very low level of knowledge in agriculture (Table 22). The probable reason for this might be due to the limited participation of farm women in field operations as evident in Table 7.

Table 10 indicated that knowledge in farming was having negative significant relation with role performance (joint). There was no significant relation of role perception, role performance (single) and extent of participation in implementing the decisions with knowledge in farming.

The probable reason for the negative significant relationship of knowledge and joint role performance could be that the farm women who become more knowledgable aboutfarming are likely to develop more confidence in independent decision making. The factual

information possessed by a farm woman regarding farming enterprise equips her to take timely decisions without depending on others.

The farm women might have acquired knowledge in farming as a result of their formal education which virtually orients them to perceive their role in a different way than a non-educated woman with low knowledge in farming. A rural woman with formal education might feel that she has no realistic goals or opportunities in the farm and hence it is not surprising that no significant relation could be established between knowledge and role perception and extent of participation in farm operations.

Occupational status:

Table 23 evidenced that farming was the occupation for a sizeable majority of the respondents. This is quite natural since these women belong to a predominantly agricultural caste, and, therefore, associate themselves with one or other aspect of farming.

It was revealed that role perception and occupational status were having negative significant relationship (Table 9). No significant relation was established between role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions with occupational status.

The result obtained is quite logical since it could be said that those who are involved in occupations other than farming need not perceive their role in decision making related to farming in a realistic way as those involved in farming. So also, those farm women engaged in other occupations always have a tendency to compete with men for equal conditions in work and equal opportunities in social and political life, and in this process, it is likely that their role perception in farm and home management gets completely disfigured.

Level of aspiration

More than 50 percent of the respondents were found to have high level of aspiration (Table 24). Tables 9,10 and 11 indicated that there was no significant relation between level of aspiration and any of the dependent variables.

The probable reason for the above results might be that higher the level of wishes and hopes of an individual to attain a high standard of life, more will be her chances of making efforts for attaining the desired goal. Here it could be argued that it is important how the farm women judge their situation and what outlook they have of the future. The Nadar women might have observed the rapid speed of development of women in other communities in their surroundings

wherein more number of women enter into different vocations and might have realised that they will be in a relatively backward position if they also do not strive hard for a job.

Based on the above argument, the results can be substantiated. The findings could also be explained using Dutta's (1971) argument which states that values which motivate actions are not merely 'given' but 'change' as environment changes. It is possible that the women might have developed their own orientations with regard to past, present and future and perceived their roles based on these orientations.

Attitude of women towards their status:

Psychological analysis makes use of intervening variables. The term intervening variable is used to denote those factors or constructs that are not directly observable by recording situations and responses, but are postulated to explain behaviour. The basic scheme of psychological analysis is: situation-intervening variable-overt behaviour. When the study is focussed on a society, social setting need also be taken as an intervening factor in the explanation of a phenomenon. Keeping this in mind, attitude of women towards their status was

taken as an intervening variable, which it was assumed will have a bearing on the decision making process.

As could be seen from Table 25, the respondents were more or less equally distributed in the high, medium and low groups with respect to attitude towards their status in society. The results presented in Table 11 revealed that there was positive significant relation between attitude of women towards their status and extent of participation in implementing the decisions. As indicated by de Charms (1968), it is likely that an individual may desire extrinsic concomitants not so much for their material value, but for their symbolic value in demonstrating success. Here it could be argued that attitude of women towards their status acts as a mechanism for exhibiting this value and hence the result.

There was no significant relationship of role perception and role performance with attitude of women towards their status. Women with favourable attitude towards their status in society may be aware of the burden of their work and the constraints that custom and tradition place on them. It is also likely that such women look for employment outside agriculture, in local small scale industry or in trade or services. Hence the observed result.

E. Intercorrelation among dependent and independent variables.

It is evident from Table 26 that role perception and role performance (joint) were positively and significantly realted. This finding is in conformity with the findings of Kherde and Sahay (1970) who indicated that the perception of job was positively related with performance of the job of Gramasevakas. Mitchell (1973) also reported that behaviour was a function of one's perception and that changing perception would result in changing behaviour. Guttman (1977) while emphasizing the significance of role perception, stated that perceiving is behaving. The author indicated that the concept of perceiving and behaving are systematically interchangeable.

The conceptualisation put forth by Pfiffner and Sherwood (1968) could be referred here in this context. According to them, accuracy in role perception has a definite impact on effectiveness and efficiency in organizations. Individuals have certain abilities and are motivated in varying degree to perform designated tasks. However, if a task is incorrectly perceived, the results may be quite ineffective. Generally, it is expected that perception of an individual will influence his performance of an assigned job or task. The results

obtained is quite clear wherein the relationship could be natural, in the sense that one could be the cause and the other effect and vice versa.

Role performance (joint) and role performance (single) were found to have negative significant relation. This is quite normal in the sense as the joint role performance increases, the independent role performance decreases and vice versa.

Of the 13 selected variables in the study including the intervening variable, education, size of holding (total land), annual income (from other sources), level of aspiration and occupational status were found significantly related with maximum number of other variables (Table 28). All the variables had relation with atleast one of the variables. This could be considered as a test for selection and inclusion of the right type of variables in the present study.

F. Predictive power of selected variables in explaining the variation in dependent variables - Results of multiple regression analysis.

In the previous section, each oneof the independent variables was hypothesised to have an amount of independent effect on the dependent variables. The relationship was expressed in terms of simple

correlation co-efficients derived. But the dependent variable need not solely be influenced by any one of the independent variables taken separately, but by all of them through their reciprocal and interactive relations. Thus the need for multiple regression analysis arises.

The technique of multiple regression analysis was employed to get estimates of the predictive abilities of 13 selected variables on the dependent variables. Accordingly, four regression models were obtained and the results of ANOVA of the four regression equations are presented in Tables 29 (a), 30, 31 (a) and 32 (a). The predictive power of each multiple regression model was estimated with the help of coefficient of determination (R^2).

The results of multiple regression analysis of each dependent variable on the selected variables is discussed.

1. Multiple regression analysis of role perception on independent variables.

The data in Table 29 (b) brought to focus that 'size of holding' (total land) contributed negatively but significantly to the prediction of role perception. But 'knowledge in farming' and 'contact with extension agency' contributed positively and significantly to the

prediction of role perception of farm women in decision making.

As the size of holding increases, it is likely that more number of hired labourers are to be employed in the farm and less will be the chance for utilizing family labour. In this context it is natural that the farm women do not perceive their roles properly. On the other hand, small size of land holding compells the utilization of family labour and farm women actively engage in various farm operations. Being engaged in agriculture is, therefore not necessarily a chance on the part of the farm women, but is often, a consequence of lack of alternatives.

Scientific agriculture demands a thorough knowledge of the package of practices to be followed in the cultivation of crops for obtaining higher returns. It also calls for a proper management of the various dimensions of technology. It is, therefore, quite evident that those farm women who had knowledge in farming only could perceive their roles properly. This finding is in conformity with the findings of Deepali (1979).

It is said that individuals coming in contact with extension agencies feel more personal causation than those who do not interact with any of these agencies.

2. Multiple regression analysis of role performance on independent variables.

It is evident from Table 31 that multiple regression equation with 13 variables explain 44 per cent of variation in role performance (single). Of these variables, only four variables were found to have significant predictive function to explain the variation in role performance (single) of farm women (Table 31 (b)). These variables were age, education status, and contact with extension agency which were positively significant, and family education status which was negatively significant.

As age of the farm women increases, it is quite likely that they get experience and thereby gain confidence in independent decision making. This finding corroborates with the findings of Singh and Sinha (1970) and Sharma and Singh (1970).

The probable reasons for the positive significant relationship of educational status and contact with extension agency with independent role performance were discussed earlier, while discussing the results of correlation analysis.

3. Multiple regression analysis of extent of participation in implementing the decisions on independent variables.

Table 32 (a) indicated that the multiple

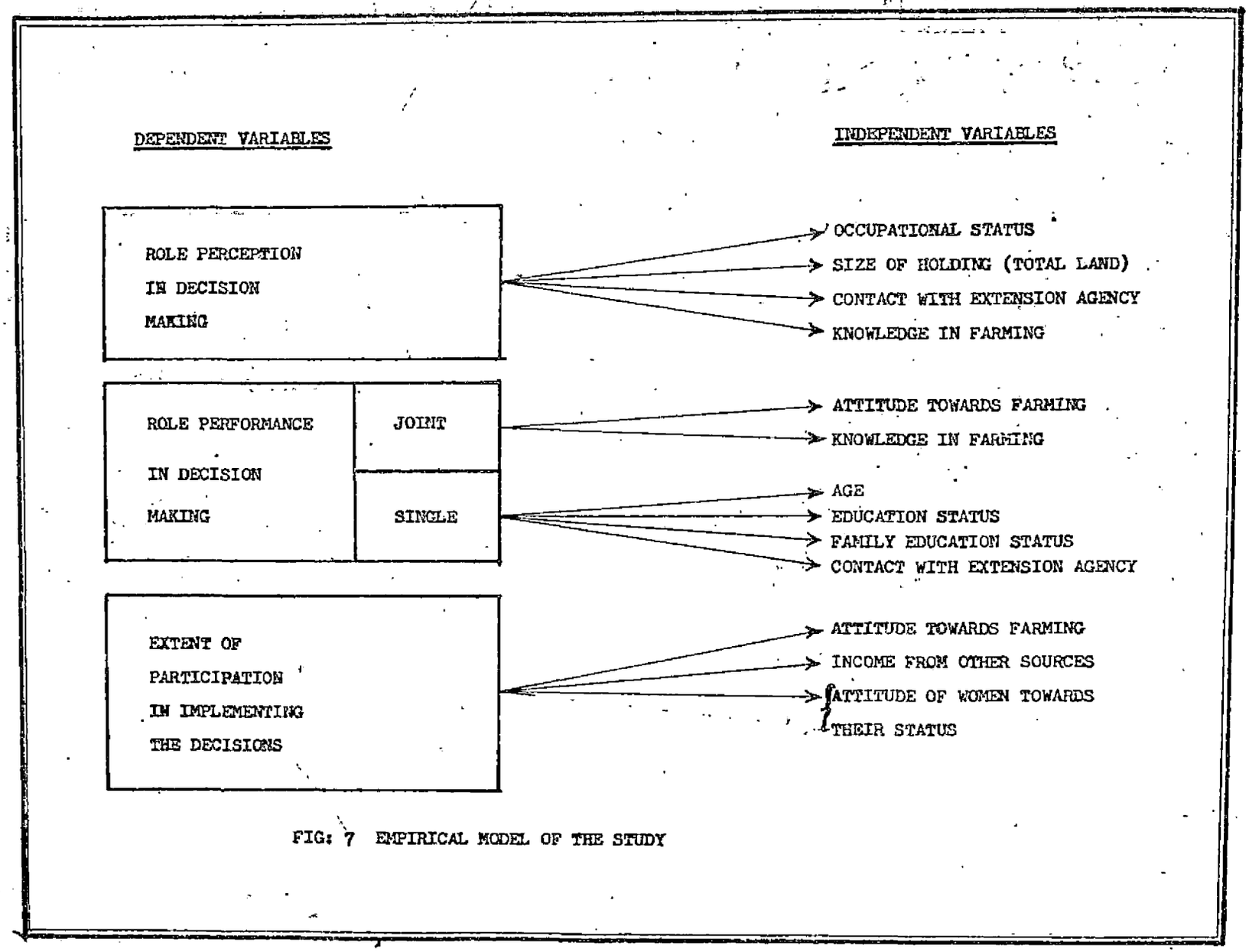


FIG: 7 EMPIRICAL MODEL OF THE STUDY

regression equation with 13 selected variables (including the intervening variables) explain 33 per cent of the variation in extent of participation in implementing the decisions. Of these 13 variables, only one variable, 'attitude of women towards their status' was found to have significant predictive function to explain the variation in extent of participation adoption of decisions. (Table 32 (b)). The possible reason for the importance of this variable has been discussed earlier (Page 120).

SUMMARY

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

The rural women play an important role in agricultural production in our country. They have a significant role in farm and home management.

Women at all socio economic levels participate in productive labour which enables them to secure their own livelihood and therefore, affords them some degree of economic independence vis-a-vis men. It is not unfair to persume that the new agricultural technology had created new and/or additional roles for women.

Only a few studies have been done in India about the involvement of rural women in decision making related to farm and home management. However, no research work had been undertaken in Kerala on this aspect and as such empirical evidences are lacking. In this context, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To identify the areas of decision making by the farm women related to their socio-economic life.
2. To study the role perception and role performance of the farm women in decision making.

3. To study the extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions related to their socio-economic life.

4. To correlate the selected characteristics of farm women and their role perception, role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

The study was confined to Neyyattinkara taluk of Trivandrum District where Nadars form a good majority. Systematic random sampling procedure was followed for selecting the respondents for the study. 120 farm women were selected for the study.

Role perception, role performance (joint and single) and extent of participation in implementing the decisions were selected as dependent variables for the study. On the basis of relevant literature and rating of judges, 12 independent variables viz. age, education status, family education status, size of holding, farming experience, level of aspiration, contact with extension agency, attitude towards farming, achievement motivation, technical knowledge in farming, income and occupational status were selected to establish their relationship with the dependent variables. Twelve areas related to agriculture and two areas of nonagricultural nature were identified as to areas of decision making for the study.

Role perception was measured by administering the 14 decision making areas to the respondents and obtaining their responses regarding the same on a three point continuum, viz, very important, important and not important. Role performance was measured as either joint performance by husband and wife or as independent performance with no consultation with the husband. In each case, responses to the 14 areas were obtained on a three point continuum as always, sometimes and never. Extent of participation in implementing the decisions was also measured on a three point continuum as always, sometimes, and never.

The data collection was done through personal interview using a structured schedule developed for the purpose. Data were analysed using correlation and multiple regression. The salient findings of the study are summarised and presented below:

1. 50 per cent of the respondents perceived six areas of decision making as very important. They were decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land, decisions regarding storage of produce, decisions with respect to marketing of produce, decisions regarding care and management of animals, decisions related to family budget and decisions regarding children's education.

2. Two areas, viz, deciding the plant protection measures and decisions regarding the type of implements to be used were perceived as not important by more than 50 per cent of the respondents.

3. More than 50 per cent of the respondents 'always' made joint decisions in three areas viz. decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land, decisions regarding care and management of animals, and decisions regarding children's education.

4. A considerable number of respondents were found to make independent decisions regarding storage of produce and also marketing of produce.

5. More than 90 per cent of the respondents participated in implementing the decisions with respect to storage of produce, marketing of produce and care and management of animals.

6. More than 80 per cent of the respondents were found not participating in adoption of decisions with respect to selection of crop and variety to be grown in the field, type of weeding to be adopted, type of manuring/fertilizer to be applied, plant protection measures, time of harvest and type of implements to be used.

7. Occupation was negatively and significantly related to role perception.

8. Attitude towards farming and knowledge in farming were found to be negatively and significantly related with joint role performance.

9. Contact with extension agency was found to have positive significant relation with independent role performance.

10. Attitude towards farming and income (from other sources) were negatively related to extent of participation in implementing the decisions, while attitude of women towards their status and extent of participation were found to be positively related.

11. There was positive relation between role perception and joint role performance.

12. The relation between role performance (joint) and role performance (single) were negatively significant.

13. The results of the multiple regression analysis revealed that among the 13 variables, knowledge in farming, contact with extension agency and size of holding (wet land) contributed significantly to variation in role perception.

14. Age, education status, family education status and contact with extension agency, contributed significantly to variation in role performance (single).

15. Attitude of women towards their status was found to be most important variable in contributing to variation in extent of participation in adoption of decision.

Suggestions for future research:-

A comprehensive study by taking samples from other taluks in the District also can be undertaken.

Many of the variables selected for the study were found to be not related with the dependent variables and therefore, a study with a wider diversity of types of independent variables but with the same dependent variables can be undertaken. It is suggested that more independent variables may be included that come under 'system level' variable. The system level variables are likely to influence the individual behaviour in a different way.

It is also suggested that other methods of prediction to supplement the technique of multiple correlation like the configurational method of prediction may be considered.

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* Originals not seen.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Dr.R.N. Prasad,
Assistant Professor.

Department of Agricultural Extension,
College of Agriculture,
Vellayani, dt. 6-7-1985.

Sir/Madam,

This is in connection with a research study undertaken by Smt. Seema,B. who is doing her M.Sc.(Ag.) degree programme in Agricultural Extension. The title of the research problem is "ROLE OF FARM WOMEN IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF A FARMING COMMUNITY IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT".

Attached herewith is a list of variables which are found to be related with the research problem. These variables have been identified based on the review of literature and discussion with the experts. You are requested to kindly furnish your opinion about the relevancy of each variable listed below for its inclusion in the study of relationship with role perception and role performance of woman in decision making by marking a '✓' against each variable in the appropriate column. The operational definition of the variables are also furnished which will enable you to visualise the variables correctly.

Operational Definitions of the variables.

A. Dependent variable.

Role perception in decision making:-

Thinking and feeling function of farm women towards decision making regarding socio-economic life.

Role performance in decision making:-

Operationalised as action function performed by farm women in relation to decision making in the family regarding socio economic life.

B. Independent variables.

1. Age:-

Operationally defined as number of years the farm woman has completed since birth.

2. Educational status:-

Operationally defined as extent of formal education acquired by a farm woman.

3. Family educational status:-

This is operationalised as the average educational status of the family members of the farm woman.

4. Size of holding:-

This is operationally defined as the area in cents possessed by the family of the farm woman.

5. Farming experience:-

Operationalised as the number of years since the farm woman is actively involved in farming.

6. Social participation:-

Operationally defined as the degree of involvement of farm woman in formal organisations in terms of membership, office holding and frequency of participation in meeting.

7. Level of aspiration:-

Operationally defined as the possible goal a farm woman sets hereself in her performance.

8. Contact with extension agency:-

This is operationally defined as the frequency with which a farm woman comes in contact with the extension agency within a fixed period.

9. Attitude towards farming:-

Operationally defined as the positive or negative feeling of farm women associated with farming.

10. Achievement motivation:-

Opertaionally defined as spontaneously expressed desire of a farm woman to do something well for its own sake rather than to gain power, recognition or profit.

11. Income:-

Operationally defined as total income of the family for one year as reported by the farm woman.

12. Knowledge in farming:-

This is operationally defined as cognitive domain of farm woman regarding scientific crop production and animal management.

13. Occupational status:-

This is operationally defined as the position of farm woman which acts as a source of income in which she spends major part of her time and attention.

14. Religion:-

Defined as the system of belief or worship with the emotion and morality connected therewith.

Sl. No.	Variable	Relevancy judgement		
		Most Relevant	Relevant	Not Relevant
1	Age			
2	Educational status			
3	Family educational status			
4	Size of holding			
5	Farming experience			
6	Social participation			
7	Level of aspiration			
8	Contact with extension agency			
9	Attitude towards farming			
10	Achievement motivation			
11	Income			
12	Knowledge in farming			
13	Occupational status			
14	Religion			
15	Other (Specify)			
	1.			
	2.			
	3.			
	4.			

APPENDIX II

Relevancy coefficients of variables

Sl. No.	Name of variable	Relevancy coefficient
1	Age	0.87
2	Educational status	0.94
3	Family educational status	0.77
4	Size of holding	0.77
5	Farming experience	0.83
6	Social participation	0.82
7	Level of aspiration	0.81
8	Contact with extension agency	0.85
9	Attitude towards farming	0.82
10	Achievement motivation	0.74
11	Income	0.78
12	Knowledge in farming	0.88
13	Occupational status	0.75
14	Religion	0.51

APPENDIX III

DEPARTMENT OF AG. EXTENSION

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

VELLAYANI, TRIVANDRUM

Role of Women In the Decision Making Process of a Farming Community In Trivandrum District

Interview Schedule

PART - A

Respondent No:

Date:

1. Name & Address of the Respondent :
2. Religion :
3. Age : Years
4. What is your education status?

Illiterate	(0)
Read only	(1)
Can read & Write	(2)
Primary	(3)
Middle School	(4)
High School	(5)
College	(6)

5. What is the education status of your family

Name	Age	Education Status					
	I (0)	R (1)	R & W (2)	P (3)	M (4)	H (5)	C (6)

6. What is the total area of land possessed by your family?

Wet land	:	Cents
Dry land	:	Cents
Total	:	Cents

7. For how many years you have been engaged in farming?

. . . . . Years . . . . . .months

8. Contact with extension agency

How often do you came in contact with the following personnal

Personnel	Frequence				
	More than once a week	Once in a week	Once in a fort night	Once in a month	Never
	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	(0)
1. B.D.O					
2. G.D.O					
3. V.E.O					
4. J.A.O					
5. Ag. demonstrator					
6. Banking agents					
7. Co-operative officials					
8. Others (Specify)					

9. Attitude towards farming.

The following are some statements which reflect the attitude towards farming. What is your opinion in each case?

Sl. No.	Statement	Agree (3)	Undecided (2)	Disagree (1)
1.	I feel farming is not a promising occupation			
2.	Farming leads to overall development of one's family			
3.	Absolute gain in terms of economic return from farming is very low.			
4.	Farming is a challenge to farmers and they should accept it.			
5.	Farming is an occupation of rich.			
6.	Farming is not the solution to remove poverty of farmers			
7.	Farming is a non profit enterprise and I feel it is useless to stick to it			
8.	Food problem of farmers can be solved by undertaking farming on a wide scale.			
9.	Farming is a profitable occupation.			
10.	Farming provides a settled living for farmers.			

10. Achievement motivation

Check one of the alternatives for each item.

Sl. No.	Item	Categories				
1.	Success brings relief or further determination and not just pleasant feelings.	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
		(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)
2.	How true it is to say that your efforts are directed towards?	Quite Natural	Not true	Not sure	Farily true	Quite true
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
3.	How often do you seek opportunity to excell?	Hardly ever	Seldom	About half the time.	Frequently	Nearly always
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
4.	Would you hesitate to undertake something that might lead to your failing?	Hardly	Seldom	About half the time	Frequently	Nearly always
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
5.	How many situations do you avoid in which you may be exposed to evaluation.	Most	Many	Some	Few	Very few
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
6.	In how many spheres do you think you will succeed in doing as well as you can?	Most	Many	Some	Few	Very few
		(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)

11. What is the annual income of your family?

Income from Agriculture	:	Rs.
Income from other sources	:	Rs.
Total	:	Rs.

12. Knowledge in farming?

Answer the following items:

1. Name of HYV of rice
2. What is the seed rate in case of transplanted rice?
3. What is the recommended spacing for rice?
4. Name a chemical used for seed treatment?
5. What is the recommended fertilizer dosage for rice?
6. When, N, P & K are applied? N P K
7. Name an important pest of rice and give its control?
8. Name an important rice disease and mention the control measure?

13. Occupational Status

What is your main occupation?

1. Farming (6)
2. Business (5)
3. Professional (4)
4. Clerical jobs (3)
5. Class IV employee (2)
6. Labourer (1)

14. Level of Aspiration

Choose one of the alternatives from each.

1. Suppose you have some money with you. Would you spend it on buying some more land or for buying a T.V.

   a) Land

   b) T.V.

2. You are in urgent need of some money you have two course of action which would you choose?

   1. Forego the money set apart for festival

   2. Forego the money set apart for purchasing a new plough

3. Suppose your parents are in possession of a car and a piece of land. If you are given the choice to choose one these which would you prefer?

   a) Car

   b) Land

4. Will be prepared to take loan for

   a) Purchasing a house in the city

   or

   b) Purchasing a pumpset

5. If you have a Saving of Rs. 5000/- in the bank, would you opt to continue the saving deposit or would you purchase a valuable piece of furniture.

   a) Continue the Saving deposit

   b) Purchase the furniture

6. If you have some money at your disposal would you prefer to?

   a) renovate the house

   b) use for land development

7. In the next 5 years time which do you feel is most likely to happen?

   a) Purchase more cultivable land

   b) Built a new house

   c) buy more house luxuries

8. If you get a lottery of Rs. 10,000/- what will you do from the following?

   a) Start some business and leave farming
   b) Use to purchase luxuries of life.
   c) Use it to make improvements on the farm.

P A R T - B

Attitude of Women towards their Status.
Following are some statements reflecting the attitude of Women towards their position in the society. Indicate you agreement or disagreement in each case.

Sl. No.	Statement	Response Category Agree	Disagree
1.	Women are not fit to be political leaders.		
2.	The present position of Women in India is statisfactory.		
3.	Home is the place of Women and it is not desirable to have them in offices and factories		
4.	From time immemorial women was the pillar of strength hence more opportunity should be open to her.		
5.	The present discontenment could solved only by making woman stay inside the four walls.		
6.	Women are intellectually inferior to men and could not therefore claim equality.		
7.	When women find her marriage intolerable she should be free to dissolve it.		
8.	Employing women would only lend to deterior-ation of efficiency.		

Sl. No.	Statement	Response Category	
		Agree	Disagree
9.	Women should not be allowed to complete in public events like olympics, it is repulsive		
10.	Women should be given complete freedom in deciding her future.		
11.	The timing and number with respect to children should be based on the wish of the woman.		
12.	Women should not have the right to vote as it is in some countries.		
13.	Government should encourage women's community activities		
14.	High School Education is enough for women		
15.	It is absolutely in material whether the position of women is improved or not.		

P A R T - C

Sl. No.	Decision making Area	Role Perception		
		V. I (2)	I (1)	N.I (0)
1.	Selecting the crop & Variety to be grown in the field			
2.	Deciding the type of manures fertilizers to be applied in the field			

Sl. No.	Decision making Area	Role Perception		
		V.I (2)	I (1)	N.I (0)
3.	Deciding the type of Weeding to be adopted.			
4.	Deciding the plant protection measures			
5.	Deciding the time of harvest			
6.	Deciding the wages			
7.	Deciding hired laboures to be employed			
8.	Decision regarding the type of implements to be used			
9.	Decisions with respect to purchase and sale of land			
10.	Decisions regarding storage of produce			
11.	Decisions with respect to marketing of produce			
12.	Decisions regarding care & management of animals			
13.	Deciding family budget			
14.	Decisions regarding children education.			

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Role Performance					
		Joint			Single		
		A (2)	S (1)	N (0)	A (2)	S (1)	N (0)
1.	Selecting the crop & Variety to be grown in the field						

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Role Performance					
		Joint			Single		
		A (2)	S (1)	N (0)	A (2)	S (1)	N (0)
2.	Deciding the type of wedding to be adopted						
3.	Deciding the type of manures/fertilizers to be applied in the field						
4.	Deciding the plant protection measures.						
5.	Deciding the time of harvest						
6.	Deciding the wages						
7.	Deciding hired labourers to be employed						
8.	Decision regarding the type of Implements to be used						
9.	Decision with respect to purchase & Sale of land						
10.	Decisions regarding storage of purchase						
11.	Decisions with respect to marketing of produce						
12.	Decisions regarding care and management of animals						
13.	Deciding family budget						
14.	Decision regarding Children's education						

Sl. No.	Decision making area	Extent of Participation in implementing the decision		
		A (2)	S (1)	N (0)
1.	Selecting the crop and the variety to be grown in the field			
2.	Deciding the type of weeding to be adopted			
3.	Deciding the type of manures/ fertilizers to be applied			
4.	Deciding the plant protection measures			
5.	Deciding the time of harvest			
6.	Decisions regarding type of implements to be used			
7.	Deciding the family budget			
8.	Decisions regarding storage of produce			
9.	Decisions with respect to marketing of produce			
10.	Decisions regarding care & management of animals.			

വിജ്ഞാന വ്യാപന വിഭാഗം

കാർഷിക കോളേജ്

വെള്ളായണി, തിരുവനന്തപുരം

വക്താവിന്റെ ക്രമനംപർ :

തീയതി :

ചോദ്യാവലി

1. വക്താവിന്റെ പേരും മേൽവിലാസവും :
2. ജാതി :
3. വയസ്സ് :
4. നിങ്ങളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ യോഗ്യത :

വായനയും എഴുത്തുമറിയില്ല (0)

വായന മാത്രം (1)

എഴുത്തും വായനയും (2)

പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂൾ (3)

മിഡിൽ സ്കൂൾ (4)

ഹൈസ്കൂൾ (5)

കോളേജ് (6)

5. നിങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ യോഗ്യത

വയസ്സ്	വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ യോഗ്യത					
നിരക്ഷരത (0)	വായിക്കാൻ അറിയും (1)	എഴുത്തും വായനയും (2)	പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂൾ (3)	മിഡിൽ സ്കൂൾ (4)	ഹൈ-സ്കൂൾ (5)	കോ-ളേജ് (6)

6. നിങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബനാഥന്റെ/ഭാര്യയുടെ കണക്ക്

നിലം .....സെന്റ്

കരഭൂമി .....സെന്റ്

7. നിങ്ങൾക്ക് കൃഷിയുമായി എത്ര വർഷത്തെ സമ്പർക്കമുണ്ട്?

..... വർഷം .....മാസം

8. വികസന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻമാരുമായുള്ള സമ്പർക്കം :

താഴെ പറയുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻമാരുമായി നിങ്ങൾക്ക് എത്രത്തോളം സമ്പർക്കമുണ്ട്:

ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ	ആഴ്ചയിൽ ഒന്നിൽ കൂടുതൽ തവണ (4)	ആഴ്ചയിലൊരിക്കൽ (3)	രണ്ടാഴ്ചയിലൊരിക്കൽ (2)	മാസത്തിലൊരിക്കൽ (1)	ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല (0)
1. ബ്ലോക്ക് വികസന ഓഫീസർ					
2. പൊതു വികസന ഓഫീസർ					
3. ഗ്രാമ സേവകർ					
4. ജൂനിയർ കൃഷി ഓഫീസർ					
5. അഗ്രി. ഡെമോൺസ്ട്രേറ്റർ					
6. ബാങ്ക് മാനേജർമാർ					
7. സഹകരണ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻ					
8. മറ്റെങ്കിലും					
9. കൃഷിയോടുള്ള മനോഭാവം					

ക്രമനമ്പർ	പ്രസ്താവന	യോജിക്കുന്നു	തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടില്ല	നിഷേധിക്കുന്നു
1.	എന്റെ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടിൽ കൃഷി ഭാവി എല്ലാത്ത ഒരു തൊഴിലാണ്			
2.	കൃഷി ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ മൊത്തമായുള്ള വളർച്ചയിലേയ്ക്ക് നയിക്കുന്നു.			
3.	യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ കൃഷിയിൽ നിന്നുള്ള നേട്ടം സാമ്പത്തികമായി നോക്കിയാൽ വളരെ തുച്ഛമാണ്			
4.	കൃഷി കർഷകന് ഒരു വെല്ലുവിളിയാണ്. അതിനെ സ്വീകരിക്കണം.			
5.	പണക്കാരുടെ തൊഴിലാണ് കൃഷി			

ക്രമ നംപർ	പ്രസ്താവന	യോജിക്കുന്നു	തീരുമാനിച്ചിട്ടില്ല	നിഷേധിക്കുന്നു
6.	കൃഷി പാവപ്പെട്ടവരുടെ കഷ്ടപ്പാടിനു ഒരു പരിഹാരമല്ല.			
7.	കൃഷി ആദായമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു തൊഴിലാണ്.			
8.	വർത്തമാനത്തിലുള്ള കൃഷിയിലൂടെ കൃഷിക്കാരുടെ ഭക്ഷ്യപ്രശ്നം പരിഹരിക്കുന്നതാണ്.			
9.	കൃഷി ഒരു ആദായകരമായ തൊഴിലാണ്.			
10.	കൃഷി കർഷകന് ഒരു സ്ഥായിയായ ജീവിതരീതി പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യുന്നു.			

10. നേടേണ്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രേരണ

ക്രമ നംപർ	പ്രസ്താവന					
1.	വിജയം കൈവരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആശ്വാസം തോന്നുകയും വീണ്ടും ഉറച്ച തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ എടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. വെറുമൊരു സുഖകരമായ അനുഭൂതി മാത്രമല്ല ഉളവാകുന്നത്.	യോജിക്കുന്നു	വളരെ യോജിക്കുന്നു	തീരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു	വിയോജിക്കുന്നു	വളരെ വിയോജിക്കുന്നു
2.	നിങ്ങളുടെ ഓരോ പ്രവർത്തിയും ലക്ഷ്യബോധത്തോടുകൂടിയാണെന്നുള്ളതിനോട് എത്രത്തോളം യോജിക്കുന്നു.	സ്വാഭാവികം	ശരിയല്ല	തീർച്ചയില്ല	ഏതാണ്ട് ശരി	വളരെ ശരി
3.	മികച്ച പ്രവർത്തി ചെയ്യാനുള്ള അവസരങ്ങൾ എത്രത്തോളം തിരയാറുണ്ട്.	ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല	ചിലപ്പോഴൊഴികെ	പലപ്പോഴും	കൂടെകൂടെ	മിക്കപ്പോഴും

ക്രമ നമ്പർ	പ്രസ്താവന					
4.	തോൽവി സംഭവിക്കാവുന്ന ഒരു പ്രവർത്തി ചെയ്യാൻ നിങ്ങൾ മടിച്ചു നിൽക്കാറുണ്ടോ?	ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല	ചിലപ്പോഴും ഒഴികെ	പലപ്പോഴും	കൂടെകൂടെ	മിക്കപ്പോഴും
5.	നിങ്ങൾ വിലയിരുത്തപ്പെടാവുന്ന അവസരങ്ങൾ എത്രത്തോളം ഒഴിവാക്കാറുണ്ട്.	എപ്പോഴും	കൂടുതലും	ചിലപ്പോഴും ഒഴികെ	കുറച്ച്	വളരെ കുറച്ച്
6.	കഴിവുകൾ പരമാവധി ഉപയോഗിച്ചാൽ ഇപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും തലങ്ങളിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്ക് വിജയം കൈവരിക്കാനാകും.	എപ്പോഴും	കൂടുതലും	ചിലപ്പോഴും ഒഴികെ	കുറച്ച്	വളരെ കുറച്ച്

11. നിങ്ങളുടെ കുടുംബത്തിന്റെ വാർഷിക വരുമാനമെത്ര?

കൃഷിയിൽ നിന്നുള്ളത് .....

മറ്റു വരുമാനം .....

12. കൃഷി സംബന്ധമായ അറിവ്

1. അധുൽപ്പാദന ശേഷിയുള്ള ഒരു നെല്ലിനം :
2. നെല്ല് പറിച്ച് നടുമ്പോൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന വിത്തിന്റെ അളവ് :
3. വയലിൽ രണ്ട് നെൽച്ചെടികൾ തമ്മിലുള്ള അകലം എത്രയായിരിക്കണം? :
4. വിത്ത് ഉപചരിക്കുവാൻ ഉപയോഗിക്കുന്ന ഒരു രാസ വസ്തുവിന്റെ പേര്? :
5. നെല്ലിന് ശുപാർശ ചെയ്തതിടുള്ള രാസ വളങ്ങളുടെ തോത്? :

6. എപ്പോഴൊക്കെയാണ് എൻ ഉം ഡിലും കെയും നൽകേണ്ടത്? :

7. നെല്ലിൽ കാണുന്ന പ്രധാന കീടത്തിന്റെ പേരും അതിനുള്ള പ്രതിവിധിയും :

8. നെല്ലിന്റെ ഒരു പ്രധാന രോഗവും അതിനുള്ള പ്രതിവിധിയും? :

13. നിങ്ങളുടെ തൊഴിൽ?

1. കൃഷി (6)
2. കച്ചവടം (5)
3. സാങ്കേതികം (4)
4. ക്ലാർക്ക് (3)
5. ക്ലാർക്ക് ഉദ്യോഗം (2)
6. കൂലിവേല (1)

14. താഴെ പറയുന്നവയിൽ നിങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം പറയുക.

1. നിങ്ങളുടെ കൈവശം കുറച്ച് പണമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങൾ ഭൂമി വാങ്ങുമോ അതോ ഒരു ദൂരദർശിനി വാങ്ങുമോ?

(എ) സ്ഥലം

(ബി) ദൂരദർശിനി

2. നിങ്ങൾക്കു കുറച്ച് പണത്തിനത്യാവശ്യം വന്നുവെന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ താഴെ പറയുന്നവയിൽ ഏത് ചെയ്യും?

1. ഉത്സവത്തിനായി മാറ്റി വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന രൂപ എടുക്കും.
2. പുതിയ കലപ്പ വാങ്ങാനായി വച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന രൂപ എടുക്കും.

3. നിങ്ങളുടെ മാതാപിതാക്കൾക്ക് ഒരു കാറും കുറച്ച് സ്ഥലവുമുണ്ടെന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. ഇതിലേതെങ്കിലുമൊന്നു നിങ്ങൾക്കായി തന്നാൽ നിങ്ങൾ ഏതായിരിക്കും തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുക.

(എ) കാറ്

(ബി) ഭൂമി

4. താഴെ പറയുന്നതിൽ ഏതിന് ലോണെടുക്കാൻ നിങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാണ്?

(എ) നഗരത്തിലൊരു വീട് വാങ്ങാൻ

(ബി) ഒരു എ പ പ് സെറ്റ് വാങ്ങാൻ

5. നിങ്ങൾക്ക് ബാങ്കിൽ 5000/- രൂപ നിക്ഷേപം ഉണ്ടെന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. അതു ബാങ്കിൽ തന്നെ ഇട്ട് പലിശ ഈടാക്കുമോ അതോ വീട്ടുപകരണങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങാനെടുക്കുമോ?

(എ) ബാങ്കിൽ തന്നെ നിക്ഷേപം തുടരും

(ബി) വീട്ടുപകരണങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങും

6. നിങ്ങളുടെ കൈവശം കുറച്ചു പണമുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ നിങ്ങൾ അതുപയോഗിച്ചു?

(എ) വീട് പുതുക്കി പണിയും

(ബി) ഭൂമി മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്തും

7. അടുത്ത 5 വർഷത്തിനിടയിൽ ഇതിലേതിനാണ് നിങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് കൂടുതൽ സാദ്ധ്യത?

(എ) കൂടുതൽ സ്ഥലം വാങ്ങും

(ബി) പുതിയ ഒരു വീട് വയ്ക്കും

(സി) കൂടുതൽ ആഡംബര വസ്തുക്കൾ വാങ്ങും

8. നിങ്ങൾക്ക് 10,000 ക ലോട്ടറി അടിച്ചാൽ

(എ) പുതിയൊരു കച്ചവടം തുടങ്ങിയിട്ട് കൃഷി മതിയാക്കും

(ബി) ആഡംബര വസ്തുക്കൾ വാങ്ങും

(സി) കൃഷി ഭൂമി മെച്ചപ്പെടുത്താനുപയോഗിക്കും.

പാർട്ട് ബി.

താഴെ പറയുന്ന വാചകങ്ങൾ സമൂഹത്തിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കുള്ള സ്ഥാനത്തെ കുറിച്ച് അവർക്കുള്ള മനോഭാവം വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുന്നവയാണ്. ഇവയിൽ നിങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള അഭിപ്രായം?

പ്രസ്താവന	പ്രതികരണം	
	യോജിക്കുന്നു	വിയോജിക്കുന്നു
1. സ്ത്രീകൾ രാഷ്ട്രീയ നേതാക്കൾ ആകാൻ യോഗ്യരല്ല		
2. ഇപ്പോൾ ഭാരതത്തിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾക്കുള്ള സ്ഥാനം തൃപ്തികരമാണ്		
3. സ്ത്രീകൾ ഗൃഹഭരണത്തിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുവരാണ് ഔദ്യോഗിക മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലും കംപനികളിലും ജോലിക്കു പോകുന്നത് അഭികാമ്യമല്ല		
4. പണ്ട് മുതൽക്കേ സ്ത്രീകൾ ശക്തിയുടെ നെടുംതൂണാണ്. അതിനാൽ കൂടുതൽ അവസരങ്ങൾ അവർക്ക് നൽകണം.		
5. ഇപ്പോൾ നിലവിലുള്ള അവസ്ഥ മാറണമെങ്കിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾ വീടിനുള്ളിൽ തന്നെ ഇരിക്കണം.		
6. സ്ത്രീകൾ പുരുഷനെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ബുദ്ധിപരമായി പിന്നോക്കമാണ്. അതിനാൽ സമത്വത്തിന് വേണ്ടി വാദിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല.		
7. വിവാഹ ജീവിതം അസഹനീയമാകുമ്പോൾ വിവാഹ മോചനത്തിനുള്ള സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം സ്ത്രീക്കുണ്ടാകരിക്കണം.		
8. സ്ത്രീകളെ ഔദ്യോഗിക മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽ നിയോഗിക്കുന്നത് കാര്യക്ഷമത കുറയാൻ കാരണമാകും		
9. സ്ത്രീകളെ പൊതു മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിൽ (ഉദാ: ഒളിംപിക്സ്) പങ്കെടുക്കാൻ അനുവദിച്ചു കൂടാ. അത് അപകടകരമാണ്.		
10. സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് അവരുടെ ഭാവി നിർണ്ണയിക്കാനുള്ള പരിപൂർണ്ണ സ്വാതന്ത്ര്യം നൽകണം.		

11. എത്ര കുട്ടികൾ, എപ്പോൾ വേണം എന്നുള്ളത് സ്ത്രീകളുടെ ഇഷ്ടാനുസരണമായിരിക്കണം.

12. ചില രാജ്യങ്ങളിലുള്ളതുപോലെ സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് വോട്ടവകാശം കൊടുത്തുകൂടാ.

13. ഗവൺമെന്റു സ്ത്രീകളുടെ സാമൂഹിക പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾക്ക് പ്രോത്സാഹനം നൽകണം.

14. സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് ഹൈസ്കൂൾ തലത്തിൽവരെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം നിർബന്ധമാക്കണം.

15. സ്ത്രീകളുടെ സ്ഥാനം മെച്ചപ്പെടാൻ ഉല്പാദനം എന്നുള്ളത് തീർത്തും അപ്രധാനമാണ്.

(൯)

ക്രമ നമ്പർ	തീരുമാനമെടുക്കേണ്ട വിഷയം	വിവിധ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളിൽ സ്ത്രീകളുടെ പങ്കിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള അറിവ്		
		വളരെ പ്രധാനം	പ്രധാനം	അപ്രധാനം
1.	കൃഷി ചെയ്യേണ്ട വിളയും അതിന്റെ ഇനവും തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കൽ			
2.	വയലിൽ നൽകേണ്ട വളമേതെല്ലാംമെന്ന് തീരുമാനിക്കുവാൻ			
3.	രാസ സംരക്ഷണ നടപടികളുടെ സ്വീകരിക്കൽ			
4.	വിളവെടുക്കുന്ന സമയം			
5.	കൂലി നിർണ്ണയിക്കൽ			
6.	കൂലിക്കാരുടെ എണ്ണം നിശ്ചയിക്കൽ			
7.	ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിലുള്ള കാർഷികോപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കാം			
8.	ഭൂമി വാങ്ങൽ കൊടുക്കൽ എന്നിവയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള തീരുമാനം			
9.	ഉൽപ്പന്നത്തിന്റെ സംഭരണം			
10.	ഉൽപ്പന്നത്തിന്റെ വിപണനം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള തീരുമാനം			
11.	വളർത്തു മൃഗങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷണം സംബന്ധിച്ച് തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ			
12.	കുടുംബ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിലുള്ള തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ			
13.	കുടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ			
14.	ഏത് രീതിയിലുള്ള കള നശീകരണമാണ് സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടത്.			

ക്രമ നമ്പർ	തീരുമാനമെടുക്കേണ്ട വിഷയം	നിങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം പ്രകടനം					
		കൂടുതൽ			ഒരിക്കലും		
		എപ്പോഴും	ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ	ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല	എപ്പോഴും	ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ	ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല
1.	കൃഷി ചെയ്യേണ്ട വിളയും അതിന്റെ ഇനവും തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കൽ						
2.	ഏതു രീതിയിലുള്ള കള നശീകരണമാണ് സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടത്						
3.	വയലിൽ നൽകേണ്ട വളമേതെല്ലാമെന്ന് തീരുമാനിക്കുവാൻ						
4.	സസ്യ സംരക്ഷണ നടപടികളുടെ സ്വീകരിക്കൽ						
5.	വിളവെടുക്കുന്ന സമയം						
6.	കൂലി നിർണ്ണയിക്കൽ						
7.	കൂലിക്കാരുടെ എണ്ണം നിശ്ചയിക്കൽ						
8.	ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിലുള്ള കാർഷികോപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കാം						
9.	ഭൂമി വാങ്ങൽ കൊടുക്കൽ എന്നിവയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള തീരുമാനം						
10.	ഉൽപ്പന്നത്തിന്റെ സംഭരണം						
11.	ഉൽപ്പന്നത്തിന്റെ വിപണനം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള തീരുമാനം						
12.	വളർത്തു മൃഗങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷണം സംബന്ധിച്ച് തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ						
13.	കുടുംബ ബജറ്റ് നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിലുള്ള തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ						
14.	കുട്ടികളുടെ വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ						

ക്രമ നമ്പർ	തീരുമാനമെടുക്കേണ്ട വിഷയം	തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ നിങ്ങൾ പ്രാവർത്തികമാക്കുന്നതിന്റെ തോത്		
		എപ്പോഴും	ചിലപ്പോഴൊക്കെ	ഒരിക്കലുമില്ല
1.	കൃഷി ചെയ്യേണ്ട വിളയും അതിന്റെ ഇനവും തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കൽ			
2.	ഏതു രീതിയിലുള്ള കള നശീകരണമാണ് സ്വീകരിക്കേണ്ടത്.			
3.	വയലിൽ നൽകേണ്ട വളമേതെല്ലാമെന്ന് തീരുമാനമെടുക്കൽ			
4.	സസ്യ സംരക്ഷണ നടപടികളുടെ സ്വീകരിക്കൽ			
5.	വിളവെടുക്കുന്ന സമയം			
6.	ഏതെല്ലാം തരത്തിലുള്ള കാർഷികോപകരണങ്ങൾ ഉപയോഗിക്കാം.			
7.	കുടുംബ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് നിർണ്ണയിക്കുന്നതിലുള്ള തീരുമാനം.			
8.	ഉൽപ്പന്നത്തിന്റെ സംഭരണം			
9.	ഉൽപ്പന്നത്തിന്റെ വിപണനം സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള തീരുമാനം			
10.	വളർത്തു മൃഗങ്ങളുടെ സംരക്ഷണം			

ROLE OF FARM WOMEN IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF A FARMING COMMUNITY IN TRIVANDRUM DISTRICT

BY

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ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS
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ABSTRACT

A study was undertaken among the farm women of Nadar community in Neyyattinkara taluk of Trivandrum district in order to find the role played by them in decision making related to their farm and home. The study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To identify the areas of decision making by the farm women related to their socio-economic life.
2. To study the role perception and role performance of the farm women in decision making.
3. To study the extent of participation of farm women in implementing the decisions related to their socio-economic life.
4. To correlate the selected characteristics of farm women and their role perception role performance and extent of participation in implementing the decisions.

The study revealed that more than 50 per cent of the respondents perceived six areas viz. decisions regarding purchase and sale of land, storage and marketing of produce, care and management of animals, family budget and children's education as very

important whereas, decisions regarding plant protection and implements to be used were perceived as not important. Among the 14 areas studied, joint decisions were made in purchase and sale of land, care and management of animals and children's education. Independent decisions were made in storage and marketing of produce.

Majority of the respondents participated in implementing the decisions, in storage marketing of produce and care and management of animals.

Occupation was the only variable found to have significant relation with role perception. Attitude towards farming and knowledge in farming were found to be negatively, but significantly related with joint role performance. Significant positive relation was established between contact with extension agency and independent role performance. Attitude of women towards their status and extent of participation in implementing the decisions were positively related.

Knowledge in farming, contact with extension agency and size of holding were the important variables in explaining the variation in role perception whereas age, education status, and contact with extension agency were found important in case of independent

role performance. Attitude of women towards their status was found to be the most important variable in the case of extent of participation in implementing the decisions.