

## PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN STITCHING

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Bikaner district of Rajasthan with the sample size of 160 rural women of which 80 rural women of stitching and 80 were from woolen yarn making. Results shows that higher percentage (82.50%) of rural women preferred stitching because they get the money. Only 17.50 per cent rural women preferred stitching because they want to utilize their time and to use properly their requirements. Majority of rural women (61.25%) devoted time (4-8 hours) in stitching while 27.5 per cent rural women worked for 2-4 hours. It also reveals that all the rural women (100%) preferred woolen yarn making because they get the money. Woolen Yarn Making was the most popular occupation among rural women in Bikaner Panchayat Samiti. Information presented clearly indicated that many (45%) of the rural women were devoted time (more than 8 hours) in Woolen Yarn making and 31.25 per cent rural women worked for 4-8 hours and 23.75 per cent rural women worked for 2-4 hours.

### INTRODUCTION

Women in Indian society is regarded as “*Greha Lakshmi*”. She constitutes the backbone of our nation. To work is human nature and women are no exception to this. In fact in the world of work, women contribute much more than men. Women as a nuclear force of family discharges many fold jobs including the family management relentlessly day and night. Majority of women is labourer in agriculture and allied fields. These women have dual responsibility of shouldering the household chores and contributing to the family income. They work for 13 to 17 hours a day even then they acquire a secondary status in social life, economic activities and decision-making. To improve the economic conditions and go for development of family women and men both have to supplement family income by engaging themselves in income generating activities. Thus, participation of women in income generating activities is indispensable not for survival of individual families but for maintenance of wider socio-economic system.

DWCRA Programme has initiated employment and income generating opportunities for women through traditional and modern occupations such as spinning and weaving industry, agricultural activities, animal husbandry, hosiery, brass items,

candle, cane items, carpets, chappals chilli powder, *khadi* leather items, plastic items etc. To promote employment opportunities for women it is necessary to expand and diversify education and training facilities for them. Thus, the present study was attempt to enquire about the involvement of rural women in selected non-farm income generating activities. Kumar and Kumar (1992) revealed that rural women's income in a family is very essential and important in relation to the nutritional economic and educational upliftment of family. These was conducted with the following objectives - To study the participation of rural women in stitching and Woolen Yarn Making, non-farm income generating activities.

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out in Bikaner district of Rajasthan. There are five Panchayat Samities in Bikaner district. From which one panchayat samiti i.e. Bikaner panchayat samiti was selected. In Bikaner panchayat samiti, there were 171 villages. From the above villages, four villages falling within the radius of 25 km from Bikaner panchayat samiti with adequate number of rural beneficiaries. From each selected village, two separate list of rural women related with stitching and related with Woolen Yarn Making was prepared. From the

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list 20 rural women for each activity from a village were selected randomly by chit method. Thus, the total sample size from all the four villages were 160 of which 50 per cent (80 rural women) were from Stitching and 50 per cent (80 rural women) were from Woolen Yarn Making.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### (1) Personal characteristics of the rural women

The data related to personal characteristics such as age, caste, education, socio-economic status, work experience, mass-media exposure, land holding and income are presented in the Table 1. Majority of rural women of Stitching (58.75%) were from age group below 25 years (younger age group).

The data in table reveals that about half rural women of Woolen Yarn Making (48.75%) were from age group below 25 years (younger age group). Majority of rural women of Stitching (45.00%) were belonged to the Other Backward Castes category. The percentage of Scheduled Caste and dominant/prestigious caste were 33.75 per cent and 21.25 per cent, respectively. More than half rural women of Woolen Yarn Making (61.25%) were belonged to Scheduled Caste and 31.25 per cent were belonged to Other Backward Castes category. The almost all rural women of Woolen Yarn Making (92.50%) were less educated (illiterate and can read only). Only 6.25 per cent and 1.25 per cent rural women were medium (can read write to primary level) and highly educated (middle

**Table 1: Percentage distribution of rural women according to their profile for stitching and Woolen Yarn Making activities**

S.No	Personal attributes	Category	Range	Stitching (n = 80)		Woolen Yarn Making (n = 80)	
				f	%	f	%
1.	Age	a) Younger age	Below 25 years	47	58.75	39	48.75
		b) Middle age	25 – 35 years	19	23.75	30	37.50
		c) Old age	Above 35 years	14	17.50	11	13.75
2.	Caste	a) Scheduled Caste	—	27	33.75	49	61.25
		b) Other Backward Caste	—	36	45.00	25	31.25
		c) Dominant/prestigious caste	—	17	21.25	6	7.50
3.	Education	a) Less educated	Illiterate and can read only	49	61.25	74	92.50
		b) Medium educated	Can read and write upto primary level	27	33.75	5	6.25
		c) Highly educated	Middle and above	4	5.00	1	1.25
4.	Socio-Economic Status	a) Low SES	Below 35 score	14	17.50	39	48.75
		b) Medium SES	35 – 50 Score	40	50.00	29	36.25
		c) Higher SES	Above 50 Score	26	32.50	12	15.00
5.	Work Experience	a) Low experience	Below 10 years	62	77.50	33	41.25
		b) Medium experience	10 – 20 years	13	16.25	43	53.75
		c) Higher experience	Above 20 years	5	6.25	4	5
6.	Mass media exposure	a) Low exposure	Below 10 Score	30	37.50	42	52.50
		b) Medium exposure	10 – 20 Score	41	51.25	28	35.00
		c) Higher exposure	Above 20 Score	9	11.25	10	12.50
7.	Land Holding	a) Small land holding	Below 4.1 hectare	23	28.75	61	76.25
		b) Medium land holding	4.1 – 8 hectare	40	50.00	7	8.75
		c) Large land holding	Above 8 hectare	17	21.25	12	15.00
8.	Income	a) Low income	Below Rs.15 per day	13	16.25	23	28.75
		b) Medium income	Rs.15 – 30 per day	25	31.25	39	48.75
		c) Higher income	Above Rs.30 per day	42	52.50	18	22.50

and above) category. The partition of rural women Stitching and Woolen Yarn Making according to socio-economic status was made in three classes i.e. low, medium and higher class. The data reveals that in case of Stitching about 50.00 per cent rural women belonged to medium class followed by higher and low SES class with 32.50 and 17.50 per cent respectively. Mass media exposure is an index which refers to the degree of individual's exposure to the different mass media like radio, film, television, print media etc. The mass media exposure was found to be medium (10-20 score) in 51.25 per cent of the rural women and remaining 37.50 and 11.25 per cent of the rural women engaged in Stitching activity had low exposure (below 10 score) and higher exposure (above 20 score) respectively. More than half of rural women (52.50%) had low exposure (below 10 score) followed by medium exposure (10-20 score) 35.00 per cent. Only 12.50 per cent rural women had higher exposure (above 20 score) regarding Woolen Yarn Making activity.

Land holding of rural women presented in Table 1 clearly shows that half of rural women of Stitching (50.00%) were belonged to 4.1 – 8 hectare (medium land holding). The income of the rural women is being presented in table 1. It is evident from the data of table 1 that more than half of rural women of Stitching (52.50%) were from income above Rs. 30 per day (higher income group). About half rural women of Woolen Yarn Making (48.75%) belonged to Rs. 15 – 30 per day (medium income). The percentage of low income (below Rs. 15 per day) and higher income (above Rs. 30 per day) were 28.75 and 22.50 per cent, respectively.

## (2) Participation of rural women in stitching

It is evident from Table 2 that higher percentage (82.50%) of rural women preferred stitching because they get the money. Only 17.50 per cent rural women preferred stitching because they want to utilize their time and to use properly their requirements. Majority of rural women (61.25%) devoted time (4-8 hours) in Stitching while, 27.5 per cent rural women worked for 2-4 hours. Only 11.25 per cent rural women worked for 1-2 hours. This might be due to the reason that many of the rural women having medium size land holding. Another most important reason was to earn income through this activity.

**Table 2: Percentage distribution of rural women by their participation in stitching activity (n = 80)**

S. No.	Participation	Frequency	Per centage
1.	Prefer stitching		
	a) To get the money	66	82.50
	b) Utilization of time and proper use of equipment	14	17.50
	c) Any other, please specify	-	-
2.	Time devote in the stitching		
	a) 1 – 2 hours	9	11.25
	b) 2 – 4 hours	22	27.50
	c) 4 – 8 hours	49	61.25
	d) Above 8 hours	-	-
3.	Garments to stitch		
	a) Skirts – top	8	10.00
	b) Salwar – suit	46	57.50
	c) Pants – Shirts	-	-
	d) Langha – Kurti	26	32.50
	e) Nighties	-	-

## (3) Participation of rural women in performed different tasks in stitching activity

Table 3 indicates the stitching activity involves fifteen tasks. These are purchasing of raw material, treatment of cloth before preparation, taking measurement, deciding pattern, drafting pattern, cutting, embroidery to be done of required stitching, putting accessories on it, finishing the final product i.e. dress, ironing it, labeling, fixing price, packing, marketing. Out of these 15 tasks non-participation of rural women was found only in one tasks i.e. labeling. These findings were due to the reason that rural women performed stitching activity at home with lack of knowledge about marketing. So they do not label the clothes. Different tasks being performed in stitching by the rural women have higher participation with 2.98, 2.63, 2.46, 2.45, 2.4 MS about the different tasks like “Stitching”, “taking measurement”, “Cutting”, “deciding pattern” and “finishing the final product i.e. dress”, respectively. Table further reveals that the different tasks being performed in stitching by rural women have low level of participation about “marketing”, “packing”, “fixing price”, “drafting pattern” and “labeling”. With 1.3, 1.23, 1.11, 1.1 and 1.00 mean score, respectively. Findings were also in the line of the study of Mundra and Kothari (1992) said

**Table 3: Participation of rural women in performed different tasks in stitching activity (n = 80)**

S.No.	Tasks performed	Extent of Participation			MS	Rank
		Fully (f)	Partially (f)	Not at all (f)		
1.	Purchasing of raw materials					VI
	a) Clothes – simple, Bukuram, Lining cloth	-	40	40	1.5	
	b) Accessories – Lace, Button, Frills, Motif	2	63	15	1.84	
	c) Essential – Thread, hooks	57	11	12	2.56	
2.	Treatment of cloth before preparation	2	23	55	1.34	X
3.	Taking measurement	60	10	10	2.63	II
4.	Deciding pattern	55	6	19	2.45	IV
5.	Drafting pattern	—	8	72	1.10	XIV
6.	Cutting	57	3	20	2.46	III
7.	Embroidery to be done of required	4	21	55	1.36	IX
8.	Stitching	78	2	-	2.98	I
9.	Putting accessories on it	15	36	29	1.83	VIII
10.	Finishing the final product i.e. dress	46	20	14	2.4	V
11.	Ironing it	27	22	31	1.95	VII
12.	Labelling	—	—	80	1	XV
13.	Fixing price	—	9	71	1.11	XIII
14.	Packing	—	18	62	1.23	XII
15.	Marketing	—	24	56	1.3	XI

F = Frequency, MS = Mean Score, Pooled mean = 1.81

that the number of women who could get gainful employment for more than 4 hours in Stitching, embroidery and knitting was found 9.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 14.20 per cent, respectively.

#### (4) Participation of rural women in woolen yarn making

The data in table 4 reveal that all the rural women (100%) preferred woolen yarn making because they get the money. Woolen Yarn Making was the most popular occupation among rural women in Bikaner Panchayat Samiti. Information presented in table 4 clearly indicates that many (45%) of the rural women were devoted time (more than 8 hours) in Woolen Yarn making and 31.25 per cent rural women worked for 4-8 hours. 23.75 per cent rural women worked for 2-4 hours. Woolen Yarn Making activity of Bikaner is world famous. The activity is performed at the home also. Woolen Yarn Making involves 10 different tasks. These are – purchasing of raw materials, selection of different woolen fibres, divided in different small parts, spinning the woolen fibres, rolling the woolen fibres, rolling the long scale, storage, fixing price, packing, marketing.

**Table 4: Percentage distribution of rural women by their participation in woolen yarn making activity (n = 80)**

S.No.	Participation	Frequency	Per centage
1.	Prefer Woolen Yarn Making		
	a) To get the money	80	100
	b) Utilization of time and proper use of equipment	-	-
	c) Any other, please specify	-	-
2.	Time devote in Woolen Yarn Making		
	a) 1 – 2 hours	-	-
	b) 2 – 4 hours	19	23.75
	c) 4 – 8 hours	25	31.25
	d) Above 8 hours	36	45.00

#### (5) Participation of rural women in performed different tasks in woolen yarn making activity

Out of these ten tasks, non participation of rural women was found only in one task i.e. purchasing the raw materials. These findings were due to the reason that there were small industries and organization of Woolen Yarn Making in the Bikaner Panchayat Samiti. These industries have well established standards for different tasks like purchase of the woolen fibres, finishing the woolen yarn etc.

**Table 5: Participation of rural women in performed different tasks in Woolen Yarn Making Activity (n = 80)**

S.No.	Tasks performed	Extent of Participation			MS	Rank
		Fully (f)	Partially (f)	Not at all (f)		
1.	Purchasing of raw materials					VI
	a) Clothes – simple, Bukuram, Lining cloth	-	40	40	1.5	
1.	Purchasing of raw materials woolen fibres	—	—	80	1	X
2.	Selection of different woolen fibres	7	43	30	1.71	V
3.	Divided in different small parts	78	2	—	2.98	II
4.	Spinning the woolen fibres	80	—	—	3	I
5.	Rolling the woolen fibres	70	10	—	2.88	III
6.	Rolling the long scale	24	40	16	2.1	IV
7.	Storage	—	21	59	1.26	VI
8.	Fixing price	—	2	78	1.03	IX
9.	Packing	—	10	70	1.13	VII
10.	Marketing	—	9	71	1.11	VIII

F = Frequency, MS = Mean Score, Pooled mean = 1.82

Different tasks being performed in Woolen Yarn Making by the rural women possessed maximum participation regarding “Spinning the woolen fibres”, “divided in different small parts”, “rolling the woolen fibres” and “rolling the long scale” with 3, 2.98, 2.88 and 2.1 mean score, respectively.

## CONCLUSION

In case of rural women in Stitching, majority of them in younger age group (58.75%), belonged to other Backward Caste (45.00%), less educated (61.25%) with medium SES (50.00%), low work experience (77.50%), medium exposure group (51.25%), belonged to medium level land holding (50.00%) and higher income group (52.50%). While, in case of rural women in Woolen Yarn Making, majority of them were in age group of below 25 years (48.75%), belonged to Scheduled Caste (61.25%), less educated (92.50%) with low SES (48.75%), medium work experience (53.75%), low exposure (52.50%), belonged to small level land holding (76.25%) and medium income group (48.75%).

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