STUDIES ON FARM WOMEN HEALTH INDEX DETERMINANTS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SCHEDULED TRIBES WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE PALIANGUDI VILLAGE, THENI DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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Abstract

A study was conducted at Paliangudi village, Theni District, Tamil Nadu (India) to determine the health index of farm women with special reference to scheduled tribes. The results of the study showed that the majority of the respondents are in the category of farm work group, of 7 hrs working, of field work, of 4 members, of category of minor males, category of without minor females, category of farm wage, 20 years experience, avail category of toilet facility, category of cook for two times a day, category of insufficient income, category of amount spend for meat yearly once, category of amount spend for cloths yearly once, category of spending amount for medicals monthly, category of improved health, category of visiting hospital twice per month, category of aware about the health hazard, category of following the disposal procedure of chemicals.

Key words : Scheduled tribes, health determinants, aware of health hazard.

Introduction

Good health is a balanced condition of human body and mind. World Health Organisation defines human health as a 'state of complete physical, mental and spiritual well-being and not merely the absence of disease and/or infirmity'. The normative orientation of a community by and large determines the perceptions about the disease, its symptoms and methods of treatment. The tribal societies of the world are no exception to these processes. The contribution of women farmers of scheduled tribes to the Indian agriculture is enormous. Several researches conducted so far provide adequate conceptual and empirical evidences to support this fact. The results of these studies, however, could not get due recognition in the planning and implementation of agricultural related development programmes. The agricultural extension services in India which originally intended to serve the farming community as a whole, has limited in its operations to a larger extent on male farmers only, and it has failed to tackle the great structural problem of invisibility of female farmers. Besides this, women also have a "productive" role to shoulder the primary responsibility of earning for maintenance of the family, since one-third of the households in India is said to be women headed. Their income sometimes become the main income of the family. When they have to combine triple burdens *viz.*, bearing children, taking care and leisure for themselves. This increase their morbidity. The disparity between the energy intake and the energy expenditure for work tells upon the health status of women. The increasing work burden along with disease burden is evident for women, as they carry the triple burden of caring for the family, reproduction and production. The high demands placed on women in fulfilling their productive and reproductive roles are reflected in the high incidence of morbidity and mortality. Their low paid jobs, absence of upward mobility perpetuate their poverty. So there is a great need to assess the health determinants of scheduled tribes.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in Paliangudi Village located 40 km away from Kambam Town, because the area is fully occupied by scheduled tribes. There were totally 65 respondents (farm women) were selected for research randomly. The information were collected personally with the help of a structural interview schedule and the results were tabulated.

Results and Discussion

The results of the tables explained about the health determinants of Scheduled tribe farm ie., awareness about the health hazard, disposal of chemicals inconvenience in pregnancy period, caution during pregnancy and local facility of sanitation and local facility of sanitation and environment. These are some of the major health determinants, which was observed in this study.

Table 1 : Awareness about health hazard.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid per cent	Cumulative per cent
Valid	No	8	12.9	12.9	12.9
	Yes	54	87.1	87.1	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondent (87.1 per cent) are in the category of aware about the health hazard and 12.9 per cent of respondents are in the category of no awareness. From the table, we can conclude that majority of the respondents are belongs to the awareness category

Table 2 : Openion about the health.

		Frequency	Per cent	Valid per cent	Cumulative per cent
Valid	Declined	22	35.5	35.5	35.5
	Improved	30	48.4	48.4	83.9
	No change	10	16.1	16.1	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondent (48.4 percent) are in the category of improved health and 35.5 percent of respondents are in the declined health category and only 16.1 percent of the respondents are belongs to the no change category. From the above table we can conclude that majority of the respondents are belongs to improved health category.

Table 3 : Inconvenience in pregnancy period.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid per cent	Cumulative per cent
Valid	Con.	53	85.5	85.5	85.5
	Nil	9	14.5	14.5	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

Like that the table showed that majority of the respondent (85.5 percent) are in the category of convenience during pregnancy period and 14.5 percent of respondents are in the nil category. From the above table we can conclude that majority of the respondents

are belongs to the convenience category.

Table 4 : Disposal of chemicals.

		Frequency	Per cent	Valid per cent	Cumulative per cent
Valid	Followed	31	50.0	50.0	50.0
	No awareness	28	45.2	45.2	95.2
	Not followed	3	4.8	4.8	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

The table 4 explained that the majority of the respondent (50 percent) are in the category of following the disposal procedure of chemicals and 45.2 percent of respondents are in the no awareness category and only 4.8 percent of the respondents are belongs to the no followed category. From the above table we can conclude that majority of the respondents are belongs to the followed category.

Table 5 : Caution during the pregnancy.

		Frequency	Per cent	Valid per cent	Cumulative per cent
Valid	Nil	1	1.6	1.6	1.6
	Not available	9	14.5	14.5	16.1
	Not insist to spray	11	17.7	17.7	33.9
	Substitute	34	54.8	54.8	88.7
	Wear mask, glouse	6	9.7	9.7	98.4
	Wear mask	1	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

The table 5 depicted that the majority of the respondent (54.8 percent) are in the category of having substitute during pregnancy and 17.7 percent of respondents are in the category of not insist to spray and only 14.5 percent of the respondents are belongs to the not avail category. From the above table we can conclude that majority of the respondents are belongs to the category of having substitute during pregnancy period.

Table 6 : Opinion about the local facility of sanitat & environment.

		Frequency	Per cent	Valid per cent	Cumulative per cent
Valid	Bad	9	14.5	14.5	14.5
	Good	26	41.9	41.9	56.5
	Moderate	27	43.5	43.5	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

And finally the table 6 shows that majority of the respondent (43.5 percent) are in the category of moderate opinion about the local facility of sanitation and environment and 41.9 percent of respondents are in the category of good opinion and only 14.5 percent of the respondents are belongs to the category of bad opinion. From the above table we can conclude that majority of the respondents are belongs to the moderate opinion category.

Table 7 : Generations high age.

Age/Years		Frequ-ency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Valid	50.00	1	1.6	1.6	1.6
	68.00	1	1.6	1.6	3.2
	70.00	1	1.6	1.6	4.8
	75.00	3	4.8	4.8	9.7
	78.00	5	8.1	8.1	17.7
	79.00	1	1.6	1.6	19.4
	80.00	3	4.8	4.8	24.2
	85.00	7	11.3	11.3	35.5
	90.00	13	21.0	21.0	56.5
	92.00	3	4.8	4.8	61.3
	95.00	3	4.8	4.8	66.1
	96.00	5	8.1	8.1	74.2
	97.00	2	3.2	3.2	77.4
	98.00	6	9.7	9.7	87.1
	101.00	1	1.6	1.6	88.7
	102.00	1	1.6	1.6	90.3
	103.00	1	1.6	1.6	91.9
	105.00	3	4.8	4.8	96.8
	106.00	2	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	62	100.0	100.0	

The table 7 shows that majority of the farm women (21.0 percent) are in the category of 90 years and 9.7 percent of respondents are in the 98 years category of and only 1.6 percent of the respondents are belongs to the 50, 68, 70, 79, 101, 102 and 103 years category. From the above table we can conclude that majority of the respondents are belongs to 90 years category.

Conclusion

In order to ensure health, safety and well being and there by improving the quality of work life and achieving higher productivity, it is essential that workstation must be designed ergonomically and should be user friendly. Agriculture is one of the important labour intensive activity, where maximum percentage of women work force in rural areas is dependent for their livelihood. Based on the research findings the strategy for tribal development especially farm women development has to take into account in order to create awareness, income generation, education and health development.

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