



A Study of Socio-personal and Socio-economic Traits of Rural Women

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Rural women play a crucial role in societal and economic development, yet their lives are shaped by various socio-personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological factors. Socio-personally, they exhibit resilience, adaptability and strong familial ties, often juggling multiple responsibilities within households and agricultural labor. Socio-economically, they face challenges such as financial dependence, wage disparities, and restricted access to education, land and credit, limiting their economic independence and entrepreneurial opportunities. In terms of communication, many rural women rely on oral traditions and community networks for information, with limited access to digital technology, though mobile and radio communication have begun bridging this gap. Psychologically, they demonstrate endurance and emotional strength despite economic and social hardships, yet issues such as stress, anxiety and lack of mental health awareness persist. Understanding these traits is essential for developing policies and interventions that enhance rural women's empowerment, improve their socio-economic status, and promote gender equality in rural areas.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"In Indian society, women have a multi-dimensional role. They have a major role to play in the development process also. For the last few years, programmes for women have been receiving particular attention under community and rural development programmes. The desirable socio-economic development can be achieved only when women in large are stimulated and motivated to accept and adopt new techniques. The largest numbers of women in India are engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as supervisors or as agricultural laborers" (Sheela, 2009). "They are the main participants and decision makers in various agricultural operations like seed sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, threshing, application of manure, storage of seeds and food grains and post-harvest home level processing. Apart from all these they also involve in bringing fodder from field, chaff cutting, feeding and cleaning of cattle, maintaining cattle shed, compost making etc. In view of all these things, woman is recognized as a partner of man in agriculture and she is included in the effort of bringing new technology to the farmers because of her intimate involvement in agriculture as a manager, decision maker and labourer" (Deka and Saikai, 2002). The status of rural women is improving day by day. Rural women exhibit a unique blend of socio-personal, socio-economic, communicational, and psychological traits shaped by their environment, cultural norms, and access to resources. Socio-personally, rural women often embody resilience, adaptability, and strong familial bonds, as they play pivotal roles in maintaining households and supporting community structures. Their identities are deeply intertwined with traditions and they frequently assume multiple responsibilities, including caregiving, homemaking, and contributing to agricultural or cottage industry labor (Deshpande et al., 2011). Education levels among rural women vary significantly, with many facing barriers to formal education due to socio-cultural norms, early marriages, and household duties, leading to limited personal development opportunities. Socio-economically, rural women often experience financial dependence on male family members, restricted access to land ownership, and limited participation in formal employment (Urmila and Verma, 2009). Many engage in informal labor such as subsistence

farming, animal husbandry, handicrafts, and small-scale trading, often without financial security or social benefits. Economic challenges are compounded by gender disparities in wages, limited access to credit, and a lack of financial literacy, which restrict their entrepreneurial potential. However, in regions where microfinance and self-help groups are active, rural women demonstrate remarkable resourcefulness in establishing small businesses and improving family incomes (Dongre, 2003). Communication traits among rural women vary depending on literacy levels and exposure to media. Many rely on oral traditions, interpersonal communication, and community networks for information dissemination. Access to digital communication remains limited, particularly in remote areas where infrastructure and affordability pose challenges (Eboh, 2000). However, where available, mobile technology and radio programs have proven instrumental in enhancing their knowledge on health, agriculture, and social issues. Psychological traits of rural women are shaped by their lived experiences of hardships, societal expectations, and limited personal agency. They often exhibit high levels of endurance and emotional strength, yet also face stress and anxiety due to economic uncertainties, domestic responsibilities, and societal pressures. Mental health remains an under-addressed concern, with limited awareness and access to psychological support systems. Cultural norms often discourage open discussions on personal struggles, leading many women to internalize distress (Hiremath and Balasubramanya, 2009). Despite these challenges, rural women display remarkable perseverance and a strong sense of community, supporting each other through informal networks. Their empowerment is increasingly recognized as a key factor in rural development, with initiatives focusing on education, financial inclusion, and leadership training helping to transform their roles from passive participants to active agents of change in their communities.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research study on Participation of rural women in agriculture activities was conducted during the year 2018 in Chitrakoot Districts of U.P. This chapter deals with locale of the study, research design, sampling and sampling procedure, selection of variable and their

measurement, data collection and statistical tests used for analysis of data are research Design, Locale of the study, Sampling technique for the study, Variables and their measurement, Instrument of data collection and Statistical techniques used in the analysis of data Research Design.

2.1 Research Design

In this study Ex-post-facto research design used. This design is appropriate because the phenomenon has already occurred. Ex-post-facto research is the most systematic empirical enquiry in which the researcher does not have control over independent variables as their manifestations have already occurred or because they are inherently not manipulable.

2.2 Locale of the Study

The present study was conducted in Karwi block in Chitrkoot district of U.P. Karwi block was randomly selected because it had sufficient number of rural women population.

2.3 General Features of Karwi Block

Chitrakoot is situated in Uttar Pradesh at an attitude of 212 meters above mean sea level (MSL). It is located on latitude of 25.11'N to 60.00'N and longitude of 80° E to 81.30'E. The average annual rainfall is 939.50 mm. The total geographical area is 3,388.97sq.km. Total forest area 59731sq.km Nat area swon 171227sq.km. Major soil type of the study area mainly typea Alfisols-Hilly soil, Vertisols-black soil, Entisols-Alluvial soil. Major crops of the block are peddy, wheat pulses *etc.*

2.4 Weather and Climate of Karwi Block

It is too hot in summer. Karwi summer highest day temperature is in between 27.c to 48.c and average temperatures of January is 15.c, February is 19.c, March is 27.c, April is 34.c, May is 39.c.

2.5 Selection of Block

The Chitrkoot District in 8 blocks. The study was confined only in Karwi block selected for the randomly of conducting the present study. It was also consideration that the K.V.K. of Ganiba must have effected the villages in the participation of woman in agriculture activities.

2.5.1 Selection of village

The Karwi block in total no. of 441 villages so i am selected the villige randomly Selection of villages was done on the basis of randomly selection. A list of villages from Karwi are mainly 8 Villige respondent selected randomly. 1 Sangranpur, 2 Barampur, 3 Chitra, 4 Shivrampur, 5 Khutaha, 6 Kushwaha Basti, 7 Ranipur and 8 Manoharganj.

2.5.2 Selection of respondents

The village wise list of rural women was prepared. From this, fifteen rural women were selected randomly from each selected village to make a sample size of 120 rural women. Respondent village Sangrampur (15), Barampur(15), Chitra (15), Shivrampur(15), Khutha(15), Kushwaha basti(15), Ranipur (15) and Manoharganj(15).

2.6 Variables and their Measurement

A variable which was included in the study are selected on the basis of extensive review of literature. Efforts are made to define each general level concept to the operational level so, that it could be measured. Measurement mechanism was used to the variables for this study is presented below.

2.7 Socio Economic Traits

2.7.1 Anual income

It refers to the total amount an individual earned through crop production without sidering the cost of cultivation. This is calculating by converting the total crop production in year of survey with existing prices of different grains and summed up to set the total annual income in to rupees and on the basis of data collected the income was classified into three categories as under low (less than 50,000/-)- 1, middle (50,000/- to 1,00,000/-)- 2 and high (more than 1,00,000/-)- 3.

2.7.2 Land holding

It is the area of land possessed by an individual. The land holding was measured with the help of structured schedule. The categories will be classified in the following manner marginal (<1ha), Small (1-2ha), Medium (2.1 - 5ha) and Large (> 5 ha).

List 1. Measurement mechanism for variables

S. No.	Variables	Measurement
A	Independent variables	
Socio- Personal Traits		
1	Age	Chronological age
2	Education	Self scoring
3	Marital status	Self scoring
4	Farming experience	Number of years of experience in farming.
Socio Economic Traits		
5	Annual income	In Rs.
6	Land holding	Structured schedule was developed. (in ha.)
Communicational Traits		
7	Extension participation	Siddarmaiah and jalihal (1983)
8	Source of information	Self scoring
Psychological Traits		
9	Attitude toward Agriculture	Joy Mathews & Nagi Reddy(1982)
10	Knowledge about Agriculture activities	Self Scoring
Dependent variable		
1.	Participation of rural women in agricultural activities	Self Scoring

2.8 Communication Traits

2.8.1 Extension participation

Extension participation refers to the extent of involvement by the farm women in different extension activities conducted by the different extension agencies. The extension participation is measured with the help of scale measured with the help of scale developed (Low-1, Medium-2 and high-3) by Siddharmaiah and Jalihal (1983).

2.8.2 Sources of information

Sources of information are directly or indirectly linked with the knowledge and adoption, in adoption level of respondents regarding improved agricultural information. In this study the different sources of information were considered which participation in agriculture activities. The responses of the respondents were recorded about their source of information and each source was given equal weight age and categories [News paper (1), Radio (2), Television (3), Krishi Patrika (4), Agriculture development officer (5), Agricultural Scientist (6), Internet (7), Cooperative agency (8), Subject matter specialist (9) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (10)] were made according to the use of information source.

2.9 Psychological Traits

2.9.1 Knowledge about agriculture activities

Knowledge refers to the "information possessed by a rural women regarding scientific cultivation

of crops. All the important operations for a crop cultivation including the additional aspects were listed. A total of 10 common recommended agricultural activities were selected based on the judgment of specialists and advisory committee member. The response was collected in three continuum scales i.e. "correct", "partially correct" and "Incorrect". The weight age given to these '2', '1', and '0, respectively. Total knowledge of each respondent was obtained by adding the respective scores [Low (up to 9)- 1, Medium (10 to 15)- 2 and High (above 16 to 20)- 3] for each item.

2.9.2 Instrument of data collection

The data was collected through personal interview method with the help of pre-tested, interview schedule, which was prepared on the basis of objectives of investigation and variables. The interview schedule was thoroughly discussed with the member of the advisory committee and their suggestion was incorporated.

2.9.3 Presentation of data

The data collected was tabulated and presented in the form of tables and figures as per necessity.

2.10 Statistical Techniques Used in the Analysis of Data Research Design

2.10.1 Statistical analysis of the data

The statistical tests and procedures was used for analyzing the data with the help of statistical tools like- Percentage and frequency:

2.10.2 Percentage

The term 'percentage' means a fraction whose denomination is 100 and the numeration of the fraction is called Percentage. For calculating percentage, frequency was multiplied by 100 and divided by total respondents.

$$P = \frac{X}{N} \times 100$$

Where,

- P = Percentage
- X = Frequency of respondents
- N = Total number of respondents

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research study on Participation of rural women in agriculture activities was conducted during the year 2018 in Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh.

Table 1 The data Indicated that 67.50 per cent rural women belonged to middle age group

where as 17.50 percent old age and 15.00 per cent young age group.

Table 2 the data indicate that highest, education up to middle level 46.67 per cent, 27.50 per cent are up to primary level ,11.00 percent are higher secondary, 10.83 per cent people are illiterate and 04.00 per cent women are educated in the high school level.

Table 3 shows that majority of the rural women i.e. 70.00% were married and 30.00% were unmarried.

Table 4 data indicate that highest 41.66 percent of rural women had medium farming experience followed by 33.33 percent of high and only 25.00 percent of low farming experience.

Annual income: Table 5 shows that majority 53.40 percent of the respondents found in medium annual income ie. (Rs. 50,000-1,00,000) category, while 26.60 per cent respondents had below (Rs. 50,000) annual income and only 20.00 per cent of the respondents from above (Rs.1,00,000) annual income. Present findings supported that the findings of Awasthi et al., 2002.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their age

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Young (below 35 yrs)	18	15.00
2	Middle(35-55 yrs)	81	67.50
3	Old(above 55 yrs)	21	17.50
Total		120	100

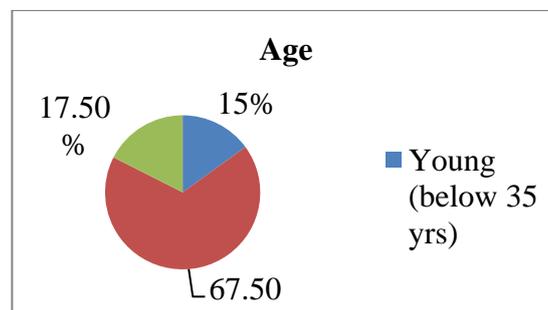


Fig. 1. Age-wise distribution of the respondents

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their education

S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	13	10.83
2	Up to primary	33	27.50
3	Up to middle	56	46.67
4	High school	8	04.00
5	Higher sec. & above	10	11.00
Total		120	100

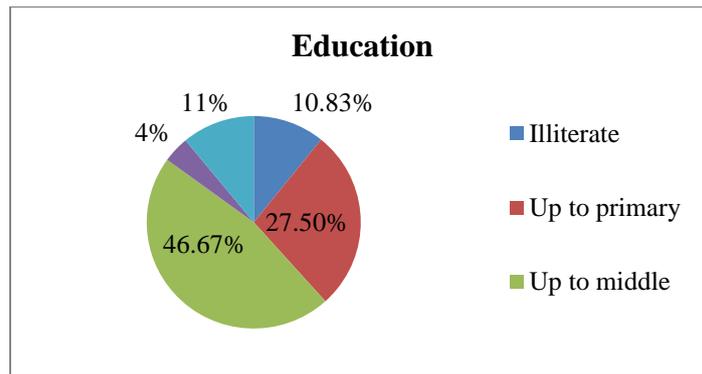


Fig. 2. Education-wise distribution of the respondents

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to their marital status

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Married	80	70.00
2	Unmarried	40	30.00
Total		120	100.00

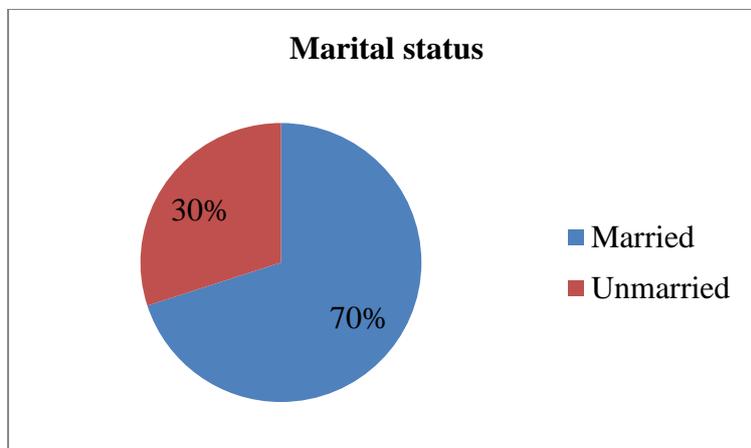


Fig. 3. Marital status-wise distribution of the respondents

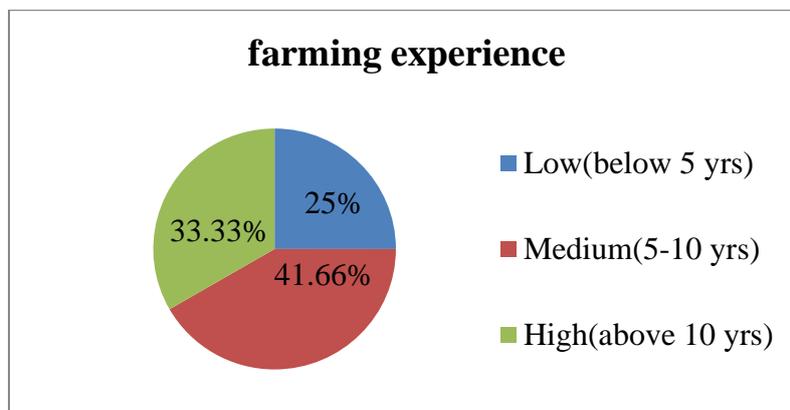


Fig. 4. Farming experience-wise distribution of the respondents

Table 4. Distribution of the respondents according to their farming experience

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low(below 5 yrs)	30	25.00
2	Medium(5-10 yrs)	50	41.66
3	High(above 10 yrs)	40	33.33
Total		120	100.00

Table 5. Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low(below 50,000/-)	32	26.60
2	Medium(50,000-1,00,000)	64	53.40
3	High(above 1,00,000)	24	20.00
Total		120	100.00

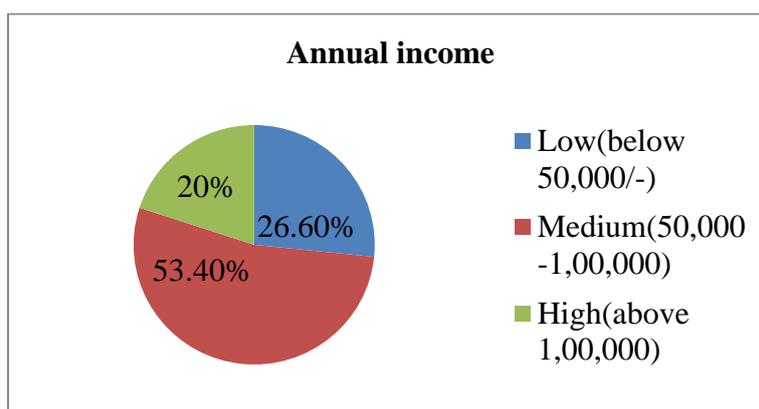


Fig. 5. Annual income-wise distribution of the respondents

3.1 Land Holding

Table 6 data indicate that maximum (46.60%) rural women possessed up to 1 hac. of land followed by 1.1 to 2 ha. (29.20%), while, 15.80 per cent respondents had medium size of land holding and only 8.40 per cent respondents possessed up to above 5.1 ha. land holding. Present findings supported that the finding of Badodiya et al., 2008.

3.2 Extension Participation

Table 1 show that 39.16 per cent of respondents were from medium category of extension participation, while 35.00 per cent of respondents and 25.90 per cent respondents had medium to

high extension participation, respectively. Present findings supported that the finding of Baba et al., 2009.

3.3 Source of Information

The data show highest percentage of respondents use of sources of information 100 per cent are use Agricultural development officer, Followed by 98.34 % use televisio, 91.66 % Subject Matter Specialist, 80 % KVK, 66.6 percent are use krashi patrica, 65.00 per cent are use cooperative agency. 61.11 percent are use Agricultural scientist.35 per cent women are use newspaper, 33.33 per cent women are use interne tare and 28.33 women are using a radio for use of source of information.

Table 6. Distribution of the respondents according to their land holding

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Marginal (up to 1 ha.)	56	46.60
2	Small (1.1 to 2 ha.)	35	29.20
3	Medium (2.1 to 5 ha.)	19	15.80
4	Large (above 5.1 ha.)	10	8.40
Total		120	100.00

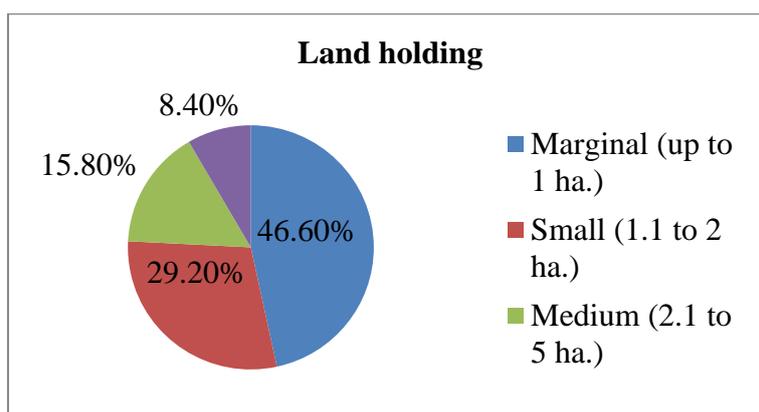


Fig. 6. Landholding-wise distribution of the respondents

Table 7. Distribution of the respondents according to their extension participation

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	42	35.00
2	Medium	47	39.16
3	High	31	25.90
Total		120	100.00

Table 8. Distributions of respondents according to source of information

Sr. No.	Categories	Yes		No	
		F	P	F	P
1	News paper	42	35	78	65
2	Radio	34	28.33	86	71.67
3	Television	118	98.34	02	1.66
4	Krashi Patrika	80	66.66	40	33.34
5	Agriculture development officer	120	100	0	0
6	Agricultural Scientist	74	61.11	46	38.89
7	Internet	40	33.33	80	66.67
8	Cooperative agency	78	65	42	35
9	Subject matter specialist	110	91.66	10	8.4
10	Krishi vigyan Kendra	96	80.00	24	20

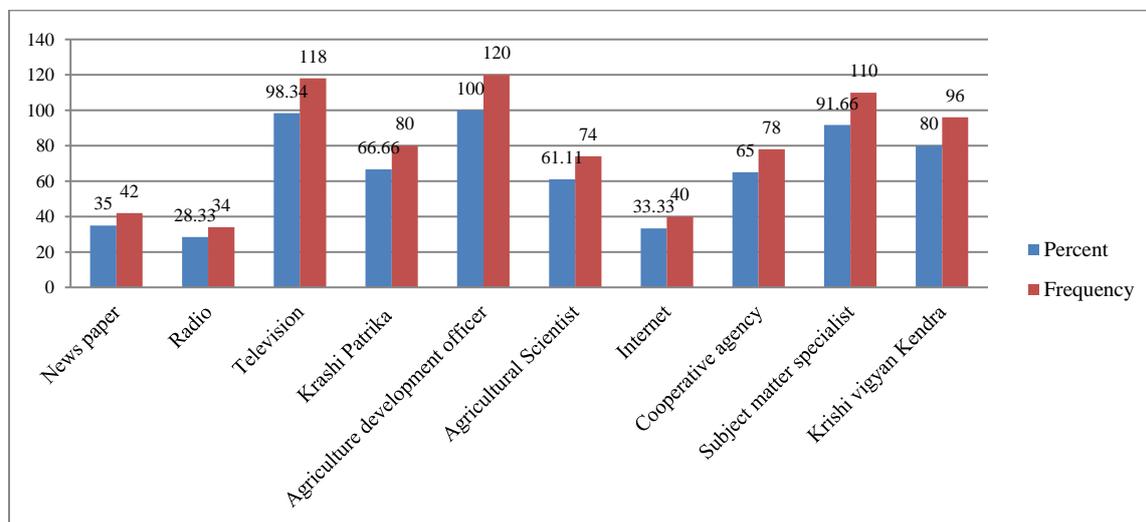


Fig. 7. Distribution of respondents based on their sources of information

3.4 Attitude Towards Agriculture

The distribution of rural women according to their attitude toward agriculture. The majority (56.60%) of the rural women had medium attitude towards agriculture, while, 29.16 per cent of rural women had low attitude towards agriculture and 14.16 per cent had high attitude towards agriculture.

Table 9 data are showed that maximum attitude toward agriculture in medium category are 56.60 per cent, while, low category 29.16 per cent and high category per cent 14.16 for attitude toward agriculture. Present findings supported that the finding of Baig, 2010.

3.5 Knowledge about Agricultural Activities

Table 10 it is revealed that the knowledge about agriculture activities highest percentage of respondents 100 percent in weeding, followed by 93.33% irrigation, land ploughing 72.50%, selection of seed 54.16% seed, Treatment 80.00%, sowing 61.66 %, manure and fertilizer 33.33%, irrigation 93.33%, weeding 100 %, plant protection 35.83%, harvesting 100% and marketing 20.00% are involve in agriculture activities. Present findings supported that the finding of Bharathi and Badiger, 2009; Bharti et al., 2000.

Table 9. Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards agriculture

S. No	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	35	29.16
2	Medium	68	56.60
3	High	17	14.16
Total		120	100.00

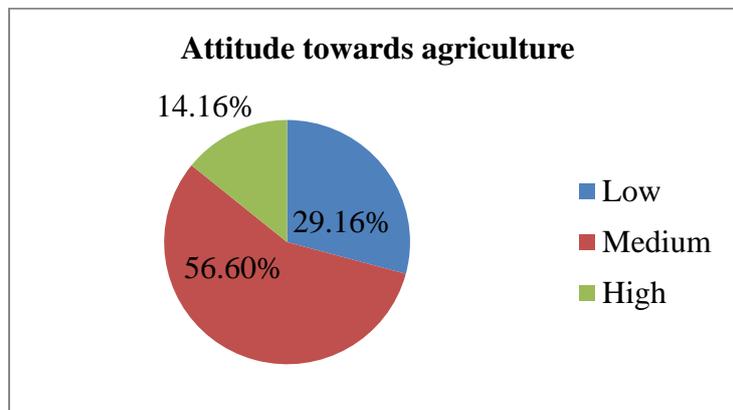


Fig. 8. Distribution of the respondents based on their attitude towards agriculture

Table 10. Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge about agricultural activities

S. No.	Activities	Yes		No	
		F	P	F	P
1	Land ploughing	87	72.50	33	27.50
2	Selection of seed	65	54.16	55	45.84
3	Seed treatment	96	80.00	24	20.00
4	Sowing	74	61.66	46	38.34
5	Manure & Fertilizer	40	33.33	80	66.67
6	Irrigation	112	93.33	08	6.67
7	Weeding	120	100	0	0
8	Plant protection	43	35.83	77	64.17
9	Harvesting	120	100	0	0
10	Marketing	24	20.00	96	80.00

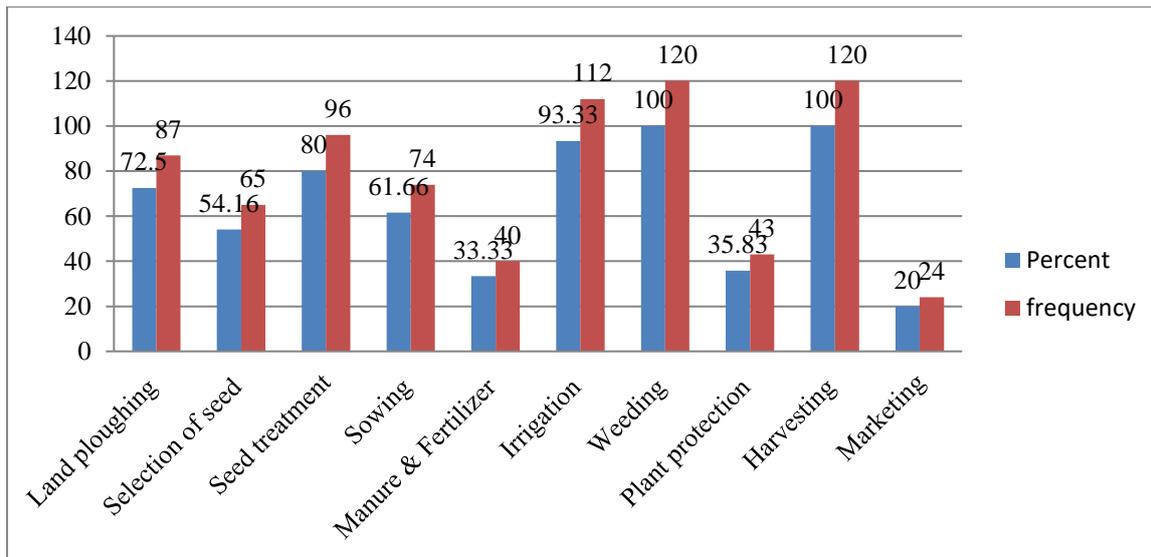


Fig. 9. Distribution of the respondents based on their knowledge regarding agricultural activities

4. CONCLUSION

The socio-personal, socio-economic, communicational, and psychological traits of rural women highlight their resilience, adaptability, and significant contributions to their families and communities. Despite playing a crucial role in economic activities, rural women often face challenges such as financial dependence, wage disparities, limited access to education, and restricted ownership of resources. Their communication remains primarily reliant on interpersonal networks and traditional media, though increasing access to mobile technology is gradually improving their information reach. Psychologically, rural women exhibit strong endurance and emotional strength, yet they often suffer from stress and mental health issues due to economic insecurity and societal pressures. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive policies and initiatives that focus on education, financial inclusion, improved healthcare access, and psychological well-being. Empowering rural women is not only essential for their individual growth but also for the overall development of rural communities, ensuring gender equality and sustainable progress.

DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

Author(s) hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc) and text-to-image generators have been used during writing or editing of this manuscript.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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