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Gender dynamics in the access to and management of productive resources

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ABSTRACT: Gender roles and disparities in access to productive resources are deeply rooted in broader societal systems, including cultural norms, legal frameworks, and institutional structures and practices. Substantial evidence indicates that in many rural contexts, women have significantly less access than men to critical resources such as land, capital, credit, technology, wage labor markets, and training opportunities. In light of this, the present study was undertaken to examine gender-based access to and control over productive resources in the state of Haryana. The study was conducted in two districts: Hisar and Jhajjar. From each district, one block was selected at random—Hisar-I from Hisar and Bahadurgarh from Jhajjar. Subsequently, one village was randomly selected from each block: Dahima from Hisar-I and Sankhol from Bahadurgarh. A total of 160 respondents were findings of the study revealed that, regardless of district, women consistently experienced lower and unequal access to all categories of productive resources compared to their male counterparts.

KEY WORDS: Gender, disparities, access and productive resources

I. INTRODUCTION

Productive resources such as land, employment opportunities, education, credit, physical assets and training are essential for improving people's quality of life. Yet societies differ widely in how equitably they distribute and allow access to these resources. In every culture, formal laws, institutional practices and deep-seated norms shape gendered patterns of access. As a result, rural women who often provide more than half of all farm labor—frequently face barriers to land ownership, capital, credit, appropriate technology, wage employment and skills training. By limiting women's eligibility for these inputs simply because they lack formal title or recognized "producer" status, many systems overlook the fact that excluding half the rural workforce from full participation severely undermines overall productivity.

Two inputs in particular technology and credit play a pivotal role in any agricultural enterprise. Despite women's clear and substantial contributions to farm output, extension services seldom tailor their methods or innovations to women's specific needs or daily realities. Women-focused tools and techniques, both for the household and the fields, are rarely developed, and those that do exist often fail to reduce the physical burden of farm work. At the same time, loan application processes remain complex, collateral-driven and time-consuming effectively barring women from accessing the funds they need. Consequently, rural women are routinely excluded from the very technologies, financial products and support services that could make their labor more efficient, their incomes more secure and their communities more resilient.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in Haryana state. From Haryana state two districts were selected randomly viz. Hisar and Jhajjar. One block from each district was selected randomly (Hisar-I from Hisar and Bahadurgarh from Jhajjar) and one village viz., Dahima from Hisar-I and Sankhol from Bahadurgarh was selected randomly. Total sample of 160 respondents were selected randomly including 80 respondents (40 male and 40 female) from Dahima and 80 (40 male and 40 female) from Sankhol. A structured interview schedule was developed to Inter-gender access to and control over productive resources in Haryana and data were collected personally by researcher. This was dully pretested before administration. Percentage, frequency and mean were used for statistical analysis.

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III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

Inter-gender access to productive resources

Table 1 contained the information pertaining to differential access to productive resources i.e. education, land holding, employment, training, and mass media. The inter-gender access to productive resource among the male, the data in table depicts that 96.25 per cent male were paid employee hence it was ranked first followed by mass media, education and land holding get the II, III and IV rank in order of sequence. The least access was observed for productive resources like training got V rank.

In case of female, highest access was observed in mass media exposure (Ist rank) whereas education and employment was ranked second and third respectively. Last rank was awarded to aid work and land holding.

Information in the same table depicted district-wise differential access to productive resources regarding education, land holding, training, employment and mass media exposure female of Sankhol village had more access to other productive resources viz.; education, employment and mass media whereas female from Dahima village availed training facility more than Sankhol village women.

Table 1 : Inter-gender access to productive resources

S. N.	Categories	Dahima		Sankhol		N = 160			
		n = 40 Male	n = 40 Female	n = 40 Male	n = 40 Female	n = 80 Male	Rank	n = 80 female	Rank
1	Education	35.0 (87.50)	25.0 (62.50)	37.0 (92.50)	30.0 (75.0)	72.0 (90.0)	III	55.0 (68.75)	II
2	Land holding	35.0 (87.50)	2.0 (5.0)	36.0 (90.0)	1.0 (2.50)	71.0 (88.75)	IV	3.0 (3.75)	V
3	Employment (paid)	37.0 (92.50)	4.0 (10.0)	40.0 (100.0)	7.0 (17.50)	77.0 (96.25)	I	11.0 (13.75)	IV
4	Training	7.0 (17.50)	10.0 (25.0)	2.0 (5.0)	4.0 (16.0)	9.0 (11.25)	V	14.0 (17.00)	III
5	Mass media	35.0 (87.50)	30.0 (75.0)	38.0 (95.0)	35.0 (87.50)	73.0 (91.25)	II	65.0 (81.25)	I
	Over all mean access	**29.80 (74.50)**	**14.20 (35.50)**	**30.60 (76.50)**	**15.40 (38.50)**	**60.40 (75.00)**		**29.60 (37.00)**	

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

With regards to over all access to productive resources, data in Table 1 further indicated that irrespective of sex comparatively both male and female from Sankhol village had maximum access to all the productive resources. Data related to inter-gender access to over all productive resources revealed that irrespective of districts women have low and unequal access to all productive resources.

Conclusively, results indicated that women had started getting access to some of the productive resources like education, mass-media, employment etc. But for social and economic development of country it is not sufficient because empowering women contribute to social development and economic progress in any country whether developed or under developed could be achieved through social development. Hence women empowerment can not be ignored. Providing adequate access to various productive resources is the single most urgent need for the upliftment of women in general and farm women in particular.

Gender-wise level of access to productive resources

To examine the gender-wise access to productive resources, the responses of both the sexes to each statement under inter-gender access to productive resources such as education, land holding, employment, training, and mass media

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were summed up and divided into three categories i.e. high, medium, and low. Results have been discussed in Table 2 which shows that 42.50 percent male had medium level of access followed by high (35.0%) and low (22.50%).

In case of female, it can be discerned that 72.50 percent female had low level of access followed by medium (25.0%). Only 2.50 percent female had high level of access to productive resources.

Table 2 : Gender-wise level of access to productive resources

Sr. No.	Categories	Dahima		Sankhol		N = 160	
		n = 40 Male	n = 40 Female	n = 40 Male	n = 40 Female	n = 80 Male	n = 80 Female
1	Low (5 to 25)	10 (25.0)	30 (75.0)	8 (20.0)	28 (70.0)	18 (22.50)	58 (72.50)
2	Medium (26 to 50)	18 (45.0)	10 (25.0)	16 (40.0)	10 (25.0)	34 (42.50)	20 (25.0)
3	High (51 to 75)	12 (30.0)	0 (0.0)	16 (40.0)	2 (5.0)	28 (35.0)	2 (2.50)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

District-wise data in the table further revealed that majority of the female (75.0%) from Dahima village had low access to productive resources. Only five per cent female from Sankhol village had high access to productive resources whereas in Dahima village their percentage is nil in high access to productive resources. The present findings are similar to that of **Paul, P. and Meena B.S. (2016)** who reported that male and female had different level of access to and control over the resources in different region of Tripura.

Gender-wise level of control over resources

Efforts were made to explore whether respondents had any control over productive resources or not. The responses of both the sexes to each statements under inter-gender control over land, training, education, employment and mass media were pooled together and categorized into three i.e. high, medium and low.

The data in Table 3 revealed that overall inter-gender control over productive resources and it clearly unveil that most of men had medium level of the control (66.25%) followed by high (32.5%) and Low (1.25%) over productive resources. Where as in case of female the reverse trend was observed as majority of the females (81.25%) had low followed by medium (13.75%). Few responses were noticed in case of high (5.0%) to control over productive resources.

District- wise analysis in the same table further revealed that majority of female from Dahima (87.5%) and Sankhol (75.0%) female had low level of control over all productive resources. 10.0 and 17.0 percent female respondents from Dahima and Sankhol had medium level of control over resources respectively.

Table 3: Gender-wise level of control over resources

Sr. No.	Categories	Dahima		Sankhol		N = 160	
		n = 40 Male	n = 40 Female	n = 40 Male	n = 40 Female	n = 80 Male	n = 80 Female

1	Low (Upto 5)	1 (2.50)	35 (87.50)	0 (0.0)	30 (75.0)	1 (1.25)	65 (81.25)
2	Medium (6 to 10)	25 (62.50)	4 (10.0)	28 (70.0)	7 (17.50)	53 (66.25)	11 (13.75)
3	High (11 to 15)	15 (35.0)	1 (2.50)	12 (30.0)	3 (7.50)	26 (32.50)	4 (5.0)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage

Women's access to productivity increasing resources is constrained by their household status, gender or both. They further added that bias in control of land according to gender. None of the farm women had land in their name. **PAUL, M. M. & RANI, P.R. (2017)** concluded that men had a slightly greater access and control over the resources like income and household appliances.

IV. CONCLUSION:

Based on the findings of the study, it can be concluded that women have significantly lower and unequal access to productive resources compared to men. The study also revealed that men exercise greater control over these resources. While women may have limited access in certain areas, their ability to make decisions or exert control over these resources remains minimal. These disparities highlight the urgent need for gender sensitization initiatives to promote more equitable access and control over productive resources for women.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Education has an impact on access to, control over, and perception about access to and control of productive resources both in case of male and female. There is a need to take several actions such as increasing the number of high school for girls in the village, increasing community mobilization and involvement in schools especially in girl's education.

- Raise awareness among women about their rights and laws.
- Women's equality in power sharing and active participation in decision making should be improved.

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