

A role of Farmwomen with special reference to Food Security in Ottapidaram Block of Thoothukudi District

F.REKHA MORAIS MA

M.Phil., Lecturer, Department of Economics, V.O.C College, Thoothukudi.

Abstract The Food security Problem in India is currently one of acquiescence, as a sizable share of the population lacks economic and physical access to sufficient food. Poverty in India is falling but concerns over Food Security are increasing with a networks of more than 4.62lakh fair price shops, public Distribution System (PDS) is perhaps the largest distribution machinery of its type in the world through which government of India ensure, food security at the micro – level. Each year PDS is said to distribute commodities worth more than Rs.30,000 core to about 160 million families. However the doubts have been raised about the efficacy and cost effectiveness of the PDS, especially in the light of the growing food Keywords nutritious food, PDS, food security, food supply etc.

Indexed Terms : Nutrious food, PDS, food security, food supply

I. INTRODUCTION

Food security means that all people at all times have access to safe and nutritious food to maintain health and an active life. This definition implies three dimensions of food security, namely adequate supply, affordability and stability at various levels, i.e at the global, national, household and individual levels.

The concept of food security implies, “a situation that exists when all peoples, at all times, have physical, social and economics access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food Preferences for an active and healthy life” (FAQ 2002)

Household Food Security

According to United Nations, a household is food secure when it has access to food need for a health life for all its members (adequate in terms of quality, safety and culturally acceptable) and when it is not at undue risk of losing such access.

Food Security implies livelihood security at the level of each household and all members with in and

involves ensuring both physical and economics access to balanced diet, safe drinking, water, and environmental sanitation, primary educational and basic health care.

It is proved that Indian rural women are responsible for every phase of the food Cycle – Productions, Postharvest activity, marketing, meal planning and Preparation, so here the question arises that how is the involvement of women in food security of their families.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To know the type of food security the family gets with the involvement of farmwomen.
2. To investigate the role, activities and degree of involvement of farmwomen in supply of different food items for their family food security.
3. To take few strategies to highlight some policy suggestions to enhance food security.
- 4.

III. METHODOLOGY

The Present study was collected from both primary and secondary sources. The researcher has personally interviewed the selected respondents with pre – tested interview schedule. The secondary data will be collected from books, journals, published reports and etc. the researcher has collected 50 sample on the basic of simple random sampling methods with the help of interview schedule.

IV. HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no relationship between education and income of the respondents.

Analysis

Table -1 Size of the Household

S.No	Size of the Household	No of family	Percentage
1	1 – 3	30	20
2	3 – 5	54	36
3	5 – 7	45	30
4	Above 7	21	14
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data

The table -1 explain that 20% of them have only 1- 3 family members, 36% of the respondents have the family size 3 - 5, 30% of the respondents have 5 – 7 as their family members and only 14% of the respondents have more than 7 members in their family.

Table -2 Educational Qualification

S.No	Educational Qualification	No of the respondents	Percentage
1	Upto 8 th	36	24
2	X standard	60	40
3	XII standard	33	22
4	Degree	21	14
	Total	150	100

Source: Primary Data

It can be seen from the above table that 24% of the respondents are studying upto 8th standard 40%, of the respondents holding 10th qualification and 22% of the respondents are studies XII standard and 14% of the respondents are completed their degree course.

Table -3 Monthly income wise classification (in Rs)

S.No	Income per Month	Sample	Percentage
1	Below – 6000	15	10
2	6000 – 8000	45	30
3	8000 – 10,000	60	40
4	Above 10,000	30	20
	Total	150	

Source: Primary Data

The above table -3 shows that out of the 150 respondents 10% of the respondents belong to the income range of below Rs.6000, 30% of the respondents belong to the income range of Rs.6000 – 8000, 40% of the respondents are earned income between Rs.8,000 – 10,000 and 20% of the respondents are earned income above Rs.10,000.

Table -4 Role and activities of women in food security

S.No	Activities	Degree of involvement (%)			
		Every day	Once in a week	Once in month	Once in a 6 month
1	Supply of green leaves	12	44	28	16
2	Supply of vegetables	54	26	14	6
3	Supply of milk and milk products	46	28	16	10
4	Supply of animal protein	22	38	22	18

Source: Primary Data

The above table-4 explains that 44% and 12% of the farm women are engaged with supply of green leaves once in a week and everyday respectively. The degree of involvement of women in supply of vegetable every day is accounted 54% and 26% once in a week, 46% and 28% of the women are engaged with supply of milk and milk products. They supply of animal protein by the women accounted 38% and 18% once in a week and once in a six month.

Table -5 Enhancement of Self – life / storage

S. No	Activities	Degree of involvement (%)			
		Every day	Once in a week	Once in month	Once in a 6 month
1	Fermentation of cereals and pulses	54	24	16	14
2	Preparation of dry food mixes	10	32	38	20
3	Frying of pulses	16	28	44	12
4	Preservation of food items	14	40	32	14
5	Method of extension of self life of fruits and vegetables	36	48	16	-
6	Extraction of oil through indigenous methods at home	-	40	36	24

Source: Primary Data

The above table 5 explains that the degree of involvement by the farm women in terms of fermentation of cereals and pulses accounted 54% in every day 14% once in six months. The preparation of dry food mixes by the women involved are 38% and 32% once in a month and once in week respectively, frying of pulses 44% and 28% once in a month and once in a week, 48% and 16% of the women involves in fruits and vegetables once in a week and once in a

month. The degree of involvement of women in terms of extraction of oil through indigenous methods at home 40% and 36% once in a week and once in a month respectively.

Table – 6 Supply of foods

S. No	Activities	Degree of involvement (%)			
		Every day	Once in a week	Once in month	Once in 6 month
1	Production at home stead land	46	32	14	8
2	Collection from Outside	24	42	22	12
3	Purchase from markets	10	22	58	10

Source : Primary data

The above table -6 shows that the production at home stead land used by the farm women (ie) 46% and 8% in everyday and once in six month, 42% and 24% of the women collected the foods and supplied once in a week and everyday, 58% and 22% of the women purchased goods from the market and supplied once in a month and once in a week.

Null Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between education and income of the respondents.

Degrees of freedom 3, table value = 7.815 calculated value 20.18. The calculated value is greater than the table value. So we reject the null hypothesis and we accept the alternative hypothesis that there is a relationship between level of education of the respondents and their income.

V. FINDINGS

- 36% of the respondents have the family size of 3 – 5
- 40% of the respondents studies X standard
- 40% of the respondents are earned income between Rs.8000 – 10,000/-
- The degree of involvement of women in supply of vegetables everyday is accounted for 54% the supply of green leaves is 44% once in a week, the supply of milk product is 28% once in a month, 18% of them are involved once in a month in the supply of animal protein.
- The degree of involvement by the farm women in term of Fermentation of cereals and pulses

accounted 54% in every day. The preparation of dry food mixes by the women involved are 38% once in a month, Fry in of Pulses by 44% once in a month, women involved are 38% once in a month, Fry in of Pulses by 44% once in a month, 48% of the women involved in Fruits and vegetables once in a week and the degree of involvement of women in extraction of oil through indigenous methods at home are 40% once in a week.

- The production at home stead land used by the farm women 46% in every day, 42% of the women collected the foods and supplied once in a week, 58% of the women purchase goods from them markets.

VI. SUGGESTION

1. Food security must focus in a diversified food basket, not food grains along,
2. The Government should develop appropriate policies and programs to check malnutrition as human right issues
3. Establish a regular nutrition surveillance and growth monitoring system at national and international level.
4. Develop clear indicates of violation of nutritious right along with national mechanisms of monitoring and reporting of violations.
5. Food subsidies could be continued in order maintain the per capita consumption.
6. Food banks at grass root levels should be well maintained.
7. Encouraging legislation adopting the right to nutrition and establish national and regional nutritious right commission.

VII. CONCLUSION

Food insecurity and hunger are real and growing problems in India and the entire world. The roots of crisis those have been highlighted by analysts, but largely ignored by policy marker in most countries. Burgeoning population of India leads to increase in consumption, but since the production is not growing at the same rate, there needs to be a mechanism to ensure enough food for poor. We also need to implement measures like rain water harvesting, watershed along with improvements in irrigation facilities.

REFERENCES

- [1] R.Radha Krishna and K.Vnekara Reddy, 'Food security and Nutrition vision : 2020

- [2] Dr.P.Vekatarao and Dr. Ch.Thandav Krishna, Food Security in India, Kisan world, June 2009
- [3] K.P.SureshNaik, S.N.Anil Kumar and Shamaraj, India towards Food security kisan world, January 2012
- [4] Dr.Aarender Raj Gautham, Food Security need to strengthen the Agriculture sector, kiurushetra June 2008.