

Interest Pattern of the Rural Women

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ABSTRACT

Rural women play an important role in home, farm and leisure activities. The success of family living and farming depend upon how well the family makes its interests. Therefore, it is necessary that they should have interest pattern of rural woman. Hence, to measure the interest pattern of rural women about vocational (home, farm and leisure time) a standardized interest test was developed for the study. Interest is operationalized as the totality of understood information proposed by a person. The study was conducted of C.D. blocks Karanjakala and Jalalpur, district Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. The total number of respondents selected for this study was 282 rural women from all the 27 villages. Out of ten interest areas, the outdoor (50.42 %) has attracted maximum attention of the respondents.

Keywords: Rural women; Leisure Activities; Interest Pattern

Rural women play an important role in home, farm and leisure activities. The success of family living and farming depend upon how well the family makes its interests. Therefore, it is necessary that they should have interest pattern of rural woman. Hence, to measure the interest pattern of rural women about vocational (home, farm and leisure time) a standardized interest test was developed for the study. Interest is operationalized as the totality of understood information proposed by a person.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected district of Jaunpur. Since the district is consists of 21 CD Blocks, hence for in-depth and comprehensive 10 per cent (two blocks namely Karanjakala and Jalalpur) of the blocks were selected randomly. There selected CD Blocks were Karanjakala and Jalalpur thereafter, 10 per cent villages from two selected

CD Blocks were randomly selected. Firstly the lists of farm families of each selected village were prepared. Thereafter 10 per cent families from the list each selected village were selected randomly. The required information was collected from only female head of the family of the selected family as respondent. Finally, the

total number of respondents selected for this study was 282 rural women from all the 27 villages.

The data were collected in light of the objectives of study with the help of a structured schedule by conducting personal interview. The co-efficient of correlation test was employed to access the relationship of independent variables with the dependent variables.

A standardized interest test was developed by following the procedures used by Kuder Preference Record (1938), Bureau of Psychology Allahabad Interest Inventory and Raghuraj Pal Singh, Interest Record (1976). This interest test was divided into 10 interest areas each area has been in 10-10 test items. It interest test has been in some vocational interest also included. These interest areas are as agriculture, outdoor, mechanical, computational, scientific, persuasive, arts & craft (artistic), musical, literary and social service.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Personal and Socio-economic Characteristics of the respondents: It has proved that personal and socio-economic characteristics are a significant factor which has definite role in interest pattern of the rural women. The Table 1 that majority of 58.16 per cent respondents was belonged to middle age group. The mean age of

the respondents was found to be 44.62 years of the rural women. More than half of the respondents (55.67) were found to be illiterate. It can be concluded that maximum number of farm women had their education standard up to primary level. A caste is social category whose members are assigned a permanent status within a given social hierarchy and whose contacts are restricted. Majority of the respondents (45.39 %) were belonged to agricultural caste.

The family occupation of the respondents was

considered as main and has been studied on the basis of more than 50 per cent earning of the family from a particular occupation. The highest number i.e. 46.81 per cent respondent's families were reported cultivation as their main occupation. Almost all the respondents i.e. 95.04 per cent had no participation in social organization. A maximum number of the respondent (39.36) was observed in the marginal category of farmers (less than one acre). Majority of 59.57 per cent respondents had pucca house. A maximum number of the respondents

Table 1. Personal and Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents (N=282)

Characteristics	No. & %	House Possession Category	
<i>Age</i>		Hut	11 (3.90)
Young(21-35 years)	54 (19.15)	Kachcha House	37 (13.12)
Middle (36-50 years)	164 (58.16)	Mixed House	53 (18.80)
Old (Above 50 years)	64 (22.69)	Pucca House	168 (59.57)
Mean-	44.62	Mansion	13 (4.61)
<i>Education Category</i>		Family Type	
Illiterate	157 (55.67)	Single	138 (48.94)
Can read and write	20 (7.09)	Joint	144 (51.06)
Primary	40 (14.19)	Family Size	
Middle	24 (8.51)	Up to 5 members	78 (27.66)
High School or Higher Secondary	28 (9.93)	More than 5 members	204 (72.34)
Graduate and above	13 (4.61)	Household Material Possession	
<i>Caste Category</i>		Car/Jeep	06 (2.13)
Scheduled Caste	24 (8.51)	Motorcycle	78 (27.66)
Lower Caste	81 (28.72)	Freeze	23 (8.16)
Artisan Caste	27 (9.57)	Washing Machine	12 (4.26)
Agricultural Caste	128 (45.39)	Cooler	15 (5.32)
Prestige Caste	12 (4.25)	Gas Stove	35 (12.41)
Dominant Caste	10 (3.55)	Cycle	248 (87.94)
<i>Occupation Category</i>		Sewing Machine	45 (15.96)
Labour or Agricultural Labour	25 (8.86)	Fan	149 (52.84)
Caste Occupation	73 (25.89)	Grinder	20 (7.09)
Business	17 (6.03)	Chair/Table	54 (19.15)
Independent Profession	05 (1.77)	Pressure Cooper	87 (30.85)
Cultivation	132 (46.81)	Not any household materials	28 (9.93)
Service	30 (10.64)	<i>Farm Material Possession</i>	
<i>Social Participation Category</i>		Chaff Cutter/Sprayer/Duster	132 (53.90)
Member of no organization	268 (95.04)	Winnower	24 (8.51)
Member of one organization	06 (2.13)	Seed Drill	13 (4.61)
Member of more than one organization	01 (0.35)	Thresher	06 (2.13)
Office holder	06 (2.13)	Leveler	27 (9.58)
Wider Public leader	01 (0.35)	Tube well / Oil Engine	03 (1.06)
<i>Land Possession Category</i>		Canecresher	44 (15.60)
Landless	71 (25.18)	Tractor	12 (4.26)
Marginal (less than one acre)	111 (39.36)	Not any Farm Material	128 (45.39)
Small (1-5 acres)	93 (32.98)	<i>Socio-economic Status</i>	
Medium (5-10 acres)	03 (1.06)	Lower (up to 12.58)	44 (15.60)
Large (more than 10 acres)	04 (1.42)	Middle (12.58 to 34.70)	197 (69.86)
		Upper (above 34.70)	41 (14.54)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentage.

(51.06 %) was reported their joint family and having more than 5 members (72.34 %) in their families. Majority of the respondents (87.94%) had cycle as household material possession. Nearly one and half respondents had chaffcutter as farm material. Majority of the respondents (69.86 %) were found in the medium level of socio-economic status.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their area of interest

Interest Area	MS	%	Rank
Agriculture	67.6	23.97	IV
Outdoor	142.3	50.42	I
Mechanical	20.5	7.27	X
Computational	46.7	16.56	VI
Scientific	64.5	22.87	V
Persuasive	32.9	11.67	VIII
Arts & Crafts	96.6	34.25	III
Musical	121.2	42.98	II
Literary	21.2	7.52	IX
Social service	39.8	14.11	VII

Interest Pattern: In order to find out the interest pattern of the respondents, there were 10 areas of interest pattern were classified as agriculture, outdoor, mechanical, computational, scientific, persuasive, arts & crafts, musical, literary and social service. The list of interest areas and their rank order by the respondents are presented in Table 2.

The table reveals that out of ten interest areas, the outdoor (50.42%) has attracted maximum attention of the respondents followed by musical (42.98%), arts & crafts (34.25%) agriculture (23.97%) and scientific (22.87%), respectively.

The order interest areas in descending order were computational (16.58%), social service (14.11%), persuasive (11.58%). The interest area like literacy and mechanical were also reported during the course of survey of a considerable number of respondents. The interest areas mentioned at Ist IInd IIIrd rank order i.e. outdoor musical and arts & craft were considered as most liking interest areas.

Table 3 shows that the interest pattern of the respondents was found positive and significantly associated with their education, caste, family occupation, social participation, land possession, farm material possession, household material possession and socio-economic status but negative and significantly affected by their age of the respondents.

Thus, it may be concluded that almost all variables had direct influence on their interest pattern means these

variables increases the interest pattern of the respondents also increases except variables like age, family, animal possession and number of female adults which observed no influences on the interest pattern of the respondents. There are similar findings reported by *Pandey (2001)*, *Singh, et al. (1975)* and *Singh, R. P. (1976)*.

Table 3. Association of the personal and socio-economic characteristics with Interest Pattern of the respondents

Independent Variable	Interest Pattern (r)
Age	-0.251 ^{xx}
Education	0.563 ^{xx}
Caste	0.431 ^{xx}
Family Occupation	0.433 ^{xx}
Social Participation	0.155 ^{xx}
Land Possession	0.344 ^{xx}
Family	-0.005
Farm Material possession	0.237 ^{xx}
Household Material Possession	0.403 ^{xx}
Animal Possession	0.035
Socio-economic Status	0.554 ^{xx}
Number of Female Adults	0.072

*significant at 0.05 probability level

**significant at 0.01 probability level

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the rural women of district Jaunpur had interested most area in the outdoor interest than musical and art & craft. These interests may be utilized as per their interest in productive purposes. The interest pattern of the rural woman was found positive and significantly affected by education, caste, family occupation, social participation, land possession, farm material, household material and socio-economic status. The data on interest reveals that rural women had the interest in agriculture; therefore, the concept of kitchen gardening on their waste land close to their residential area may be promoted for the best utilization their interest.

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