

Time Expenditure Pattern of Gaddi Tribal Women of Himachal Pradesh

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ABSTRACT Tribal women spent a large proportion of their time in carrying out household work, animal care, agricultural and allied tasks. However, gainfully employed respondents spent significantly less time while performing all these tasks than non-employed respondents. Thus, there is a scope to improve time use pattern of non-employed respondents for effective implementation of development policies and programmes in the free time available to them.

INTRODUCTION

The present paper attempts to examine the work pattern of employed and non-employed respondents, and investigates the extent of participation in terms of time spent in household, agricultural and allied tasks by employed and non-employed respondents.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study was carried out in notified Gaddi tribal area in 'Bharmour' sub-division of district Chamba (Himachal Pradesh). This sub-division has been declared by the state government as a notified tribal area and the tehsil consists of 82 per cent of total 'Gaddi' population. A multistage purposive-cum-random sampling method was followed for selecting the study area, villages, households and respondents. Bharmour sub-division was divided into five valley areas, viz., Bharmour, Kugti, Tundah, Holi and Samra. List of all inhabited villages in each valley were obtained from revenue records. List of women employees was obtained from various government, semi-government offices and private organisations. Final list of twenty eight villages was selected for the present study in consultation with Block-Development Officer of Bharmour. The list of total number of households in the selected villages was prepared with

the help of Gram Sevika. The list of households was then stratified according to employment status. A sample of 200 respondents (*i.e.* 100 employed and 100 non-employed) was selected.

An elaborate time observation sheet was prepared to record observation of the time expenditure pattern of the respondents through interview as well as observation method. This record sheet consisted of a list of detailed categories of tasks that tribal women are likely to pursue each day. A sub-sample of 40 households was selected for observation from 7.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. which comprised of 20 employed and 20 non-employed respondents. Observation of task performance were carried out for one-day for non-employed and two days for employed respondents, *i.e.* one on working day and second on a holiday to find out variations in time spending pattern by employed respondents. The observations were useful in cross-validating the time recorded by interview method from the respondents. The collected information was pooled and statistically analysed by employing 't' test to find out the differences in time use-pattern by employed and non-employed respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

I. Time Expenditure Pattern on Household Tasks

Activities that had high demand on home-maker's time in tribal area were meal preparation (198.6 min per day) and child care (60.6 mins per day Table 1). A majority of respondents prepared three meals a day, hence time utilisation on food related tasks such as pre-preparation, cooking, serving and post-cleaning was more. Most of the respondents had young children who needed more care from their mothers and thus demanded more time from respondents.

Table 1: Mean time spent in household work by the respondents (in mins per day)

Type of household work	Mean time spent in minutes/day						t' Value
	Employed (N=100)		Non-employed (N=100)		Total (N=200)		
	Mean time	S.D.	Mean time	S.D.	Mean time	S.D.	
Child care	60.3	60.1	61.0	63.9	60.6	61.9	-0.0798
Meal preparation	191.9	49.6	205.3	58.4	198.6	54.5	-1.749
Care of house	32.7	20.7	52.4	27.1	42.5	26.0	-5.794**
Care of Clothes	38.4	35.2	68.5	42.4	53.4	41.7	- 5.46**
Fetching water	9.8	14.0	12.3	12.0	11.1	13.1	-1.388
Fetching fuel	11.7	38.8	70.4	104.9	41.1	84.2	-4.957*
Shopping	22.0	26.2	27.3	43.9	24.6	36.1	-1.03
Account keeping	1.3	3.8	0.6	2.7	0.9	3.3	1.502
Care of others	11.2	25.6	7.6	22.0	9.4	23.6	1.090
Total	379.1	103.1	505.3	108.1	442.2	122.9	-8.452**

* Significant at 0.05 level

** Significant at 0.01 level

Significant differences were not found in time spent on child care, meal preparation, fetching of water, shopping, account keeping and care of others because all these tasks were usually performed by respondents irrespective of their employment status (Table 2). Tribal women fetched only drinking water as all other tasks related to water were performed near the source of water.

It can be concluded from the above analysis that tribal women spent a large proportion of their time carrying out household tasks (442.2 mins per day). However, a remarkable difference was seen in time expenditure pattern in carrying out household tasks by employed (379.1 mins per day) and non-employed respondents (505.3 mins per day) as proved by employing t- test ($t = -8.452$, significant).

Table 2: Mean time spent in animal care, agriculture and allied work (in mins per day)

Type of	Mean time spent in minutes/day						t' Value
Animal care, Agriculture and Allied work	Employed (N=100)		Non-employed (N=100)		Total (N=200)		
	Mean time	S.D.	Mean time	S.D.	Mean time	S.D.	
Animal care	58.2	78.6	124.2	94.8	91.2	93	-5.36**
Agriculture	12.6	18.0	28.8	19.2	20.4	18.6	-6.15**
Allied work	19.8	35.4	31.2	33.0	25.2	34.7	-2.375*

** Significant at 0.01 level

Employed respondents spent significantly less time on care of house (t -value = - 5.794, significant) and care of clothes (t -value = - 5.46, significant) and fetching fuel (t -value = 4.957, significant). Lack of time, more help from family members and paid-help accounted for less time spent in performing these tasks by employed respondents. In India's rural areas, firewood accounts for 68 per cent of total household energy use. Of this, around 13 per cent is purchased, 64 per cent is collected and 23 per cent is home grown.

II. Time Expenditure Pattern on Animal Care, Agricultural and Allied Tasks

Tribal women spent considerable time in agricultural tasks throughout the year and more so during the peak season. During lean period, respondents were involved in agricultural tasks daily and/or thrice a week. On an average 20.4 mins per day were spent in performing these tasks. Employed respondents spent significantly less time on agricultural tasks than non-employed respondents *i.e.* - 6.15, significant (Table 2).

On an average 91.2 mins were spent by respondents in care of animals. Non-employed respondents spent almost double the time (*i.e.* 124.2 mins) than employed respondents (*i.e.* 58.2 mins per day). Significant t-values (*i.e.* -5.36, significant) confirmed this result. Commonly pursued allied tasks by respondents included spinning, weaving, kitchen gardening and tailoring.

Spinning and weaving were carried out intermittently throughout the day during winter season and as and when time permitted during summer season. Respondents from sample households on

an average spent 25.2 mins per day on all allied activities including kitchen gardening and tailoring. Employed respondents spent significantly less time on allied activities (t-value = -2.375, significant) than non-employed respondents.

On the whole, employed respondents spent significantly less time on household, agricultural and allied activities than non-employed respondents (t-value = -8.452, significant). It can be concluded from the above analysis that employed respondents spent considerably less time in performing household, agricultural and allied tasks than their non-employed counterparts.