Female farmer’s view to hand over the ownership rights of the farming land to daughter-in-law - A study of Rural Area of Sikkim in North-Eastern India

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Abstract

The present study has analyzed the existing information about female farmer’s view to hand over the ownership rights of the farming land to daughter-in-law in the rural area of Sikkim in North-Eastern India and suggested some points so that the ownership rights in property can be granted to daughter-in-law. The researcher’s main aim behind this feeling is that having attained the ownership rights, they would be willing to work even harder in farming. In the region despite majority of the population is dependent on agriculture sector, still it is in the evolving shape and poses a variety of challenges. The contribution of women in this noble sector is although enormous yet invisible and does not get counted for much. Social science research in the state of Sikkim is inadequate despite several incentives provided by the state government. Nowadays, with voluminous amount of public expenditure on women empowerment schemes, we cannot ignore this issue thus making it unavoidable to empower them also with the intention to fully utilize their caliber in this field. Keeping this in mind, data was collected from 230 female farmers through interviews using a pre-designed schedule from 24 circles from all the four districts of Sikkim State. Based on their subjective judgments, female farmer’s views to hand over the property to daughter-in-law have been measured and analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS). Some descriptive statistics, such as percentage, mean, standard deviation as well as one sample t-test of inferential statistics is used to interpret the data. The findings of the study revealed that significantly more number of sample female farmers on an average are interested in owning property. As far as their views to hand over the property to daughter-in-law is concerned, the data shows that no more number of sample female farmers are in favour of handing over the property to their daughter-in-law. Results pertaining to these findings have been discussed in this paper.

Keywords: Female Farmers, ownership rights, farming land, daughter-in-law, Rural Area, Sikkim.

INTRODUCTION

Women play a distinctive role in shaping the rural economic activities and earning a livelihood. India is a agriculture dominated country and most of manual operations like sowing, weeding, transplanting, harvesting, threshing and winnowing and even marketing of agricultural produce are being done by women. Their contribution to the rural economy is enormous. But the role of women in economic and social development has not received due recognition so far in our society. But, efforts are being made by the Government to give due recognition to their participation by making various laws time to time in favour of women. Contrary to the common perception about women in India, a large percentage of them work (Women of India, 2006). The National data collection agencies accept the fact that there is a serious under-estimation of women's contribution as workers. However, there are far fewer women in the paid workforce than there are men (Kalyani and Kumar2001). In urban India Women have impressive number in the workforce and they are at par with their male counter parts in terms of wages, position at the work place (Singh and Hoge 2010). In rural India, agriculture and allied industrial sectors employ as much as 89.5% of the total female labour (Asia's women,2006). In overall farm production, women's average contribution is estimated at 55% to 66% of the total labour. According to a 1991 World Bank report, women accounted for 94% of total employment in dairy production in India. Women constitute 51% of the total employed in forest-based small-scale enterprises (Asia's women, 2006).

Actually, the social, economic and cultural conditions of the area determine women’s participation in home and farm activities. The nature and extent of women’s involvement in agriculture, no doubt, varies greatly from region to region and within a region, their involvement varies among different farming systems, castes, classes and socio-economic status. But regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production, except ploughing in which women are not actively involved (Swaminathan, 1985). In some of the farm activities like processing and storage, women predominate so strongly that men workers are numerically insignificant.

However, the Indian Himalayan region (IHR) displays a different picture in land use pattern and its dependency on agricultural land. The Himalayan people have traditionally practiced integrated agriculture, balancing cultivation, agro-forestry, animal husbandry and forestry. Mountain geography and inaccessibility have helped maintain agro-biodiversity; yet commercial agriculture is not as high-yielding and profitable as in the plains. Here forest is the major land use pattern, which covers over 52% of total reporting area followed by wastelands and agricultural land.
However, the dependency on its limited arable land is marginally higher in the IHR as cultivators and agricultural labourers together comprise about 59% of total workforce in the region (Nandy and Samal, 2005).

Some historians believe that it was woman who first domesticated crop plants and thereby initiated the art and science of farming. While men went out hunting in search of food, women started gathering seeds from the native flora and began cultivating those of interest from the point of view of food, feed, fodder, fiber and fuel (Prasad and Singh 1992). Women have protected the health of the soil through organic recycling and promoted crop security through the maintenance of varietal diversity and genetic resistance. Therefore, without the total intellectual and physical participation of women, it will not be possible to popularize alternative systems of land management to shifting cultivation, arrest gene and soil erosion, and promote the care of the soil and the health of economic plants and farm animals.

FARMING STRATEGIES ADOPTED BY THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN THE STATE

The state has a target of converting it into a fully organic state by 2015. In this regard, the Department has started a lot of measures to replace the chemical fertilizers by using bio fertilizers and organic manures. Effective Microorganism (EM) technology in production of compost and bokashi and bio-pesticide is being propagated among the farmers in technical collaboration with MAPLE ORTECH, Dehradun to give boost to organic farming in Sikkim. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology is being practiced to control the pests. Predators are produced in Sikkim State IPM Lab and are released in the farmers’ field as and when required. The Government has set up a livelihood school also on organic farming at Tadong, Gangtok. This is first of its type in the country. Participants will be given 3 months training on organic farming processes. Trained youths will go to villages and assist farmers at village level. Popularization of HYV seeds, production of quality seeds, mixed cropping, pest management through Farmers Field Schools (FFS), recycling of farm waste for compost production, soil reclamation by liming, seed treatment campaign and integrated farming through watershed approach are some of the strategies adopted by the Department in the state.

Mechanization has varied connotations. While in the developed world it tends to be synonymous to automation but in developing countries, like India especially in hilly areas, mechanization means any improved tool, implement, machinery or structure that assists in enhancement of workers’ output, multiplies the human effort, supplements or substitutes human labour, avoids drudgery or stresses that adversely affect human mental activities leading to errors, imprecision and hazards and eventually loss of efficiency. It also means automation and controls that assure quality, hygiene. Agricultural mechanization in a limited sense relates to production agriculture.

Farming with machinery in Sikkim is almost nonexistent. However Power operated Thresher, Hand Winmower, Hand Maize Sheller, Iron Plough and other gender friendly machineries have been introduced on experimental basis. Sprinkler and drip irrigation has been taken up on demonstration basis. Agriculture in the state is mainly rain fed. Farm mechanization here in Sikkim is meant for increasing the production and productivity, comfort and safety, return and profitability to farmer.

DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES

According to (Census 2011), Sikkim has a total population of 607,688 persons (which is 0.05 percent of total population of India) of which 321,661 are males and 286,027 are females. From the year 1991-01 to 2001-11, decadal population variation recorded was 33.07 to 12.36 percentages, while India’s figure for the same is 17.64. In 2011 rural population consists of 480,981 people while urban population consists of 59,870 people. Sex ratio (females per 1000 males) also known as Gender Ratio, in the same decade has shown a little improvement i.e. from 875 to 889 but still lags behind India’s, which is 940. Though population density per sq. km. has increased in the same decade from 76 to 86 but is much less than national population density per sq. km. which is equal to 382. Literacy rate in 2001 was 68.81 which rose to 82.20 in 2011 which is above national average of 74.04 percent. This decade has seen an increase in male literacy rate from 76.04 to 87.30 as against all India’s rate which is 82.14 and female literacy rate also shows increased figures i.e. from 60.41 to 76.43 as against all India’s rate of 65.46.

Workers Profile

According to (Census 2001), there are 37,936 cultivators (About 26,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 19,725 are males and 18,211 are females in East district. Of them 37,889 live in rural and only 47 live in urban area. In rural area 19,701 are males and 18,188 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers 8,143 out of which 4,076 are males and 4,067 are females. Of them 8,110 live in rural and only 33 live in urban area. In rural area 4,056 are males and 4,054 are females. There are 35,764 cultivators (About 16,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 20,634 are males and 15,130 are females in West district. Of them 35,762 live in rural and only 02 live in urban area. In rural area 20,632 are males and 15,130 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers in the district are 4,112 out of which 2,389 are males and 1,723 are females. Of them 4,110 live in rural and only 02 live in urban area. In rural area 2,389 are males and 1,721 are females.

There are 9,180 cultivators (About 6,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 4,831 are males and 4,349 are females in North district. Of them 9,173 live in rural and only 07 live in urban area. In rural area 4,824 are males and 4,349 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers in the district are 2,051 out of which 1,045 are males and 1,006 are females. Of them 2,038 live in rural and only 13 live in urban area. In rural area 1,033 are males and 1,005 are females.
There are 48,378 cultivators (About 20,000 of them are small/medium farmers) out of which 24,917 are males and 23,461 are females in South district. Of them 48,377 live in rural and only 01 live in urban area. In rural area 24,917 are males and 23,460 are females. Total no. of agricultural labourers in the district are 2,694 out of which 1,252 are males and 1,442 are females. All of them live in rural and no one live in urban area. In rural area 1,252 are males and 1,442 are females.

The above data, showed that in all the districts more than half of the cultivators are small/medium farmers. It was also observed that almost all of them live in rural areas and equal number of female participants was sighted as that of men.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Universe or population

The universe or population for the study consisted of total number of married females in rural areas who are employed in farming in the state of Sikkim. This formed the pivotal point of the present research.

Sampling method for selected area of study

Multi-stage stratified random sampling technique of probability method is used to distribute the population into circles, revenue blocks and villages, then a combination of Judgment and Convenience sampling techniques of non-probability methods is decided upon for this study. Non-probability methods are of three types, namely Judgment sampling, Convenience sampling and Quota sampling. The state has only four districts; so, all of them have been taken for the study. Initially, under the multistage stratified random sampling technique- a selection of a tentative list of circles and revenue blocks from all the four districts was made followed by a selection of villages to be visited at the second and a selection of respondents at the final stage. A final list of the respondents from different farm households was prepared based on convenience and their accessibility to the researcher by stratified random sampling.

Sample size

Rural areas from all 4 districts of Sikkim were selected. As is clear from the table 1 below, though North district contains maximum area of the State i.e. almost 60%, but it holds only 7-8% of the population. On the contrary East district contains only 13% area of the State, but it holds maximum i.e. 45% of the population. So, for this study, maximum no. of females for data collection is from East & minimum are from North. Here, the size of the sampling female farmers from each district is neither proportional to the minimum size of the sampling female farmers of the district nor in the same ratio as is the percentage ratio of each district to the total population of the state. But the sample size of each district is just an indicative of the reason of taking maximum/minimum sampling units from that area.

### TABLE 1:- SELECTION OF SAMPLE SIZE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>Total Area(sq.km)</th>
<th>% of Total 1 area</th>
<th>Populatio Concentration</th>
<th>% of Total Population</th>
<th>Total No. of circle</th>
<th>Total No. of circle sampled</th>
<th>No.o of females sampled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>2,45,040</td>
<td>45.3</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>1166</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>1,23,256</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North</td>
<td>4226</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>41,030</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>1,31,525</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>08</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikkim</td>
<td>7096</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5,40,851</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source- figures extracted from census 2001.

A data collected from a total of 24 circles from all the four districts in Sikkim has been analyzed. The district wise i.e. (East, West, North & South) distribution of circles selected is 6, 6, 4 & 8 respectively. A total of 80 females of farming community from East, 30 from North and 60 each from West & South districts have been interviewed. Data for 115 samples (50% of 230), was collected by the researcher herself, while for rest of 115 samples (40, 30, 15 & 30 from East, West, North & South respectively), was collected with the active help and participation of all the village heads. Data thus collected from 230 married females in rural areas in the state of Sikkim, employed in farming sector has become the basis of the Primary Data analysis in this Study.

Data collection and analysis

In order to collect qualitative data, three group discussion sessions were arranged separately in three villages (Syari, Sichey and Rawtey rumtek); each group contained 10 participants. During these group sessions, several open-ended questions were asked from the respondents in order to collect deeper information about their accessibility to resources and their participation in different farms and the related activities along with many hidden facts and factors. Based on this information, the research instrument i.e. questionnaire containing dichotomous, multiple choice and open end questions was designed and a pre-test was conducted with 18 respondents for its necessary modification. It was then translated into Nepali also for the convenience of the farm population. Primary data was collected by researcher by visiting the farming females of rural area in Sikkim, using questionnaires. The primary data was collected between March to September 2011 from all districts of Sikkim.

Books, journals, reports and internet documents were used as secondary sources of data supporting or supplementing the empirical findings of the study.
Data analysis

Data has been analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) and some descriptive statistics, such as percentage, mean, standard deviation (SD) were used to interpret the data. There is only one sample in the study. Ordinal and nominal level data can be analyzed using parametric statistics; therefore One-Sample t-test for inferential interpretation of the data has been run to understand the nature of relation between the variables. For the inferences of the hypotheses, Information from literature survey is taken to support some assumptions. Below are given the few hypotheses.

For views about owning property

Hypothesis Statement – More farming females of rural area would think of owning property.
Ho – no more number of sample female farmers would think of owning property.
Ha - more number of sample female farmers would think of owning property.

For views about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law

Hypothesis Statement – More farming females of rural area are in favour of handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law.
Ho – no more number of sample female farmers are in favour of handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law.
Ha - more number of sample female farmers are in favour of handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law.

To test these hypotheses, one-sample t-test has been conducted. The t column displays the observed t statistic for each sample, calculated as the ratio of the mean difference divided by the standard error of the sample mean.

The column labeled Sig. (2-tailed) displays a probability from the t distribution with 229 degrees of freedom df, calculated as (n-1). The value listed is the probability of obtaining an absolute value greater than or equal to the observed t statistic, if the difference between the sample mean and the test value is purely random. The Mean Difference is obtained by subtracting the test value, from each sample mean.

The 95% Confidence Interval of the Difference provides an estimate of the boundaries between which the true mean difference lies in 95% of all possible random samples of 230 females. At this level if value of ‘t’ is less than 1.96 and is also negative, then our null hypothesis is accepted else alternate hypothesis is accepted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assessment of female farmer’s views:

Representation for the Parameter:

One sample t-test is conducted to test our hypothesis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE-2-ONE-SAMPLE STATISTICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q (L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q (M)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE-3-ONE-SAMPLE TEST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Value = 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q (L)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q (M)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VIEWS ABOUT OWNING PROPERTY

- Parameter Details:

Statistics for views about owning property (L), of Females Farmers is shown in the Table-2 above. From the table we find that there are 230 valid scores and value of mean for it is 7.37. Standard deviation is 2.760 and standard error of mean is 0.182.

Table 4 shows the frequency of sample female farmers for views about owning property. It shows that, 10% of the sample female farmers do not think of owning property. But, 90% of the sample female farmers think that they should own property.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE -4 - FREQUENCY OF SAMPLE FEMALE FARMERS FOR THE VIEWS (L)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Val id</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Reasons given by sample female farmers for views to own property

In favour of the view

(i) Because of the ancestral property, we will feel proud in owning it.
(ii) When it is in our name, extra pain will be taken to look after it
(iii) Till today, we have been fulfilling the responsibility of looking after it nicely and will keep on doing it for ever.
We can make use of the income derived from it independently (for the family, animal as well as agriculture).

We can improve our socio-economic condition with the money which we have earned.

Against the view

We don’t want to own any property because it is difficult to manage everything on our own.

Extent of the views about owning property

Table 5 shows that 60% of the respondents strongly feel negative about owning property. About 07% of them rated 5 for their view and 05% rated it 4. 06% rated their view for this question as 6. 32% of them strongly feel positive about owning property. Since only 24% of the respondents rated their view for this question up to 5. This shows the inclination of the view towards positive side. So, we can say that most of the female farmers admit that they should own property.

TABLE - 5-DEGREE OF ANSWER FOR THEIR VIEWS ABOUT OWNIN G PROPERT-Y-Q.( L)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Strong Negative 1</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>6.5</th>
<th>6.5</th>
<th>6.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>56.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong positive 10</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inferential analysis for their views

From the table 3 we find that confidence intervals lie entirely above 0.0 and also it is positive. The value of ‘t’ for the Females Farmers view about owning property (L) is 13.046, which is higher than 1.96, mean difference column for it also shows positive values. This is further confirmed by significance levels which are 0.00 and also by confidence intervals, both limits of which lie entirely above 0.0 for it. We can safely say that null hypothesis for this view is rejected and thus alternate hypothesis for it is accepted, which says that more number of sample female farmers would think of owning property. Further, we conclude it by saying that significantly more number of sample female farmers on an average are interested in owning property.

Statistics for views about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law (M), of females farmers is shown in the Table 6 above. From the table we find that there are 230 valid scores and value of mean for it is 3.75. Standard deviation is 2.804 and standard error of mean is 0.185.

Table 6 shows that, 84% of the respondents are in favour of handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their son. Only 10% of them want to hand it over to their daughter-in-law.

TABLE -6- FREQUENCY OF SAMPLE FEMALE FARMERS FOR THE VIEWS (M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Valid</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Valid Percent</th>
<th>Cumulative Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SON</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>83.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOTH</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAUGHTER-IN-LAW</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extent of feeling for their views about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law

Table 7 shows that 34% of the respondents strongly feel negative about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law. About 14% of them
rated 5 for their view and 07% rated it 4. 11% rated their view for this question as 6. Only 7% of them strongly feel positive about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law. Since 75% of the respondents rated their view for this question up to 5. This shows the inclination of the view towards negative side. So, we can say that most of the female farmers are reluctant about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law.

- **Inferential analysis for their views**

From the table 3 we find that value of ‘t’ for Views about handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law (M) is -6.748, which is negative which is negative and also less than 1.96. This is further confirmed by significance level which are 0.00 and also by confidence intervals, both limits of which lie entirely below 0.0 for it. Mean difference column for it also shows negative values. Thus there are valid reasons for null hypothesis to be accepted for it, which says that no more number of sample female farmers are in favour of handing over the ownership rights of the farming land to their daughter-in-law.

- **Reasons given by sample female farmers for handing over the ownership rights of the farming land**

(a) **In favour of son**

(i) This tradition is going on since ages.

(ii) During life time as well as after death, it is he only who has to perform all the rituals.

(iii) He is our blood, so, we can trust him.

(iv) We are sure that he is capable of handling it, which daughter-in-law may not be.

(v) Whatever is son’s property, ultimately that becomes of daughter-in-law’s also.

(vi) He is the legal heir.

(b) **In favour of daughter-in-law**

(i) I want to give equal right to daughter-in-law.

**CONCLUSION**

On the basis of the data collected and analyzed, we conclude that significantly more number of sample female farmers on an average are interested in owning property. As far as their views to hand over the property to daughter-in-law is concerned, the data shows that no more number of sample female farmers are in favour of handing over the property to their daughter-in-law. Results pertaining to these findings have been discussed in this paper.

**SUGGESTIONS**

Keeping in view the above mentioned problems/needs of the area and conclusions derived there from, the researcher has made a fair endeavor to suggest some points for the upliftment of the beneficiaries.

In the study area, because of the challenges faced by farming sector in the hilly region, sons and daughters decide not to adopt the ancestral occupation of farming. Future generation plans to settle down in the off-farm jobs in the cities which are easily available due to mushrooming of tertiary and secondary sector in the State and also less challenging than to farming.

At the same time, there is no denying the fact that women possess a strong innate quality of conservation. With a proper technical guidance and training this can be harnessed more efficiently. According to researcher, given some motivation in the form of ownership rights of the farm land can give more fruitful returns. Same thing has been admitted by sample female farmers also when asked to share their views about owning the property. Given it a try, it also helps in integrated organic farming which will gel well with the State policy. At this point, it is suggested that joint (son and daughter-in-law) ownership rights of the farms on which they are working can be tried for the betterment of the farms as well of the socio-economic condition of the female farmers. Needless to mention here that women would feel extra enthusiastic to work on the farms having some ownership rights even harder.

Handing over the ownership rights of the farm to the daughter-in-law in any patriarchal nation is not very easy and cannot be at one fell swoop. Because it is a source of income to the family and a sense of possessiveness and belongingness is always attached to it. People don’t want to hand it over to anybody out of their blood relationship; this very thinking has been observed in the reason given by sample females for handing over the farming land ownership rights. But making people aware about the changing scenario by discussing it in the social gathering including spouses can be helpful. In these types of gatherings spouses should also be given a chance to open up and share their ideas about handling the farming land assuming them being the owner of the same. This endeavor can give them a platform for projecting themselves and instilling confidence in the minds of their elderly generations about the safety of the hands their farming land is getting transferred to. The process of handing over the farm does not happen overnight. There are several issues that will crop up in this process and should be identified (like - delegation of different responsibilities along with their accountability, what happens in case there is a divorce etc.) and discussed well in advance. Here, the point of suggestion is if legal binding can be attached to this attempt, one can find it logical of converting it into practical. Legal binding can be in the form of automatic censure of the ownership rights in case of a divorce. Changing the mindset of people in the society is a gradual process. Holding the farm in the family for several generations requires good planning and management skills. Researcher is of the opinion that combining the experience of older generation with the younger generation’s ideas and enthusiasm can do wonders.

**References**

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