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A study on profile characteristics of women agriculture officers in Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

The chief role of WAO is to transfer the technology to farmers and act as bridging stones between agriculture and end-users. Traditionally the role of women Agriculture Officer is very narrow and limited. But as the day's progress the role of Women Agriculture Officers became more and more extensive and focus primarily on production technology, and there had been the extended role of extension in the conceptual paradigm. Hence, the present investigation was carried out to study the Profile of Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh. *Ex-post facto* research design was followed with a sample size of 130 respondents. Frequency, Percentage, Arithmetic mean and Standard deviation tools revealed that, among the total Women Agriculture Officers more than half of them belonged to the middle age group. Nearly three-fifths of the Women Agriculture Officers were B.Sc. (Ag.) degree holders. More than half of the Women Agriculture Officers had a medium level of experience. More than half of them had rural background. While, more than two fifths of the Women Agriculture Officers were staying at a medium distance from their workplace. More than half of them had undergone a medium number of trainings. Nearly three fifths of the Women Agriculture Officers had a medium number of subordinates. Concerning the spouse working status, nearly half were business people followed by those working in the private sector and public. More than half of the Women Agriculture Officers had less number of dependents followed by medium and Nearly three fifths of the Women Agriculture Officers were using their own vehicle followed by hired vehicle and Public transport for discharging of duties.

Keywords: Profile, women agriculture officers, profile, characteristics, Andhra Pradesh

Introduction

The Present investigation was carried out with the following objective.

To study the profile of Women Agricultural Officers in Andhra Pradesh.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in all thirteen districts of Andhra Pradesh during the year 2019-20. *Ex- Post Facto* research design was followed for the study with simple random sampling procedure. From each district ten Women Agriculture Officers were selected i.e., total of 13 districts with a sample size of 130 Women Agriculture Officers. Statistical tests such as Frequency, Percentage and Garrett ranking was used.

Results and Discussion

Profile of Women Agriculture Officers in Andhra Pradesh.

The results were represented as below.

Table 1: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the age

(n= 130)			
S. No.	Age (Years)	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Young age (Up to 35)	43	33.08
2.	Middle age (36 to 45)	67	51.54
3.	Old age (46 and Above)	20	15.38
Total		130	100.00

It is evident from table 1 that more than half of the Women Agriculture Officers belonged to the middle age group (51.54%) followed by young (33.08%) and old age (15.38%) categories. because there was regular recruitment of Agriculture Officers in the recent past to fill the vacant posts in the state department of agriculture in Andhra Pradesh. On the other side, the Agriculture Officers above the age of forty-six (46) might have been promoted as Asst. Director of Agriculture and resulted in less number of the Agricultural Officers in that category. The findings of the present study were similar to the findings of Amar *et al.* (2011) [2], Ajayi *et al.* (2013) [1], Yakubu *et al.* (2013) [24], Proadhan and Afrad (2014) [12].

Table 2: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the Educational Qualification

(n=130)			
S. No.	Educational qualification	Frequency	Percentage
1.	B.Sc. (Ag.)	76	58.46
2.	M.Sc. (Ag.)	54	41.54
Total		130	100.00

A cursory look at table 2 depicted that nearly three-fifths (58.46%) of the Women Agriculture Officers had B.Sc. (Ag.) qualification followed by 41.54% possessing M.Sc. (Ag.) degree. From this data, it could be inferred that B.Sc. (Ag.) being the required qualification to work at field level as Agriculture Officer and also the criteria for promotion to the next higher rank is only based on individuals experience and no weightage will be given for higher qualification. The findings of the present study were similar to the findings of Rezaei (2007) [18] Rajkumar (2009) [13] and Nambair (2013) [8].

Table 3: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the Experience

(n=130)			
S. No.	Experience	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	28	21.53
2.	Medium	71	54.62
3.	High	31	23.85
Total		130	100
Mean: 9.02		S.D: 4.55	

Table 5: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the workplace distance from their residence

(n=130)			
S. No.	Workplace distance from the residence	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Short (<10 km)	41	31.53
2.	Medium (11-30 km)	58	44.62
3.	Long (>30 km)	31	23.85
Total		130	100.00
Mean: 20.27		S.D: 16.48	

A glance at the table 5 revealed that more than two-fifth (44.62%) of the Women Agriculture Officers were residing at a medium distance from the office premises succeeded by residing at short (31.53%) and long (23.85%) distances. The reason for this might be that as the distance from the

Results furnished in table 3. indicated that more than half (54.62%) of the Women Agriculture Officers had a medium level of experience followed by high (23.85%) and low (21.53%) levels of experience. because medium experience is due to the more number of respondents belonged to the middle age group. As per the results obtained it could be inferred that they are capable of performing their responsibilities considerable well due to their experience. The findings of the present study were similar to that of Sandika (2007) [20], Mishra (2010) [6], Madhavan (2015) [5] and Singh (2016) [22].

Table 4: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the Rural/ Urban background

(n=130)			
S. No.	Rural /Urban background	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Rural	72	55.38
2.	Urban	58	44.62
Total		130	100.00

An overview of table 4 depicted that more than half (55.38%) of the Women Agriculture Officers belongs to rural areas followed by urban (44.62%) areas. The probable reason for the above trend might be that most of the Women Agriculture Officers were from rural areas having more knowledge in agriculture and also may be more interested to serve the farming community. The findings confirm with that reported by Babu (2005) [4], Mohan (2003) [7].

Table 6: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the number of trainings undergone

(n=130)			
S. No.	Number of Trainings undergone	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Less Number of training	32	24.61
2.	Medium Number of training	68	52.31
3.	More Number of training	30	23.08
Total		130	100.00
Mean: 15.94		S.D: 5.07	

It could be noticed from Table 6 that more than half (52.31%) of the Women Agriculture Officers had undergone a medium number of training followed by less (24.61%) and more (23.08%) number of training undergone. The Majority of Women Agriculture Officers had received a medium

residence to the workplace is more, the higher difficulty in performing the role of WAOs. More number of WAOs residence is medium distance so that they can reach work in time to perform their duties efficiently. The findings confirm with that reported by Maity (2002) [25].

number of training the reason might be that they got less opportunity to attend more training due to heavy work pressure and also the meagre support from subordinates. The findings confirmed with that reported by Sasidhar (2002) [19], Rani and Reddy (2006) and Nongtdu (2012).

Table 7: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the Number of subordinates working

(n=130)

S. No.	Number of subordinates working	Frequency	Percentage
1.	More number of subordinates (>11)	33	26.15
2.	Medium number of subordinates (6 to 11)	73	56.15
3.	Less number of subordinates (<5)	22	17.70
	Total	130	100.00
Mean: 8.3		S.D: 3.43	

Table 7 highlights that nearly three-fifths (56.15%) of the Women Agriculture Officers had a medium number of subordinates under their control followed by more (26.15%) and fewer (17.70%) number of subordinates working. An overview of the results denoted mostly six to eleven supporting staff was under the control of Women Agriculture Officers and about twenty-six point one five per cent of the respondents were guiding less than eleven staff members. Because of this reason, the Women Agriculture Officers were experiencing more workload and also unable to attend the refresher training sometimes. Women Agriculture Officers require more number of subordinates for implementing technical work and smooth running of office.

Table 8: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the marital status

(n=130)

S. No.	Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Married	120	92.31
2.	Unmarried	10	07.69
	Total	130	100.00

From table 8 it could be comprehended that the majority (92.31%) of the Women Agriculture Officers were married and only meagre portion (7.69%) were unmarried. It is evident from the results that almost all of the Women Agriculture Officers were married and only a few of them were unmarried. The trend might be due to fact that the respondents belonged to the middle age group and having graduation qualification. In Indian tradition the marriages will be done at an earlier age for the female child immediately after the completion of the studies this will also contribute to the above trend. The results confirm with the findings of Asadi (2008)^[3], Rakesh (2008)^[15].

Table 9: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the status of spouse

(n=130)

S. No.	Status of spouse	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No employment	10	7.69
2.	Business	64	49.23
3.	Private sector	32	24.62
4.	Public sector	24	18.46
	Total	130	100.00

It can be seen from table 9 that nearly half (49.23%) of the respondents had business people as spouse followed by those working in private (24.62%), public sectors (18.46%) and without employment (7.69%). As the respondents belonged to the middle age group with a rural background they might have preferred business people compared to employee because of sharing of responsibilities and

financial security. The results conformed with the findings of Maya (2018)^[26], Maratha (2017)^[27].

Table 10: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the number of children

(n=130)

S. No.	Number of children	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No child	10	7.69
2.	Single child	74	56.92
3.	Two to three	43	33.08
4.	Above 3	3	2.31
	Total	130	100.00

It could be noticed from Table 10 that more than half (56.92%) of the Women Agriculture Officers had single child followed by two to three children (33.08%), more than three children (2.31%) and no child (7.69%). The probable reason for this trend might be the foreseeing behaviour of the respondents giving weightage both for career and personal life. The results conformed with the findings of Rao (2016)^[28].

Table 11: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the educational status of children

(n=130)

S. No.	Educational status of children	Frequency	Percentage
1.	No education	10	7.69
2.	Primary	29	22.31
3.	Secondary	38	29.23
4.	Intermediate and above	53	40.77
	Total	130	100.00

Table 11 depicted that forty point seven per cent (40.77%) of the Women Agriculture Officers children were educated up to Intermediate and above followed by secondary school (29.23%), primary school (22.31%) and no education (7.69%). The probable reason might be that a majority of Women Agriculture Officers were middle-age their children might be older enough to have depicted type of education status.

Table 12: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the type of family

(n=130)

S. No.	Type of family	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Nuclear	83	63.85
2.	Joint	47	36.15
	Total	130	100.00

It is evident from Table 12 that nearly two-thirds (63.85%) of the Women Agriculture Officers were having nuclear family followed by joint (36.15%) family. It could be concluded from the results that now a days, nuclear families

are coming into existence because of the working couple at farther places and they do not prefer joint families as joint family needs more time for household chores and other

purposes. Hence, in this era nuclear families are preferred. These findings are in accordance with Rangalata (2006)^[14], Prabhavati (2012)^[10] and Priyanka (2017)^[6].

Table 13: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the Number of dependents

(n=130)			
S. No.	Number of dependents	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Less number of dependents (Up to 2)	74	56.92
2.	Medium number of dependents (2 to 4)	50	38.46
3.	More number of dependents (>4)	06	4.62
Total		130	100.00
Mean: 2.56		S.D: 1.21	

From table 13 it can be inferred that more than half (56.92%) of the Women Agriculture Officers had less number of dependents followed by medium (38.46%) and more number of dependents (4.62%). As per the study majority of the respondents belonged to the middle age group having a nuclear family and possessing a single child these might have contributed for having fewer number of dependents. The respondents thought process for providing a luxurious life style to their dependents may also be one of the reasons for this type of result. These findings were in accordance with Shalmali (2003)^[21].

Table 14: Distribution of Women Agriculture Officers according to the use of Mode of transport

(n=130)			
S. No.	Mode of transport	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Public transport	21	16.15
2.	Hired vehicle	31	23.85
3.	Own vehicle	78	60.00
Total		130	100.00

It is apparent from table 14 that nearly three-fifth (60.00%) of the Women Agriculture Officers were using their own vehicle followed by hired (23.85%) vehicle and Public (16.15%) transport for discharging duties. The probable reason for the above trend might be that majority of Women Agriculture Officers were using their own vehicle for ease of technical and extension work as the vehicle facility is not provided by the government. Those respondents who may not have their own vehicle facility were opting for hired and public transport as per the need. The findings are by Usha (2014)^[23].

Conclusion

The study revealed that the majority of Women Agriculture Officers had undergone less number of trainings, completed under graduation, less number of subordinates at the workplace and using own vehicle for discharging of duties as such they were not in a position to concentrate on activities related to career development with a thought that higher job status can be given only based on experience. Hence, there is a need to arrange more number of trainings for the staff so that their knowledge and skills will be improved.

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