



# International Journal of Home Science

ISSN: 2395-7476  
IJHS 2019; 5(3): 14-19  
© 2019 IJHS  
www.homesciencejournal.com  
Received: 10-07-2019  
Accepted: 12-08-2019

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## Decision making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries

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### Abstract

The study was conducted in two districts of Gurugram division of Haryana State i.e. Gurugram and Mahendragarh. A total of 240 beneficiaries of ATMA were selected for the study. The data were collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule from the beneficiaries. Majority of the decisions related to farm, home, socio-communicable and financial activities were predominantly taken by the husband or with the help of husband in the family of beneficiaries in both districts of Gurugram division. Negligible numbers of beneficiaries took their own decisions.

**Keywords:** Farm, beneficiaries, decision making and ATMA

### Introduction

Agriculture plays the most decisive role in the socio-economic development of the country. It is the most important occupation for most of the Indian families. It employs more than 50 per cent of the total workforce. In India, agriculture contributes about 17-18% of the GDP (Economic Survey 2017-18) [4] and ten percent (10%) of total exports.

Women constitute about half of the population of country. They are the backbone of agricultural workforce and are a vital part of Indian economy. In rural India, the percentage of women who depend on agriculture for their livelihood is as high as 84%. They make up about 33% of cultivators and about 47% percent of agricultural laborers. Rural women often manage complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. They also play very important role in both production and management.

With time women farmers are recognized as vital link in agriculture development. They are farmers, workers and entrepreneurs, but almost everywhere they face more severe constraints than men in accessing productive resources, markets and services. The vast majority of studies have reported that differences in yields between men and women exist not because women are less skilled but because they have less access to inputs such as improved seeds, fertilizers and equipment. If women in rural areas had the same access to land, technology, financial services, education and markets as men, agricultural production could be increased and the number of hungry people reduced by 100-150 million (Source: FAO).

Over the last several decades, considerable effort has been made throughout the world to provide women farmers and women on the farm with efficient, effective, and appropriate technology, training, and information. Keeping the above facts in mind the present study was carried out to access decision making pattern of the women beneficiaries of ATMA.

### Material and methods

The study was planned as an ex post- facto survey investigation and conducted in two districts of Haryana. These districts i.e. Gurugram and Mahendragarh were selected randomly out of three districts of Gurugram division where ATMA was in operation. The qualitative data were quantified according to the standards laid down and tabulated to draw inferences.

### Result

#### Socio-personal profile of the beneficiaries

**Age:** The data in Table 1 revealed that majority of the beneficiaries were in the age group of 37-55 years, which were 45.83 percent in Mahendragarh and 52.50% in Gurugram district of Gurugram division. More than one fourth (36.67%) in both district were in the age group of 18-36 followed by age group of above 56 which were 17.50 percent in Mahendragarh and 10.83 percent in Gurugram respectively.

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**Caste:** The caste wise distributions of the beneficiaries indicated that majority of beneficiaries belonged to schedule caste in Gurugram (70.83%) and fifty percent in Mahendragarh. Nearly fifty percent (48.33%) beneficiaries belonged to backward caste followed by general caste (1.67%) in Mahendragarh and nearly one fourth (19.17%) beneficiaries belonged to backward caste followed by general caste (10.00%) in Gurugram.

**Marital Status:** It is clear from Table 1, that majority of the beneficiaries (94.17%) were married followed by 4.17 percent who were widow and 1.67 per cent were unmarried in Mahendragarh district. Whereas, In Gurugram district 90.00 per cent of the beneficiaries were married, 9.17 percent widow and 0.83 per cent were divorcee.

**Education of the Beneficiaries:** Table 1 indicated that nearly half of the beneficiaries (48.33%) were illiterate followed by high school education (19.17%), senior secondary school education (12.50%), middle school education (9.17%), primary school education (8.33%) and graduate (2.50%) in Mahendragarh district whereas, fifty percent of the beneficiaries were illiterate followed by high school education (19.17%), middle school education (15.00%), primary school education (9.17%), senior secondary school education (5.83%) and graduate (0.83%) in Gurugram district.

**Occupation of the Beneficiaries:** The results revealed that majority of beneficiaries (89.16%) were housewife followed by Service govt/private (5.00%), labour (4.17%), and student (1.67%) in.

**Table 1:** Socio-personal profile of ATMA beneficiaries N=240

S. No	Variables	Categories	Mahendragarh n=120 F (%)	Gurugram n=120 F (%)
1	Age	18-36	44 (36.67)	44 (36.67)
		37-55	55 (45.83)	63 (52.50)
		Above 56	21 (17.50)	13 (10.83)
2	Caste	General	2 (1.67)	12 (10.00)
		Backward class	58 (48.33)	23 (19.17)
		Scheduled Caste	60 (50.00)	85 (70.83)
3	Marital status	Married	113 (94.17)	108 (90.00)
		Unmarried	2 (1.67)	-
		Widow	5 (4.17)	11 (9.17)
		Divorce	-	1 (0.83)
4	Education of the beneficiaries	Illiterate	58 (48.33)	60 (50.00)
		Primary	10 (8.33)	11 (9.17)
		Middle	11 (9.17)	18 (15.00)
		High school	23 (19.17)	23 (19.17)
		Sen. secondary school	15 (12.50)	7 (5.83)
		Graduate	3 (2.50)	1 (0.83)
5	Occupation of the beneficiaries	Housewife	107(89.16)	69(57.50)
		Labour	5(4.17)	33(27.50)
		Farming	-	-
		Service (Govt/Private)	6 (5.00)	10 (8.33)
		Business	-	2 (1.67)
		Work in group	-	6 (5.00)
		Student	2 (1.67)	-
6	Family occupation	Labour	26 (21.66)	62 (51.67)
		Farming	44 (36.67)	5 (4.17)
		Service (Govt/Private)	41 (34.17)	45 (37.50)
		Business	9 (7.50)	8 (6.67)
7	Types of family	Nuclear	81 (67.50)	90 (75.00)
		Joint	39 (32.50)	30 (25.00)
8	Size of family	upto5 members	87 (72.50)	81 (67.50)
		More than 5 members	33 (27.50)	39 (32.50)
9	Family education status	Low (1.5-3.0)	50 (41.66)	72 (60.00)
		Medium (3.0-4.5)	56 (46.67)	42 (35.00)
		High (4.5-6.0)	14 (11.67)	6 (5.00)
		Pucca	68 (56.66)	48 (40.00)

Mahendragarh district. In Gurugram district majority of beneficiaries (57.50%) were housewife followed by labour (27.50%), Service Govt/Private (8.33%), work in group (5.00%) and business (1.67%).

**Family Occupation:** The results indicated that most of the families of beneficiaries (36.67%) had farming as main occupation followed by service govt/private (34.17%), labour (21.66%) and business (7.50%) in Mahendragarh district. More than fifty percent (51.66%) families of the beneficiaries in Gurugram were daily wage earner followed by service Govt/Private (37.50%), business (6.67%) and farming (4.17%).

**Family Type:** A perusal of Table 1 describes that majority of the beneficiaries of Mahendragarh district (67.50%) as well as

of Gurugram district (75.00%) belonged to nuclear family followed by joint family in Mahendragarh (32.50%) and (25.00%) in Gurugram district.

**Family Size:** The data regarding family size revealed that the majority of the beneficiaries of Mahendragarh district (72.50%) as well as of Gurugram district (67.50%) had up to 5 members followed by more than 5 members in family in Mahendragarh (27.50%) and Gurugram (32.50%) district.

**Family Education Status:** The data in Table 1 described that

the majority of the families (46.67%) of Mahendragarh district belonged to medium family education status (3.0-4.5) followed by low family education (41.66%) and high family education (11.67%). In Gurugram district, majority of the families (60.00%) belonged to low family education status followed by medium family education (35%) and high family education status (5%).

### Economic Profile of ATMA Beneficiaries

**Land Holding:** The data pertained the ownership of farm land. Majority of the beneficiaries of Mahendragarh (53.33%) were landless followed by marginal category of farmers (having up to 2.50 acre land holdings), small category of farmers (having 2.5 to 5.0 acre) and medium category of farmers (having 5.0 to 10.00 acre). In Gurugram district, majority of beneficiaries (65.83%) were landless followed by marginal category of farmers (26.67%), small category of

farmers (4.17%) and medium category of farmers (3.33).

**Beneficiaries' Income:** It is very difficult to assess the average annual income of each individual, as they are not maintaining any records. The attempt was made to assess the annual income of the beneficiaries through discussion and interpretation from different angles. In Mahendragarh district, majority of (75.83%) beneficiaries had no income followed by 20.83 percent who had annual income between Rs.20000-Rs.80000 and 3.33 percent having annual income between Rs.80001- Rs.140000.

Majority of (55.00%) beneficiaries of Gurugram district had no income followed by 35.83 percent who had annual income between Rs.20000- Rs.80000 and only 8.33 percent had annual income between Rs.80001- Rs.140000 and 0.83 percent had annual income between Rs.140001- Rs.200000.

**Table 2:** Economic profile of ATMA beneficiaries N=240

S. No	Variables		Categories	Mahendragarh n=120 F (%)	Gurugram n=120 F (%)
1	Land holding		No land	64 (53.33)	79 (65.83)
			Marginal farmer (Up to 2.5 acres)	28 (23.33)	32 (26.67)
			Small farmer (2.5-5.0 acres)	22 (18.33)	5 (4.17)
			Medium Farmer (5.0-10 acres)	6 (5.00)	4 (3.33)
2	Beneficiaries' Income		Nil	91(75.83)	66(55.00)
			Rs.20000- Rs.80000	25(20.83)	43(35.83)
			Rs.80001- Rs.140000	4(3.33)	10(8.33)
			Rs.140001- Rs.200000	-	1(0.83)
3	Family income		Rs.50000- Rs.300000	108 (90.00)	112 (93.33)
			Rs.300001- Rs.5.50000	8 (6.67)	5 (4.17)
			Rs.5.50001- Rs.800000	4(3.33)	3 (2.50)
54	Animal ownership	Total animal	No animal	43 (35.83)	68 (56.67)
			1-3 animals	63 (52.50)	49 (40.83)
			4-6 animals	14 (11.67)	3 (2.50)
	Milch animal	No animal	57 (47.50)	75 (62.50)	
		1-3 animals	63 (52.50)	44 (36.67)	
		4-6 animals	-	1 (0.83)	
5	Material possession	Agricultural possession	Low (1-3)	79 (65.83)	73 (60.83)
			Medium (4-6)	37 (30.83)	42 (35.00)
			High (more than 6)	4 (3.33)	5 (4.17)
	Non- agriculture possession	Low (1-3)	5 (4.17)	3 (2.50)	
		Medium (4-6)	95(79.17)	94(78.33)	
		High (more than 6)	25(20.83)	23(19.17)	

**Family Income:** Majority of families (90.00%) in Mahendragarh had family income between Rs. 50000 to Rs. 300000 per annum, followed by 6.67 per cent families who had family income between Rs. 300001 to Rs.5.500000 per annum and 3.33 per cent families who had family income between Rs 5.50000 to Rs. 800000 per annum. In Gurugram district the majority of families (93.33%) who had family income between Rs. 50000 to Rs. 300000 per annum, followed by 5.00 per cent families who had family income between Rs. 300001 Rs. to Rs.5.500000 per annum and 2.5 per cent families who had family income between Rs 5.50000 to Rs. 800000 per annum.

**Total Animals:** Majority of beneficiaries (52.50%) of Mahendragarh had 1-3 total animals followed by 11.67 percent who had 4-6 animals. More than one fourth of beneficiaries (35.83%) of Mahendragarh had no animals. Majority of the beneficiaries (56.67%) of Gurugram had no animals followed by 40.83 percent who had 1-3 animals and 2.50 percent who had 4-6 total animals.

**Milch Animals:** Majority of beneficiaries (52.50%) of Mahendragarh had 1-3 milch animals whereas, 62.50 percent of beneficiaries of Gurugram had no milch animals followed by 36.67 percent having 1-3 milch animal. There were 0.83 percent beneficiaries who had 4-6 milch animals.

### Material Possession

**Agriculture Material Possession:** - The data pertained the ownership of farm assets in Table 2. It revealed that 65.83 percent beneficiaries had low farm assets followed by medium (30.83%) and high (3.33%). Similar result was found in Gurugram where majority of the beneficiaries (60.83%) of Gurugram had low farm assets followed by medium (35.00%) and high (4.17%) farm assets.

**Non Agriculture Assets:** The above data revealed that majority of the beneficiaries of Mahendragarh (79.33%) as well as Gurugram (78.33%) district had medium (4-6) non agriculture assets followed by high and low non agriculture assets in Mahendragarh and Gurugram district respectively.

### Communication Profiles of ATMA Beneficiaries

**Membership of Social Organization:** Table 3 revealed that majority of the beneficiaries (90.83%) had medium level membership, followed by 9.17 percent of beneficiaries who had high level of membership in Gurugram district. Similar

results were found in Mahendragarh district where majority of the beneficiaries (96.67%) had medium level membership, followed by 3.33 percent of beneficiaries who had high level of membership.

**Table 3:** Communication profile of ATMA beneficiaries N=240

S. No	Category	Gurugram n=120		Mahendragarh n=120		
		Score	Frequency (%)	Score	Frequency (%)	
1	Membership of social organization	High	> 7.91	11 (9.17)	> 7.11	4 (3.33)
		Medium	5.11- 7.91	109 (90.83)	5.31- 7.09	116 (96.67)
		Low	< 5.11	-	< 5.31	-
2	Social Participation	High	>9.87	16 (13.33)	>8.52	5 (4.17)
		Medium	5.25-9.87	104(86.67)	4.56-8.52	115 (95.83%)
		Low	<5.25	-	<4.56	-
3	Cosmopolitans	High	>15.74	14 (11.67)	>13.58	14 (11.67)
		Medium	9.22-15.74	106 (88.33)	8.78-13.58	106 (88.33)
		Low	<9.22	-	<8.78	-
	Media exposure	High	>19.16	15 (12.50)	>16.31	20 (16.66)
		Medium	9.00-19.16	105 (87.50)	12.05-16.31	68 (56.67)
		Low	<9.00	-	<12.05	32 (26.67)

**Social Participation:** More than two third (86.67%) of beneficiaries had medium level of social participation, followed by 13.33 percent of beneficiaries who had high level of social participation in Gurugram district. Similar result was found in Mahendragarh district where majority of the beneficiaries (95.83%) had medium level membership of social participation followed by 4.17 percent of beneficiaries who had high level of membership.

**Cosmopolitans:** On the basis of average and standard deviation cosmopolitans were categorized into low, medium, and high category. Data of the table revealed that there were similar results in Gurugram as well as Mahendragarh district. Majority of the beneficiaries (88.33%) had medium level of cosmopolitans followed by high level of cosmopolitans (11.67%) in both districts.

**Media exposure:** The above table revealed that more than two third of the beneficiaries (87.50%) had medium level of

media exposure followed by 12.50 per cent beneficiaries who had high level of media exposure in Gurugram. Majority of the beneficiaries (56.67%) of Mahendragarh had medium level of media exposure followed by low level (26.67%) and high level (16.66%) of media exposure.

### Family decision making pattern of the ATMA beneficiaries

For the purpose of studying the decision- making pattern in families, four distinct areas of decisions related to farm, home, socio-communicable and financial activities were identified.

### Decisions making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries related to Farm

In decision making pattern regarding to farm, only those beneficiaries were considered who had land. In this way a total of 41 beneficiaries of Gurugram and 56 beneficiaries of Mahendragarh were considered.

**Table 4:** Decisions making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries related to Farm

S. No.	Decision making pattern	Gurugram n=41		Mahendragarh n=56	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Adoption of new farming techniques				
	Self	-		1	1.79
	Husband	23	56.10	34	60.71
	With the help of husband	9	21.95	10	17.86
	With the help of family members	9	21.95	11	19.64
2	Adoption of variety of seeds				
	Self	-		-	
	Husband	23	56.10	32	57.14
	With the help of husband	10	24.39	12	21.43
	With the help of family members	8	19.51	12	21.43
3	Decision related to land holding				
	Self	-		-	
	Husband	26	63.41	38	67.86
	With the help of husband	8	19.51	11	19.64
	With the help of family members	7	17.07	7	12.50

It is clear from Table 4 that decisions related to adoption of new farming techniques were predominantly taken by husband (56.10) followed by with the help of husband (21.95) as well as with the help of family member's (21.95) in Gurugram district.

In 60.71 percent families decision related to adoption of new farming techniques were taken by husband followed by with the help of family members (19.64%), with the help of husband (17.86%) and by beneficiaries (1.67%) in Mahendragarh district.

In Gurugram district, decisions related to adoption of new and improved seeds were taken by husband (56.10%) followed by with the help of husband (24.39%), with the help of family members (25.83%). Similar result were found in Mahendragarh district where decisions related to adoption of new and improved seeds were taken by husband (57.14%) followed by with the help of family (21.43%) with the help of family members and husband (21.43%). The data in the table 4 revealed that decisions related to farm were not taken by the beneficiaries.

Data in the table 4 indicated that decision related to land were taken by husband in both districts Gurugram (56.67%) and Mahendragarh (63.33%) followed by with the help of

husband (19.51%), (19.64%) and with the help of family members (17.07%), (12.50%) respectively in Gurugram and Mahendragarh district. Data in the table indicated that decisions related to farm were taken by husband. No involvement of beneficiaries in decision making related to farm activities was observed independently.

#### Decisions making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries related to Animal husbandry

In decision making pattern regarding to animal husbandry, only those beneficiaries were considered who had animals. In this way a total of 52 beneficiaries in Gurugram district and 77 beneficiaries in Mahendragarh district were considered.

**Table 5:** Decisions making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries related to Animal husbandry

S. No.	Decision making pattern	Gurugram n= 52		Mahendragarh n=77	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
3	Adoption of improved animal husbandry practices				
	Self	14	26.92	4	5.19
	Husband	8	15.38	3	3.90
	With the help of husband	23	44.23	53	68.83
	With the help of family members	7	13.46	17	22.08

Table 5 revealed that decision related to new technology in animal husbandry were taken with the help of husband (44.23%) followed by beneficiaries (26.92%) themselves, by husband (15.38%) and with the help of family (13.46%) in Gurugram district. Whereas, in Mahendragarh decision related to new technology in animal husbandry were taken with the help of husband (68.83%) followed by with the help of family members (22.08%), by beneficiaries (5.19%) and by husband (3.90%). It is clear from the results that decision related to animal husbandry were taken by with the help of husband. There were very less numbers of families where decision was independently taken by beneficiaries.

#### Decisions making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries related to socio- communicable and financial activities

Decisions related to taking part in different activities of ATMA were taken with the help of husband (46.67%), followed by husband (25.00%), beneficiaries (17.50%) and with the help of family members (10.83%) in Gurugram district. In Mahendragarh district, decisions related to taking part in different activities of ATMA were taken with the help of husband (45.83%), followed by beneficiaries (25.83%), with the help of family members (20.83%) and husband (7.50%).

**Table 6:** Decisions making pattern of ATMA beneficiaries related to socio- communicable and financial activities

S. No.	Decision making pattern	Gurugram n=120		Mahendragarh 120	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Participation in different ATMA activities				
	Self	21	17.50	31	25.83
	Husband	30	25.00	9	7.50
	With the help of husband	58	46.67	55	45.83
	With the help of family members	13	10.83	25	20.83
2	Decision related to money matters				
	Self	8	6.67	5	4.17
	Husband	46	38.33	23	19.17
	With the help of husband	46	38.33	75	62.50
	With the help of family members	20	16.67	17	14.17

Table further highlight that decision related to money were taken by husbands well as with the help of husband (38.33%) followed by with the help of family members (16.67%) and by beneficiaries themselves (6.67%) in Gurugram district. In Mahendragarh district, decisions related to money were taken with the help of husband (62.50%) followed by husband (19.17%), with the help of family members (14.17%) and in very few families decision were taken by the beneficiaries (4.17%) themselves.

#### Discussion

The study illustrated that majority of the decisions related to adoption of new farming techniques, adoption of improved seeds and land holding were predominantly taken by husband in both districts of Gurugram division. This is due to the

psychological characteristics of the society where women farmers do all the work of farm but they do not have ownership or control on farm assets. They were not able to decide by themselves in farm activities and lack of awareness about the latest technology of agriculture. The findings of the present study are in line with the findings of Khanduri and Chandra (2011) <sup>[5]</sup>, Anshu and Varma (2015) <sup>[2]</sup> and Logeswari and Thiruchenduran (2016). The participation of women in decision-making process related to farm affairs was comparatively lower than home affairs. Decision related to finance viz., buying of farm inputs buying of farm machinery selling of farm produce and selling extra land were taken by husband. The study further revealed that decisions related to new technology in animal husbandry were taken with the help of husband in both Gurugram (44.23%) and Mahendragarh

(68.83%) districts of Gurugram division. In majority of beneficiaries' family, decision related to taking part in different ATMA activities were taken with the help of husband in Gurugram district as well as in Mahendragrah district of Gurugram division. Similar finding were reported by Praveena *et al.* (2005)<sup>[7]</sup> and Mandloi and kavita (2006)<sup>[6]</sup>. Decision related to money matters were taken by with the help of husband in both districts of Gurugram division. The findings of the study also agree with the findings of Anshu and Varma (2015)<sup>[2]</sup>. They reported that majority of rural farm women relied on joint decisions consulted their spouse to take decision regarding all kind of activities.

### Conclusion

Agriculture plays a vital role for achieving the socio-economic growth. It accounts for about 54.6 per cent of the population which is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Women constitute about half of the population of country. They play important role, at the household and community level. But still women involvement in the decision making is questionable. The result regarding decision making revealed that decisions related to farm, home, socio-communicable and financial activities were predominantly taken by the husband or with the help of husband in the family of beneficiaries in both districts of Gurugram division. Negligible numbers of beneficiaries took their own decisions. There is a need to enhance women participation in decision related to household or farm related. Education can be very helpful in educating and for changing mind set of people which can improve the status of women in families and society.

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