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## **Tribal women: Management in farm and household**

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### **Abstract**

*A survey study was under taken to assess the relationship between time and energy variables Balrampur district. Pachperwa Block of Balrampur was selected as the local of the study. The investigation was made from 10 yrs girls to above 50 years women, who were selected by stratified random sampling method. Data was collected by interview-cum-questionnaire method. Finding of the study revealed that majority of the women were in the age range of 30 to 40 year. Age wise comparison of the data indicated that prevalence of less age increased working efficiency.*

**Keyword-** Time, energy, age, season, working efficiency

### **Introduction**

Tribal women play a very important role in development of economy and in management of family need like management of food fuel; water housing etc. time is the one resource we all share equally though one takes it generally for granted. The pattern of assigning time and energy to household and farm activities differs at different stages of tribal women's life. Singh (2009) studied that the time used for performing the work was treated human accounting unit of the task performed in a normal day. The task categories were so devised that under each task various sub-tasks were included. Preparation for cooking and serving, cleaning utensils and grinding spices etc. similarly animal care included milking, cleaning animal shed, throwing waste to compost pit, making cow dung cake etc. as evident from the data of rural homemakers spent an average time of 6.63 hours on food preparation. The activities like fetching water, animal care and agriculture work were carried out by rural home makers only. They spent 14.46% of time as agriculture activities which vary according to season.

According to Singh (2007) every minute every second is very important for human life. It is a limited resource for every human being. It is also supported by Nickell and Dorsey. Its effective use can make a human great. Its depends upon a person that how a human great, it depends upon a person that how seriously she takes the importance of time and how she utilize it, so that personal and family goals can be

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achieved. Nickell and Tucker- studied that human energy required for the performance of any task is a combination of normal body functions- respiration, circulation, secretion and excretion and the energy used to move about is used to complete the task. The place of work, the tools used, and the position of the worker are among the factors affecting energy use in household work.

Tribal women has such a tight time schedule in home work involving food preparation, animal care and grain processing followed by farm work that little time is left for her to care about children and our self (Singh, *et al.*, 1985). Maximum of the item was devoted for food preparation, which included purchasing food items, and cleaning utensils and kitchen on an average time devoted for food preparation was 2.4 hours. Main activities which consumed much time were cooking food and fetching water. In all of the cases (2 hours), women had to go a long way to fetch water from hand pump. Food cooking purposes, majority of respondents relied exclusively on cow dung cakes and firewood which was a great health hazard especially for eyes get continuously exposed to the smoke. Next to farm work and food preparation, cleanliness of the house consumed maximum time of 2.5 hours per day on an average. Outside working of women was also found associated negatively with amount of time devoted to cleanliness. Next to cleanliness, care of animals consumed a large part of women's time on an average 1.5 hours were devoted to animal care daily. Clothing which included sewing, washing, mending was given less attention. Mending of clothes was not done at home in majority of cases 2 hours of weeks, even if the family income was meager, because of task of ability and skills and due to non-availability of sewing machines in some cases. Other aspects like washing of clothes were given more attention. Present study has been conducted to evaluate the pattern of dividing time and energy on various household and farm activities with respect to variation in age group among tribal women of Balrampur District.

## Materials and method

The study was under taken in the area of Pachperwa block of Balrampur District was selected. There were 11 Nyay panchayats in the block, of which three panchayats were selected for the study. In present study 120 tribal females were selected from each age group that is 10-20 years, 20-30 years 30-40 years, 40-50 years, 50 years and above and unmarried girls 20 samples were taken. The data was collected through observation and interview schedule as well as time (in minutes) record in questionnaire, in which the timing for the whole days activities were recorded for each activity and then energy was calculated, according to the scale of Nickell and Drosey (1967) has categorized work as light, moderate and heavy. In each of the category, energy calculation in light works in between 1.4 to 2.0 K.cal/minutes in moderates it is 2.0-3.5 K. cal/minutes while in heavy it's 3.5-4.5 K.cal/minutes. According to the scale the mid-value of the ranges were to obtain 1.7, 2.75 and 4 K.cal/minutes for light moderate and heavy work respectively.

## Results and discussion

Studies of time and energy management indicates maximum energy demand 30-40 years age of tribal women's life because at this stage their children became able to do their work themselves so the contributes more time in farm activities and less in children. Minimum energy demand is observed at nearly married stage because main time consuming works are of light nature and outside activities were not performed by them.

Table 1 Activities of women

S.No.	Light work	S.No.	Moderate work	S.No.	Heavy work
1	Hand sewing	1	Kneeding dough	1	Fetching of water
2	Hemming	2	Cleaning of cattle shed	2	Harvesting paddy
3	Preparing meal	3	Care of sick person	3	Mending house
4	Washing utensils	4	Making broom	4	Ploughing
5	Sweeping floor	5	Sowing potato	5	Pounding of paddy
6	Collection of gum	6	Making leaf plate	6	Grinding spices
7	Collection of koina	7	Making bundle of tendu leaves	7	Maintenance of khalihan
8	Collection of piyan	8	Seed preparation	8	Collection of fuel
9	Collection of amla plum and makoy	9	Making roap	9	Arrangement of fodder
10	Collection of honey	10	Seed picking	10	Paddy transplantation

Table 2. Expenditure of time at different stages of tribal female's life-span

S.No.	Activities	Expenditure of time by tribal female (hours)					
		10-20 years	20-30 years	30-40 years	40-50 years	Above 50 years	Girls
1	Farm activities	--	3.0	6.0	4.0	1.0	-
2	Cooking food	5.0	2.0	1.0	0.5	-	1.0
3	Child care	-	4.5	1.5	0.5	4.0	1.0
4	Personal work	2.0	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.5
5	Fetching water	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	1.0
6	Collecting fuel	-	-	0.5	0.5	-	2.0
7	Cleaning of house	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	-	1.5
8	Washing of utensils	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.5	-	1.5
9	Cattle care	0.5	0.5	1.0	1.5	-	0.5
10	Forest contribution	-	0.5	1.5	1.5	-	1.5
11	Gossiping	2.5	1.0	1.5	3.0	5.0	2.0
12	Rest period	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	4.0	1.0
13	Sleeping	9.0	9.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	10.0

The lesser energy demand at the age of 40-50 years than previous stage (30-40) minimizing work load of outside activities by tribal women's children. At old stage (50 and above) the time demand for various activities is least because they were observed to involve more in decision making process, future planning and handing over responsibilities to other family members but energy demand is more than newly-married stage (10-20yrs), due to their involvement in care of grandsons and grand-daughters.

Table 3. Energy expenditure at different stages of tribal females life span

S.N.	Type of work	Energy expenditure in K.cal/day by tribal females of different age group					
		10-20 years	20-30 years	30-40 years	40-50 years	Above 50 years	Girls
1	Light work	1585.0	1008.0	864.0	1080.0	1368.0	1188.0
2	Moderate work	333.0	990.0	577.5	412.0	660.0	495.0
3	Heavy work	--	960.0	2040.0	1560.0	240.0	880.0
	Total	1918.0	2958.0	3481.0	3052.5	2268.0	2563.0

Women of all age group were found to involve in household chores. Cooking and sewing activities are totally responsibilities of tribal women only. The next important domestic activities are washing, cleaning and water fetching in which only females participate. In water fetching activity female child is also involved intensively other activities like house maintenance, child care, food preparation, cattle handling, the average labour and time expenditure of women is more than their male counterpart. Major part of economic activities like collection of fruits (mahua, piyar, plum, makoy etc) and tandu leaves is covered by tribal female in comparison to their male counterpart. Similarly they actively participate in all the agricultural activities except ploughing. During particular season, women are observed to be engaged even upto 10 hours a day in farm activities.

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