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Resource utilization pattern of selected rural and urban families

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Abstract

Time and money consumption pattern was studied in 120 rural and urban households of Kangra district. The data were collected through personal interview method. The main source of income was found service in both areas. Food was the main area of expenditure in both rural and urban area. The significant differences in expenditure pattern of rural and urban families were found. The average income of urban families was higher than the rural families and statistically proved through student's t-test. Rural women spent maximum time in farming activities followed by care of animals and kitchen activities but urban women spent maximum time in kitchen activities. Actively involved rural and urban women spent 16.45 hours/day and 16.25 hours/day respectively.

Key words: Resource utilization, time, income, expenditure pattern.

Introduction

Every society is concerned with the creation and efficient use of resources at every stage of development. Resources are the means, which have want satisfying power and are instrumental in reaching the desired ends. Management is the major mean of achieving the family goals through wise use of family resources. Among the various resources available, money and time of the family are the main non-human resources. The major objective of resource management is all round development of the members of the family. Time has the greatest importance in one's life as it can neither be extended nor be brought with money. Everybody is pressed for time, especially the housewife who has to do so many jobs each as important as the other finds it difficult to manage within the limited period of time. (George and Batra, 1982). Rural homemakers differ from their urban counterparts mainly in the farm activities and expenditure pattern. It is essential to know how a homemaker uses her time and manages income.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh with a sample size of 120. A three stage random sampling technique was adopted. From the two randomly selected blocks, four municipal wards and four panchayat wards were selected from rural and urban areas. The data were collected by survey method on well-structured schedule through personal interview. Averages and percentages were calculated to determine the time spent by women and student t-test was applied to find out income and expenditure pattern in both areas.

Hypothesis 1: There is no difference in average family income in rural and urban families.

Hypothesis 2: The average expenditure of rural and urban families is equal.

Results and Discussion

The distribution of the families according to their socio-economic profile showed that majority of the both rural and urban families (56% & 81.67% respectively) belong to nuclear families. The size of the family depicts that in rural area 51.67 percent had 5-6 family members whereas in urban area, majority (65.00%) had 3-4 family members. The land holding profile exhibits that maximum rural families (71.66%) had land holding upto 12.5 kanals but most of the urban families were landless (63.33%). Majority of rural families (18.60%) had farming and labour but 23.63 per cent urban families had service as main occupation. The second major occupation of rural families (10.17%) was service but urban families (8.86%) had business as secondary occupation.

Time use pattern

The availability of time for household work varied among rural and urban families. The data reveals that the average total time available to rural families was 16.45 hours per day and to urban families it was 16.25 hours per day. The availability of work time for household activities depends upon time of getting up and going to bed.

Table 1. Average time spent on different activities (hours/day)

Sr. No.	Activity	Rural	Urban
1.	Meal preparation/ Dishwashing	2.45 (14.89)	3.20 (20.19)
2.	Cleaning activities	2.07 (12.58)	2.30 (14.51)
3.	Care of children	1.37 (8.33)	2.45 (15.46)
4.	Farm activities/ Outside employment	5.55 (33.74)	5.03 (31.72)
5.	Care of animals	3.25 (19.76)	-
6.	Shopping (daily)	-	0.34 (2.15)
7.	Leisure time activities	1.43 (8.87	2.15 (13.56)
8.	Personal care	0.33 (2.01)	0.38 (2.41)
	Total	16.45 (100.00)	16.25 (100.00)

Figures in parentheses indicate percentages to total

It was found that maximum mean time was spent by rural women in farming activities i.e. 5.55 hours, followed by 3.25 hours in animal care, 2.45 hours in meal preparation and dish washing, 2.07 hours in cleaning activities and 1.43 hours in leisure time activities shown in table 1. They spent least time in care of children (1.37 hours) and personal care (0.33 hours). The findings are almost similar with the findings of Kanwar *et al.* (2003) which showed that rural women spent 5.00 hours per day in farming activities 3.02 hours per day in kitchen activities and 2.20 hours per day in management of animals and animal shed. The results are also in confirmation with Kulkarni and Murali (1991), which revealed that rural homemaker on an average, spent 23.31 per cent (5.59 hours) of their time in farm activities and 3.04 per cent (0.72 hours) on personal care. But in urban areas the time spent on meal preparation and dishwashing was 3.20 hours per day followed by care of children (2.45 hours) cleaning activities (2.30 hours) and 2.15 hours in leisure time activities.

It was further observed that time saved from household activities was diverted towards care of children, leisure time activities and personal care in both areas.

Income pattern

The main source of income for both rural and urban families was service. The average rural and urban income from service was Rs. 6089 and Rs. 10989. The secondary source of income for rural families was labour with average monthly income Rs. 7614 (Table 2). Agriculture was no more primary source of income for rural people. Income from crop and dairy on an average was Rs. 784 and Rs. 1364 in case of rural families. The total average income of urban families was Rs. 11265 and of rural families was Rs. 7346. The comparison of average income in rural and urban area showed that the difference between rural and urban families for sources of income were significant for crop (t-value =3.7136), salary (t-value = 4.3563) and business (t-value =2.3484).

Table 2. Average monthly income of families from all sources (Rs.)

Sr. No.	Sources of income	Rural	Urban	t-Cal	d.f.	t- tab	Significance
1.	Agriculture						
a.	Crop	784	253	3.7136	71	1.980	S
b.	Dairy	1364	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Service	6089	10989	4.3563	75	1.980	S
3.	Business	3609	7614	2.3484	25	2.060	S
4.	Rental income	200	1550	-	-	-	-
5.	Labour	4428	2750	1.0182	32	2.021	NS
Average total		7346	11265	4.2282	118	1.980	S

d.f. Degree of freedom S Significant NS Non-significant

Average monthly expenditure

It is clear from table 3 that average expenditure on food was 1847 in rural area whereas in urban area it was Rs. 2346. There was much variation in expenditure on education, urban families spent on average Rs. 1827, on the other hand rural expenditure on education was very less i.e. Rs. 264. Rural families spent Rs. 353 and urban spent Rs. 577 on clothing.

The monthly expenditure on hired help was different i.e.Rs. 250 in rural and Rs. 550 in urban area. In case of farm expenditure, rural families spent Rs. 125 on average whereas urban families spent Rs 479 because urban families spent more money on hired agricultural labour whereas rural families mostly did their work without any hired help. On housing renovation, rural families spent less i.e. Rs. 144 in comparison to urban

families (Rs. 299). In urban area average medical expenditure Rs. 413 whereas in rural area it was Rs. 211. The expenditure on transportation in rural area was Rs. 283 and in urban area it was Rs. 517. The difference in average monthly expenditure between rural and urban families showed significant difference for food (t value-5.1409), education (t value- 4.2305), housing renovation (t value-18.0352), clothing (t value-4.9174), health (t value-16.603), transportation (t value-5.0664) and farm expenditure (t value-4.024). Results were non significant for expenditure on servant (t value-1.0210).

Table 3. Average monthly family expenditure in different areas (Rs.)

Sr. No.	Utilization area	Rural	Urban	t- cal	d.f.	t- tab	significance
1.	Food	1847	2346	5.1409	118	1.980	S
2.	Education	264	1827	4.2305	88	1.980	S
3.	Housing renovation	144	299	-18.0352	109	1.980	S
4.	Health	211	413	-16.603	114	1.980	S
5.	Clothing	353	577	4.9174	118	1.980	S
6.	Transport	283	517	5.0664	118	1.980	S
7.	Servant	250	550	1.0210	8	2.306	NS
8.	Farm expenditure	125	479	4.624	56	2.000	S
Total		3148	5718	-219.9391	236	1.980	S

NS Non-significant d.f. Degree of freedom S Significant

Hypothesis 1: There is no difference in average family income in rural and urban families.

The results have clearly indicated that there is difference in average family income from different sources except income from labour. Kaur (1982) had reported that average total income of rural families in Punjab was higher (Rs. 5883.92) as compared to urban areas (Rs. 2987.83) but results of this study showed higher urban income than rural families. Hence, hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis 2: The average expenditure of rural and urban families is equal.

The data showed that the expenditure pattern of rural and urban families was not equal. Rodge and Murali (1991) had reported that size of the family and income were influencing the expenditure pattern of rural families, which seem true in the case of rural families in the present study too. The hypothesis was rejected, as there was significant difference in expenditure of rural and urban families except for expenditure on hired help.

Conclusion

Thus it can be concluded from the study that rural women spent maximum time in farm activities followed by care of animals and meal preparation and the urban women spent maximum time in meal preparation and dish washing if not gainfully employed followed by care of children and cleaning activities. Time devoted for activities vary according to the areas i.e. urban and rural. It is further observed that time saved is diverted towards care of children and leisure activities and personal care. The average income and expenditure of urban families was higher than the rural families, which was proved significant.

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