A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF WOMEN IN MEAT PROCESSING IN KRISHNA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.

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Abstract: The present study was conducted to determine the socio economic condition of women involved in meat processing sector including fisheries. The study was aimed at identifying various activities occupied by the women in meat processing sector. Random sampling technique was used to select the 90 respondents of women. It was observed that the participation of the women was more in sanitary operations, meat packaging sections, processing of fish and prawn and marketing of meat at retail level. It was found that the lower middle age groups (31-45 years) were more involved and majority of them were illiterates and under below poverty line. There is need to develop the processing skills of women in this sector.

Introduction: The contribution of livestock sector to the food basket is in the form of milk, eggs and meat has been immense in fulfilling the animal protein requirement of ever-growing human population. The present production of meat in India was estimated at 6.27 million tons in 2010 (FAO, 2012), which is 2.21% of the world's meat production. The contribution of meat from buffalo is about 23.33%, while cattle contributes about 17.34%, sheep 4.61%, goat 9.36%, pig 5.31%, poultry 36.68% and other species 3.37%. The meat production has increased from 764,000 tons in 1970-71 to 6.27 million tons in 2010.

Andhra Pradesh has a large population base of animals and poultry. The state has the highest population of poultry and the second highest population of cattle and buffaloes in the Country. It was the second largest producer of meat in the country with an annual estimated production of 6.5 lakhs tones and contributes about 10% of the national meat production. Major livestock include cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats. In 2001 census, Krishna had a population of 4,187,841 of which males were 2,117,401 and remaining 2,070,440 were females. Of the total population, 6.73 lakhs workers were occupied in agriculture and allied sector among them women were also included extensively. Women roles in meat processing were often framed as "helpers" to male and their contribution remains invisible. Women generally contribute more labour inputs in areas of cleaning of slaughter houses, marketing.

In developed countries, the role of women in meat industry is more. Meat packaging industry was one in which most of the women are involved. Traditionally, they were involved in wrapping and labeling of meat; a typical example may be found in the meat department of supermarkets 4 .

With this background, present study was proposed to determine the socio economic condition of women involved in meat processing sector including fisheries in Krishna district.

Objectives: The following are the objectives of the study:

i. To identify the various activities occupied by the women in this processing sector.

ii. To evaluate the socio economic condition of the workers of this sector.

Table no: 1 Statistics of Krishna district

Item	Unit	List
Population	Lakhs	41.88
a)Male population	In Lakhs	21.17
b)Female Population	In Lakhs	20.71
Sex Ratio	Females for 1000 men	978
a)Workers –Total	Lakhs	15.95
b)Workers – Agriculture	Lakhs	6.73
c) Workers – Non Agriculture	Lakhs	9.22
Live Stock Population*	In Lakhs	36

Source: 2001 census *- 2007 census

Methodology: A simple random sampling technique was used to select the 90 women respondents. The selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of a questionnaire. Data so collected were statistically analyzed.

The study area: The study was conducted in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh. The study was confined to five mandals namely Penamaluru, Gannavaram, Nuzvid, Kankipadu and Vuyyuru.

Sample size: The sample respondents were 90 including skilled workers, unskilled workers, street vendors, fish processors and meat retailers.

Source of data: Data were collected through both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Quantitative Method: Direct Interview through structured questionnaire, check and interview schedule was used to collect primary data.
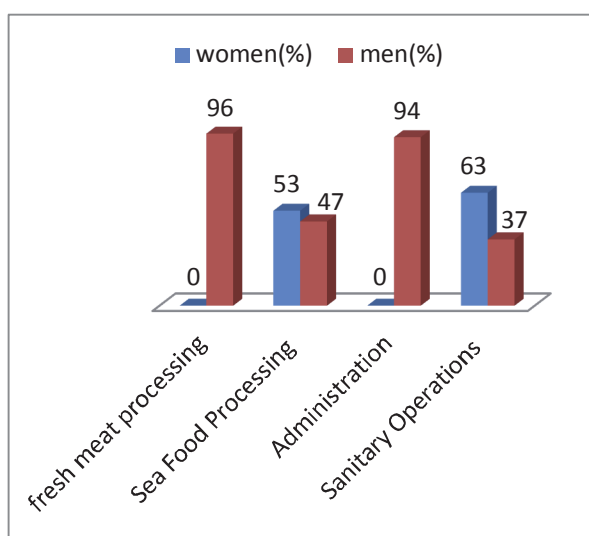
Qualitative Method: Observation and depth interview was done to collect the qualitative information.

Results: In the present study, various activities occupied by the women in meat processing in Krishna

District were identified. Percent contribution of women in different activities was represented in a Table no: 2. Women generally contribute more labour inputs in fish and prawn processing, cleaning of slaughter houses, disinfecting, packaging etc. The percent contribution of women in sea food processing and sanitary operations was more with 53% and 63% respectively. Role of women in fresh meat processing and in administration was very less with 3 and 7 % .

Table no: 2 Percent contribution of women in different activities		
Section	Women (%)	Men (%)
Fresh meat processing:-Poultry, Mutton, Chevon ,Carabeef	4(primary share is in poultry)	96
Sea Food Processing	53	47
Administration	6 (primary share is in poultry)	94
Sanitary Operations	63	37

Flow chart: 1 Percent contribution of women in different activities

Most of women in sea food processing were fish and prawn street vendors and processors. It was found that the lower middle age groups (31-45 years) were more involved in meat processing and majority of them were married and illiterates and were under below poverty line with income of less than Rs 30,000 / annum. The results found were tabulated in Table no: 3. Youth were very few in this sector and they were mostly occupied in retail marketing and few in fish processing. Most of the respondents were having a family size of 3-5 with nuclear families.

Women in meat processing sector are facing a number of problems related to social, economical and technical. Among the problems, lack of social security, technical support, stable government policy, education and capital are the most acute problems. Due to such problems, the sample respondents are deprived of their basic livelihood facilities.

There is a need to empower the women in this section through further processing of meat to value added products. Converting meat into value added products is necessary to increase demand and marketability. Women should be trained to develop the processing skills such as portioning, deboning, size reduction, seasoning, emulsion preparation, battering, breading and different cooking methods like frying, grilling, tandoor, baking, barbequing which are utilized to produce a variety of value added products. Increasing urbanization, family dynamics, raising income, increasing exposure to various mass media and changing food habits greatly enhance the demand for processed and ready to eat products.

Formation of women organizations and groups can play a significant role in the development of a healthy and sound social culture in the country and that will provide social security and support.

Conclusion: It was concluded that the contribution of women in this sector was more in sanitary operations and sea food processing. There is a need to promote processing skills among women for enhancing meat

processing and value addition for increased nutritional   security   and   employment   generation.

S.No	Characteristics	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young (18-30 years)	19	21.11
	lower middle (31-45 years)	47	52.22
	upper middle (46-60 years)	24	26.67
2.	Education		
	illiterate	47	52.22
	Primary(upto 4th)	18	20.00
	Secondary(4th – 7th)	19	21.11
	Higher secondary(8th -10th)	6	6.67
	Inter and above	-	-
3.	Family size		
	small size(upto 3)	33	36.67
	middle size (3-5)	41	45.56
	big size(above 5)	26	28.89
4.	Marital status		
	Married	52	57.78
	Single	09	10.00
	Widow	16	17.78
	Divorced	13	14.44
5.	Economic status		
	Low (Rs. <30,000/annum)	43	47.78
	Medium (Rs. 30,000 -70,000/annum)	30	33.33
	High(>70,000/annum)	17	18.89
6.	Year of experiences		
	1-10	24	26.67
	11-20	37	41.11
	21-30	19	21.11
	>30	09	10.00
7	Family type		
	Nuclear family	59	65.56
	Joint family	31	34.44

Table no: 3 SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN IN MEAT

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