



## THE IMPACT OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR ON THE LIVES OF RAJASTHAN'S INDIGENOUS WOMEN (A CASE STUDY OF GHOOMER MAHILA SAMITI)

**DR. NAMRATA KHEMRAJ YADAV**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, MG COLLEGE, UDAIPUR

**SHIVANGI MALI**

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMERCE, MOHAN LAL SUKHADIA UNIVERSITY  
UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

### ABSTRACT:

Indigenous Women are pioneering the development of creative agricultural solutions. In India, agriculture accounted for the majority of the GDP. Agriculture accounted for 18–20% of India's GDP. Women are pioneering the development of innovative agricultural solutions in rural Rajasthan.

Many other states have created agricultural businesses using various technologies like droning technology, smart farming processes, deep irrigation, greenhouse farming, etc, but we have not kept up with them since our independence due to illiteracy, technical advancement, and so on. There is a need to encourage women-only FPOs in order to increase female involvement, improve access to resources and services, and sustain higher income.

Many women form groups and engage in agricultural and humanitarian activities, but due to cultural constraints and distance from government assistance groups, they face challenges. That's the reason or real fact; we may also look at the downfall of the instabilities today, especially among indigenous or tribal women in Rajasthan, from the perspective of women's empowerment theories of the 21st century in India. Consider the following federation as an example.

A federation with the goal of promoting the social and economic welfare of underprivileged tribal families, Ghoomar Mahila Samiti was registered under the Societies Act of 1958. A group of 4,360 tribal women from Bali Block in Pali District make up Ghoomar Mahila Samiti. Samiti's long-term goal is to provide the final mile of tribal people with improved access to healthcare and educational opportunities. They are engaged in agricultural activities using natural resources, such as producing thalis from tendu leaves and Gulal's from leftover flowers from temples. The federation coordinates funds and provides training to work on issues relating to agriculture, horticulture, natural resource management, among other things, through collaborations with other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

### KEYWORDS:

**AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS, INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR, TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT, TSP AREA, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL BARRIERS, INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.**

### INTRODUCTION:

Indigenous Women are pioneering the development of creative agricultural solutions. In India, agriculture accounted for the majority of the GDP. Agriculture accounted for 18–20% of India's GDP. About 65% of the population in the village relies on agriculture for their livelihood. According to an annual survey conducted in 2020–21, 48% of farmers were self-employed women, whereas 33% of women worked in agriculture. Indigenous women are members of specific communities, most of which are located in a particular portion of the region where they share ancestral lands and natural resources while remaining apart from other social and cultural groups. The rural and tribal area of Rajasthan is well-suited for the growth of a wide variety of crops and also has a robust animal husbandry industry due to its diversified agro-climatic conditions. Many other states of India have developed their agricultural industries employing various technologies.



Source: - <https://www.dailypioneer.com>

But since our independence, we have not kept up with them due to ignorance, lack of agricultural awareness of technological advancements, etc. Any nation needs to be empowered, especially women, to make better GDP growth. However, we are far from having that because of our Rajasthani tradition, with their regional cultural perspective still alive within the nature of indigenous

women, which is why she's not actively participating in income generation in their local area and also because they are facing many hurdles in their personal lives. Also, the market broker is getting more and more advantages from the agriculture business. That's the reason or real fact; we may also look at the downfall of the instabilities today, especially among indigenous or tribal women in Rajasthan, from the perspective of women's empowerment theories of the 21st century in India.

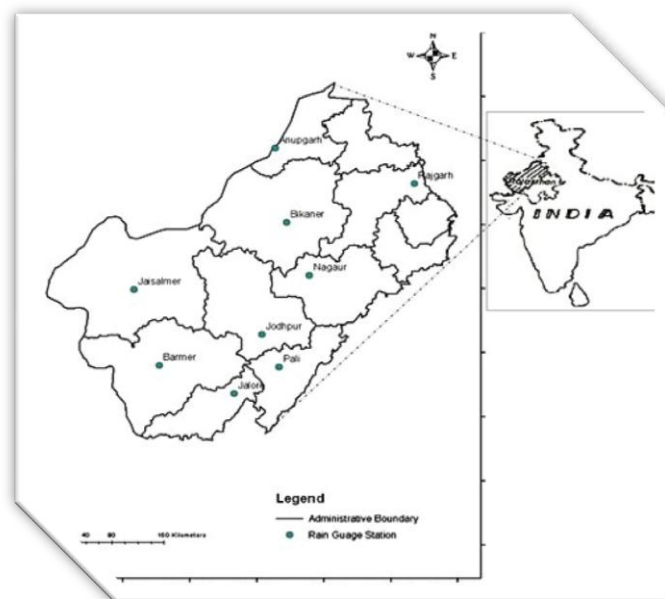
#### REVIEW OF LITERATURE: -

**Devayani Rathore:** -Tribal women's empowerment may be seen as the development of a setting in which one can make choices and decisions for social transformation. Feminist ideas will also greatly enhance the lives of tribal women, who are frequently excluded from mainstream society. Consideration must be given to problems including poverty, illiteracy, lack of knowledge about nutrition and health, and devastation of the environment, with particular attention to southern Rajasthan (India). Moving from a vulnerable position to using power is empowerment. In our research, we discovered a connection between tribal women's empowerment, education, and standing in society. According to their view, they always belong to the forest, and the forest believes the same about them. They continue to do a fantastic and outstanding job of conserving the forest. Conditions for these women are precarious.

**Dr. Basavaraj Patil and Dr. V Suresh Babus (2018):** - The agricultural research agenda has to be refocused in order to close current gaps and address new issues relating to the sustainable growth of smallholders with limited resources, particularly women farmers. We are well aware of the issues that women encounter at home and on the farm. But for now, we need a thorough examination of the issues, followed by the right steps to address them. Through their participation in natural resource management, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture, and crop production, women have made significant contributions to the growth and development of the agricultural sector. Despite the fact that the number of women working in agriculture has decreased, they still make up a sizable share of the industry.

**STUDY AREA:** - The Rajasthan region of northern India was the main focus of the study. Following November 1, 2000, Rajasthan was India's largest state by population area. The Land of Maharajas is another name for Rajasthan.

Rajasthan had a varied social and geographic environment. The agricultural business has a ton of possibilities due to the geographic diversity. The "Marwar" region of Rajasthan, which includes the cities of Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Jodhpur, Nagaur, Pali, Bikaner, Sikar, Churu, and Jhunjhunu, is our primary concern. The circumstances of indigenous women there, the influence of agriculture on their lives, and the area's abundant natural resources and agricultural economic opportunities were the key drivers for taking this land.



Source:

-Location-map-of-study-region-western-Rajasthan-in-India

#### OBJECTIVES: -

- ✚ To find out the reasons for indigenous women's success and failure in the agricultural sector.
- ✚ To find out the challenges and the social barriers faced by indigenous women in are of the agriculture sector.
- ✚ To find out the benefit of the newest technology in the agricultural sector.

#### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY (BASED ON SECONDARY DATA): -

As part of our research approach, we use a variety of methods, tools, and data sources to carry out the study and achieve the study's goals. To achieve the objectives of this study, we shall employ a descriptive research methodology.

**In India,** 74.60 percent of the population, or 54.60%, depending on agriculture or agriculturally related occupations to subsist. According to an annual study conducted in 2020–21, around 33% of women participate in agricultural work. In Rajasthan, 75% of the population lives in villages, where the bulk of people depend on agriculture.

The case study was developed using secondary data from the internet, newspapers, books, and a wide range of other sources, including the official website of the Indian government, the Ghoomer Mahila Samiti, reports from NGOs and FPOs, the annual report for the fiscal year (2020–21), and various papers, magazines (like Kurukshatra), the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of Rajasthan, the Agriculture Sectoral Portal of Rajasthan, and research that has previously been published in a number of journals.

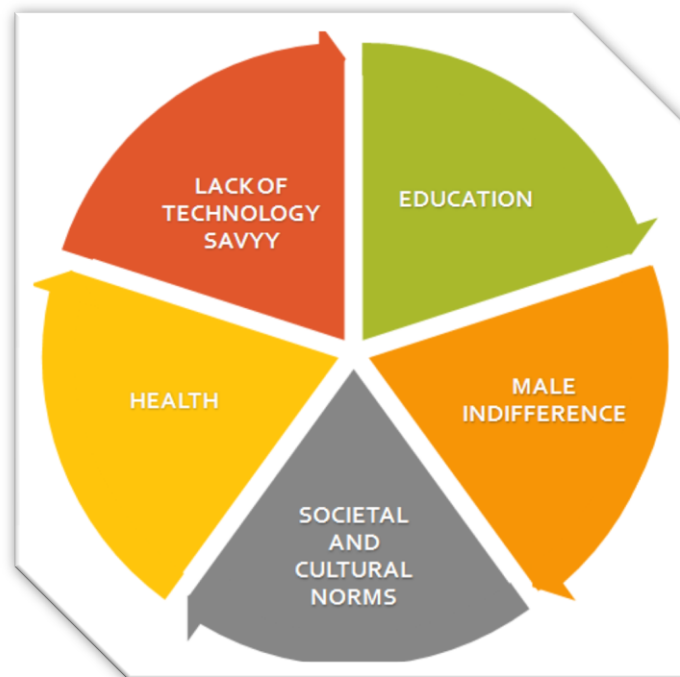
Rajasthan's economy greatly benefits from the contribution of women. They have too much potential to

work in the industry and are generally employed in agriculture. Women have a number of challenges and limitations as a result of social and cultural norms. Finding work in any field continues to be extremely tough for Rajasthani women.

Even if they have the required land and resources to do so, certain areas of Rajasthan maintain rigid cultural norms that forbid women from leaving the house and engaging in any kind of business activity. However, they are unable to use these resources efficiently due to their misunderstanding of the many agricultural economic operations and their lack of technological skills. However, with the aid of this case study, we are hopeful that women are capable of anything provided they have access to correct guidance and support. The federation is aiming to address a number of social concerns, including the prohibition on liquor stores, early girl marriage, school education specifically for girls, providing medical facilities, and more.

- As a consequence of their grasp of agricultural commercial activity and independent labor, the tribeswomen had less educational knowledge than other groups, which prevents them from being aware of and actively pursuing their rights.
- Due to their lack of collaboration with other groups, such as AFARI, CAZRI, and certain government organizations, they may not have access to new opportunities. Additionally, because of societal issues and a lack of knowledge, they are unable to confront these issues in order to find solutions.
- Thal is being made from Palash leaves. Additionally, they create gulal utilizing the dried Palash flower. However, they have too many natural resources to engage in other agribusinesses owing to a lack of expertise, adequate money, and knowledge of the most recent technological advancements.
- The region of Rajasthan is characterized by extreme geographic circumstances and an abundance of natural resources for the agricultural sector, but owing to a lack of understanding of asset management activities, they are unable to sustainably restore these sources of income.
- As the Indian government works to promote domestic producers through initiatives like the Make in India Project and others to boost commercial activity, rural areas are unable to take advantage of this chance owing to a lack of information. Government and this organization should work together to support this effort and effectively employ women in the agricultural sector.

There are numerous factors that may influence the agricultural industry or its related activities, but with the right guidance, opportunities for women, policy-making, imparting technological knowledge, facilitating loans and subsidies for women entrepreneurs, proper education, etc., they can become independent. They are able to grow their company effectively and profitably.



*The challenges and the social barriers faced by indigenous women*

- » **Education:** - Any developing nation's most important component is education. However, despite the government's efforts to provide equitable access to education for all students and the organization of several campaigns in that direction, suitable educational facilities are still lacking in rural Rajasthan. They attend a school up until the eighth grade but are unable to continue their education after that because of the distance from their homes.
- » **Male Indifference:** - Women are performing equal or more work than men. However, due to the unrecognition of their work, they are still in a pitiful condition. Women conduct the majority of harvesting work in the hamlet, yet they are still not recognized for their efforts.
- » **Societal And Cultural Norms:** - Despite the fact that women are doing all of the labor that men can do in the twenty-first century, there are numerous social conventions that are solely for women. In Rajasthan, especially in parts of Marwar, women are not permitted to work outside, and the Ghughat system still exists. Many other regulations are major impediments to carrying out

any agricultural business.

» **Health:** - The most serious concern in Rajasthan is early girl-child marriage. Despite the fact that the government has prohibited it, child marriages are still performed in tribal areas. Many mental and physical health difficulties occur as a result of early marriages. They are unable to undertake any strenuous activity in the agricultural field due to their poor health.

» **Lack of technological savvy:** - Due to illiteracy, these women are unable to adopt agricultural technologies. The main cause of inadaptability in modern techniques is a lack of internet connectivity and inadequate infrastructure.

Despite these reasons, there are still plenty more. It is crucial to get through this obstacle to the development of tribal women. There are many natural resources accessible for business in Rajasthan that tribal women may exploit for their economic operations. But because of these important factors, women continue to live in deplorable circumstances and lack financial independence. The government should also take steps to support tribal women's agricultural businesses.

**Many contemporary approaches are applied in the agriculture industry** nowadays thanks to the internet. The government works with several research organizations, such as the Department of Agriculture, CAZRI, AFARI, etc., to introduce contemporary agricultural technology. Many government organizations, NGO's, and FPO's are striving to improve the lives of tribal women in Rajasthan. Rajasthan has a variety of geographical features, including the arid and water-scarce Marwar region. But different crops are gathered as a result of current technologies. With the aid of contemporary technology, several organizations in this region engage in the agriculture sector. Women from many tribes have achieved great success in agriculture and jobs associated with agriculture with the help of modern techniques. Autopilot tractors, biotechnology, drone technology, crop sensors, VRT and swath control technology, GPS field mapping, mobile technology use, and cameras are the main contemporary technologies employed in the agricultural sector. Many women can participate in agricultural operations with the aid of these new technologies. As we examine Ghoomer Mahila Samiti as a case study, the federation is doing amazing work with the aid of the environment. They use tendu leaves to produce thalis and equipment to pack them for delivery.



source: - <https://www.indianretailer.com> (Official Souce)

### THE BENEFIT OF THE NEWEST TECHNOLOGY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR:-

The rapid increase in smartphone usage in rural areas has aided the farming industry in making its initial strides toward adopting technology. Drones are the agricultural industry's future. Drones equipped with technology-based sensors can be utilized in precision agriculture, such as crop health monitoring, and weed and insect identification. The majority of farmers are looking for modern agricultural crop and livestock breeding techniques. It's important to use fertilizers to improve the fertility of the soil that one intends to cultivate. Crop productivity frequently suffers from a lack of rainfall.

Therefore, cutting-edge methods are being used locally to deal with this issue. Pesticides provide results when utilized appropriately. Because of this, pests are less likely to invade vegetation with the goal of growing strong, fruitful plants.

- Increased agricultural output.
- Using less water, fertilizer, and pesticides results in lower food costs.
- Lessening of the impact on natural ecosystems
- Less chemical discharge into groundwater and waterways.
- Improved workplace security.
- Increasing the status of women.
- Development of incredible self-reliance toward affordable financing in the agricultural sector.

### CONCLUSION:-

In India, agriculture or agriculturally related jobs provide a living for 74.60 percent of the population, or 54.60%. According to 2020-21 yearly research, around 33% of women work in agriculture. In Rajasthan, 75% of the population lives in villages, where agriculture is the main source of income. Yatra Nariastu Pujyante, Tatra Devta Ramante, which translates to "wherever women are honoured, god lives there," is a line from the Vedas. Every community should value women equally and treat them with respect in all areas. The most effective tool for empowering women is education. According to the data above, modern amenities and education have had a

significant impact on the empowerment of women.

- ✓ Various women in the tribal area engage in some economic enterprises with the help of the region's natural resources, but their capacity to extend their companies is limited owing to a lack of money, poor educational preparation, and ignorance of governmental rules. Numerous SHGs, FPOs, NGOs, and other governmental agencies begin to collaborate with them in order to improve their economic operations and the lives of other women who are affiliated with them.
- ✓ Women have several opportunities to work in the agricultural industry, but owing to societal constraints, they are not taking use of these opportunities.
- ✓ Women in the Rajasthan tribal region know all about agricultural land and associated activities, but owing to unrecognized opportunities, they are distant from progress.
- ✓ Rajasthan has vast natural resources and abundant agricultural opportunities, but owing to ineffective policymaking for women, a lack of support for women entrepreneurs, uneven distribution of finances, and other factors, this sector remains an underdeveloped.
- ✓ The agricultural industry has expanded quickly as a result of contemporary technology, but in the tribal areas women are still illiterate, and their lack of technological literacy and inadequate internet connectivity may contribute to the agricultural industry's slow growth.
- ✓ The majority of Indian women work in agriculture, but they also have many opportunities in related fields as gardening, animal husbandry, livestock fishing, etc.

#### SUGGESTIONS:-

Rajasthan's diverse demographics offer tremendous potential for commercial expansion while preserving the environment. The government should take steps to encourage tribal women to use these resources in handicrafts, horticultural, and other endeavors in addition to the agricultural sector.

- ✚ All tribal women should receive regular instruction in contemporary techniques as well as practical information to make their labor simpler and boost crop yields.
- ✚ Invest in research and development to enhance present procedures, boost productivity and revenue, and minimize harmful ecological consequences.
- ✚ The tribal areas of Rajasthan, in particular, offer an abundance of resources for doing commerce, but due to rigid cultural standards, women are not permitted to venture outside and conduct such business. The government took the initiative to

recognize this possibility and to get the local women to start using these resources for income-generating activities.

- ✚ In the Tibetan region, some women engage in some economic endeavours with the aid of the region's natural resources, but they are constrained in their ability to expand their businesses due to a lack of funding, inadequate educational preparation, and ignorance of governmental regulations. Numerous SHGs, FPOs, NGOs, and other governmental entities start working with them so they may enhance their business operations and the lives of other women who are linked to them.

#### REFERENCES

1. agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in
2. Das, Abhiman. (2004). Socio-economic Development in India: A Regional Analysis.
3. <https://a-a-r-s.org/proceeding/ACRS2014/Full%20Papers/Session%20D/Session%20D5/OS-184%20Devayani%20Rathore%20Full%20Paper%2035th%20ACRS.pdf>
4. jsser.org/2018files/ijsser\_03\_207.pdf
5. Patil, Basavaraj & Suresh Babu, Venkatachalapathi. (2018). Role of Women in Agriculture. 4. 109-114.
6. Meena, Phool & Meena, Prem. (2017). Role of women in agriculture as farmer and labour: An empirical evidences of farm women involvement in agriculture operations in Jaipur district of Rajasthan state. AGRICULTURE UPDATE. 12. 409-414. 10.15740/HAS/AU/12.3/409-414.
7. NABARAD
8. Nagar, Avnish. (2018). Impact of self help groups on the lives of tribal women of southern rajasthan: a sociological study. International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research. 03.07

9. Rehman, Abdul & Jingdong, Luan & Khatoon, Rafia & Hussain, Imran. (2016). Modern Agricultural Technology Adoption its Importance, Role and Usage for the Improvement of Agriculture. American-Eurasian Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences. 16. 284-288. 10.5829/idosi.aejaes.2016.16.2.12840.

10. Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium "Society promoted by Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India"

11. [www.ghoomarmahilasamiti.org](http://www.ghoomarmahilasamiti.org)

12. [niti.gov.in/Rajasthan-reports.pdf](http://niti.gov.in/Rajasthan-reports.pdf)