

Research Application Summary

Implications of women's work space and work load on small-stock production by beneficiaries of Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID) programme in the central district of Botswana

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Abstract

In Botswana, poverty alleviation programmes that are agricultural oriented, have been developed for rural dwellers. Despite these interventions, there is still persistent poverty in the rural areas. Some of the research works have shown that some influential factors are overlooked when developing and implementing these programmes especially for women empowerment. The most commonly considered social factor is the compatibility of the programme to the needs of beneficiaries while leaving a vast of social factors. Based on this, an investigation was carried out to get views on nature of chores, work space, time-use, workload and their implication on small-stock production from women beneficiaries of a poverty alleviation programme. A mixed research method was used to collect data from a sample of women beneficiaries who benefitted from the programme over five years since 2014. The quantitative data was collected from 370 randomly selected beneficiaries and four focus group discussions were used to collect qualitative data. The results revealed that, women's nature of chores determines their work space. Additionally, women's workload and time use compromise some economic daily activities. In this manner, women's nature of chores, workspace, workload and time use have negative implications on small-stock production by women. This calls for policy makers, as initiators of programmes development and extension sector as implementers to always consider this social factor since it has shown its influence in agricultural production by women.

Key words: Botswana, primary activity, secondary activity, workload, workspace

Résumé

Au Botswana, des programmes de lutte contre la pauvreté axée sur l'agriculture ont été élaborés pour les habitants des zones rurales. Malgré ces interventions, la pauvreté persiste dans les zones rurales. Certains des travaux de recherche ont montré que certains facteurs influents sont négligés lors de l'élaboration et de la mise en œuvre de ces programmes, en particulier pour l'autonomisation des femmes. Le facteur social le plus souvent considéré est la compatibilité du programme avec les besoins des bénéficiaires tout en laissant de côté un vaste ensemble de facteurs sociaux. Sur cette base, une enquête a été menée pour obtenir des opinions sur la nature

des tâches, l'espace de travail, l'utilisation du temps, la charge de travail et leur implication sur la production du petit bétail auprès des femmes bénéficiaires d'un programme de réduction de la pauvreté. Une méthode de recherche mixte a été utilisée pour collecter des données auprès d'un échantillon de femmes bénéficiaires qui ont bénéficié du programme sur cinq ans depuis 2014. Les données quantitatives ont été collectées auprès de 370 bénéficiaires sélectionnés au hasard et quatre discussions de groupe ont été utilisées pour collecter des données qualitatives. Les résultats ont révélé que la nature des tâches des femmes détermine leur espace de travail. De plus, la charge de travail et l'utilisation du temps des femmes compromettent certaines activités économiques quotidiennes. De cette manière, la nature des tâches, de l'espace de travail, de la charge de travail et de l'utilisation du temps des femmes a des implications négatives sur la production de petits animaux par les femmes. Cela appelle les décideurs politiques, en tant qu'initiateurs de programmes de développement et de vulgarisation comme exécutants à toujours considérer ce facteur social puisqu'il a montré son influence dans la production agricole des femmes.

Mots clés : Botswana, activité principale, activité secondaire, charge de travail, espace de travail

Introduction

It is historically evident that women contribute most to the agricultural sector. In the 1990's more than one fifth of labour supply in the agricultural sector was from women in some parts of Africa (Lukmanji, 1992). There had been different calls for gender inclusivity worldwide guided by different visions and institutions. For instance, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had a one goal addressing gender, upon its evaluation there was a development of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which also have a mandate on gender (Woodbridge and Zimmerman, 2015). Since the inception of these goals, women's empowerment has been a common discussion in the developing countries (Showkot and Adie, 2017). Organisations such as Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) have been guiding developing countries such as Botswana in addressing gender inequality and women empowerment as initiatives to curb food insecurity and poverty alleviation (FAO, 2018).

Most women in Botswana dominate informal employment sector due to social barriers as compared to their male counterparts who are more in the formal employment sector in the rural areas hence women are hard hit by poverty (Thomas, 2019). The government of Botswana has been developing different programmes to address poverty alleviation that has befallen women. In 2007, the country launched Livestock Management and Infrastructure Development (LIMID), a poverty alleviation programme which is open to people considered poor but giving priority to the disadvantaged groups such as women and youth (Government of Botswana, 2010). The LIMID programme has resource poor packages which are small-stock and tswana chicken or guinea fowl production. Moreki *et al.* (2009) evaluated the programme and found out that women were the highest beneficiaries of the small-stock package. According to the LIMID guideline, beneficiaries are given small-stock herd worth P10 000 (approximately USD 1000) and veterinary requisites worth P2000 (approximately USD 200). Furthermore, beneficiaries are to be provided with free training and technical support by the public extension department (Government of Botswana, 2010).

Since women have shown more interest in small-stock production, factors that may be influential to the performance of the programme need to be assessed thoroughly. The focus of this investigation

was therefore to explore how women's work space and load affect small-stock production. Women's work space and load are social aspects that are often overlooked in evaluations of women empowerment initiatives but could have effect on production and sustainability. Work load and time use entails the nature of chores, number of chores carried out per day and time spent on each chore by an individual. There is a need for balance in these aspects for farmers to be healthy and productive in agriculture. Number of chores and time spent on chores by an individual per day may define individuals' work space, that is where she/he need to be in order to carry out these chores. These social characteristics need to be known before developing programmes in order for them to be compatible to the targeted beneficiaries. It is also very important to compare these women's characteristics to those of men in the same households in order to have an idea on parity. There is no evidence that women's work space and workload have been considered before and after the inception of the LIMID programme in Botswana. It is against this background that this study was designed to assess women's work space and load vis-à-vis small-stock production under LIMID programme. These are to be achieved by identifying daily household chores, workspace, and establishing their implications on beneficiaries' on small-stock production.

Methodology

The investigation is a descriptive survey study conducted at the Central District of Botswana. The Central district of Botswana is the largest with seven sub-districts: Mahalapye, Palapye, Serowe, Boteti, Tonota, Tutume and Selibe-Phikwe. The targeted population was all women who benefited the small-stock package under LIMID programme from the financial year of 2014/2015 to 2018/2019. The population size within this duration was 9 583. Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination table was used to estimate the sample size. Given a population of 9 583, the sample size according to the table was 370 women beneficiaries of LIMID programme and were all reached. A double random stage cluster sampling method was used to narrow the location from which the beneficiaries were dispersed and only four sub-districts were used to sample the 370 beneficiaries.

A mixed research method design was used to collect data. The quantitative data was collected using scheduled interviews using the time-use or workload frame log adopted from the Abbreviated-Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index used to assess empowerment by agricultural programmes (Alkire *et al.*, 2012). The time use and workload domain is one of the five domains measured by the A-WEAI tool. It has seventeen standardised common daily activities of people. In this study, the seventeen activities were divided into four themes: self-care (eating, personal care, exercising); Laborious work (work as employed, own business, farming, shopping/service, weaving sewing, textile care, cooking, domestic work, care for children, elderly/sick, travelling and commuting); Sleeping (sleeping and resting); and leisure (watching/listening to television/radio, social activities, religious activities). It was therefore used to collect quantitative data through scheduled interviews by recording number of hours per activity for the past 24 hours. There were instances where more than one activity was carried out and they were labelled either primary or secondary. This is measured based on the past 24 hours to maintain consistency amongst the respondents and they are also asked if the time they spent is either similar, lower or higher than their daily time expenditure to get a clear picture of their daily workload (Alkire *et al.*, 2012).

Qualitative data were collected through focus group discussions from four sub-districts that were randomly selected. Each sub-district was represented by 15 randomly selected women who took

part on the scheduled interviews. Since the time log used to measure workload and time use have standardised daily activities by the authors, the focus group discussions were conducted in order to solicit information from women beneficiaries on their common daily activities considered to define their work space in their communities. The intention was to get their view on common chores amongst them and discuss how they determine where they should be and how that implicate their small-stock production. The other intention for using the qualitative method was to get in-depth views of women on their workload and time use in order to complement the quantitative data collected from the time-use and workload log.

Descriptive analysis was used to get frequencies, sums, averages and standard deviation from the quantitative data. The narratives from focus group discussions were interpreted and summarised under the thymes: nature of women chores, time use/workload and implications on small-stock production.

Results and Discussions

The study results revealed the nature of household chores that women commonly partake in and they are considered determinants of the working space. The time women spend on different common chores was determined to assess workload which was then compared to male decision makers of the households of the beneficiaries to determine the gap. The LIMID beneficiaries explained that the nature of their responsibilities and workload has led to some negative implications in their small-stock management.

Nature of women's chores and work space. Women outlined that they have demanding chores that are specifically their call depending on the set up of the household. Despite their big households' sizes, women still have the burden of some chores alone. They identified the following chores as common for women in their rural communities: Taking care of the children/sick/elderly: women take care of schooling and non-schooling children of between zero to eighteen years old. Taking care of children under five years old does not affect small-stock management very much because they could be taken to the cattle post and stay with them. The problem comes when the children are schooling because they have to stay in the villages where schools are. This forces women to move with their animals to the village to be closer to them or leave them with other people at the cattle post. It was further revealed that women are also responsible for taking care of the elderly and sick members of the households. The elderly like the sick, need to stay in places where there are health facilities for easy access of facilities. The elderly and the sick also need full time presence of a care taker to assist in their daily life such as cooking, bathing, just to mention a few. In this manner, they need to be in villages or peri urban areas, hence the women have to take their animals to the villages, or ask some people to help them take care of the animals.

Domestic work. The discussions revealed that women also have more domestic work such as cooking, cleaning, laundry, fetching water and woods. They perform all these duties for almost all members of the households. Children, the elderly, sick and men need assistance in these chores and women are the one who have to help. Even if women stay in the cattle post with the animals, once in a while have to come to the village to assist in these.

Income generation. Women are also involved in informal employment sector. Although women are given small-stock herd to alleviate poverty status, they do not believe in selling the animals

for buying food and toiletries or to spend on households' basics needs. The explanation is that, culturally livestock rearing is for bigger things such as building a house, paying school fees, connecting water and electricity not for basic needs. Therefore, they open small businesses such as tuck shops, involved in hawking, casual work, piece jobs (agricultural and non-agricultural). Women indicated that they are mostly involved in government relief programmes developed for unemployed people in the rural areas such as ipelegeng, and the other ones for unemployed youth (tirelo Sechaba). These small-businesses do well in villages and peri-urban areas and the relief programmes are tenable in the villages and towns. Therefore, women have to go there for business and work. The small-stock would then be either moved to villages or left with other people in the cattle post.

Farming. Women are involved in farming activities both arable and pastoral. They farm crops to feed the family and farming of small animals such as sheep, goats and poultry to generate income. The farming is carried out at the same time with other households' chores. It was found that in Africa, women experienced inadequate labour force in animal production because it is either they do not have assistants from the family or they are involved in other household chores that are not economic (Habtezion, 2012).

Women's time use and workload. The age range of women beneficiaries of the LIMID programme who were interviewed is from 24 to 89 years old. The results show that 7% of them were in the age range of 20 to 30, 33.3% in 31-40, 18.7% in 41 to 50, 17.6% in 51-60, 16.2% in 61-70, 3.5% in 71-80 and 0.8 in 81 to 90. Women were interviewed on how they spent time on the past 24 hours against standardised activities, and 95% of them indicated that the time record of the previous day is similar to their daily time expenditure, 2.7% of them confirmed it is less and 2.3% clarified that they spent less time compared to their daily time use. This gives good basis of conclusions of the study since the time expenditure for most of them is similar to their daily workload.

Table 1 shows the percentage of women and their time expenditure per an activity. Most of the women 97.8 % and 98.1% spend time range of between 0.1 to 5 hours on eating and personal care. On the contrary, most of the beneficiaries (94.6%) do not spend any time on exercising. It is revealed that women (2.2% and 1.1%) take their meals and personal care respectively alongside with other activities. In the laborious category, less than half of the women (31.6%) were not involved in any work as employee while 38.7 were working as employed but the work was not their primary activity of the day. One fifth (20%) of women involved primarily on work as employees for a time range of between 0.1 to 5 hours. Some women (1,1%) worked for time range of between 10.1-15 hours. Many women spend time on cooking (61.6%) as principal activity, followed by farming (31.9%) at time range of 0.1-5 hours. The results disclosed that, women take other laborious work as secondary activity, that is, carrying out two activities at the same time. The activities that most women take as secondary is care-taking (47.8%), followed by work as employed (38.7%), and farming (34.7%). The results show that all laborious activities are taken as secondary activities by certain number of women. Women have to juggle between one activity to other to make ends meet for the household's sake but on the long run some priorities, compromise the economic activities. "Overall, the labour burden of rural women exceeds that of men, and includes a higher proportion of unpaid household responsibilities related to preparing food and collecting fuel and water" (Doss, 2011:1). This may compromise time spent in generating income or farming.

Most women (84%) sleep for a time range of (6.1-10 hours), 9.5% of them sleep for more than 10

hours but less than 15 hours while only 0.8 % sleep for the lowest time range of 0.1-5 hours daily. Chaput *et al.* (2018) clarified that sleeping during duration is not the only factor to be considered but also consider sleep quality, sleeping time which mostly are affected by the fatigue from daily activities. They pointed out that, The United States national sleep foundation recommended 7 to 8 hours per day for adults while American Academy of Sleep Medicine recommended approximately 7 hours. The study results indicate that most women sleep for an average range not far from the recommended ones hence they have ample time of resting.

A reasonable number of women (87.1%) do not spend time on social activities and 46.4% of them were not involved in religious activities. The results reveal that most of them (50.9%) watch television or listen to radio for a time range of 0.1 to 5 hours per day. "Allocation and efficiency of non-working time is more important to economic welfare than that of working time" (Becker, 1965; Kola and Sihvola, 1994:1). The implication of the authors' words is that, leisure time relaxes people physically and emotionally. This stimulates the general wellbeing and health of individuals which in turn is needed for improved performance or production. In this manner, women farmers need more time for leisure for their effectiveness in the production.

Table 1. Women's time-use and workload

		Time (hours) spent by women (percentage) per activity					
		0	Secondary activity	0.1-5	5.1-6	6.1-10	10.1-15
A	Daily activities						
	Self-Care						
	Eating	0	2.2	97.8	0	0	0
	Personal-care	0	1.1	98.1	0.8	0	0
	Exercising	94.6	0	5.4	0	0	0
B	Total average						
	Laborious work						
	Work as employed	31.6	38.7	20	4.6	5.1	0
	Own business	69.5	20.2	4.9	0.8	3.5	1.1
	Farming	11.5	34.7	31.9	5.7	15.9	0.3
	Service/shopping	85.4	5.1	0	9.5	0	0
	Textile/weaving	90.9	2.3	6.3	0	0.5	0
	Cooking	18.7	61.6	0	0	0	
	Domestic work	2.4	29.8	61	4.9	1.9	0
	Care-taker	6	47.8	29.4	2.5	11.8	2.5
C	Travelling	40.5	0	58.4	0.3	0.8	0
	Total average						
	Sleeping						
D	Sleeping and resting	0	0	0.8	5.7	84	9.5
	Total average						
D	Leisure						
	Watching/Listening to TV/Radio	28.8	19.2	50.9	1.1	0	0
	Social activities	87.1	2.1	10.8	0	0	0
	Religious activities	46.4	10.4	43.2	0	0	0
	Total average						

Table 2 shows the average time in hours spent per activity and the variation on time expenditure by the beneficiaries. The total average of the category of self-care is 3.32 hours with the highest average time of 1.85 hours spent on personal care and lowest average time 0.07 hours on exercising. The variation of the beneficiaries' responses on activities of time expenditure show that they are closer to the mean, that is less variation on time expenditure on this activity. It is very important for women to have ample time for self-care for their good health and effectiveness. Women are not only involved in farming but other household chores and they need to be mentally and physically to carry-out these chores. Self-care is an individual venture such as exercising, mediating, bathing and listening to music just to mention a few. They give an individual a good sense of feeling which improves well-being. The women explained that there is no need for them to spare time for exercising because already they are involved in demanding activities which need physical work. The average laborious work is 10.97 hours which is greater than IFPRI's baseline value of 10.5 by 0.47 hours. "The individual is defined as adequate on workload if the number of hours he or she worked per day are was less than the poverty line of 10.5 hours in the previous 24 hours" (Malapit *et al.*, 2020:19). The LIMID beneficiaries have exceeded the baseline time expenditure by less than half an hour, this implies that their disempowerment on workload is lower but still needs to be improved by reducing time-spent on laborious work.

The average time spent on leisure is 1.22 hours with 0.83 hours spent on watching television and listening to the radio even though there is variation of 1.27 standard deviation. Women's expenditure of time on social and religious activities is 0.23 and 0.16 respectively and with lower variations of 0.82 and 0.71 respectively. This shows that their time expenditure on the two activities is almost the same and closer to the means. In agriculture, it is good for the farmers to socialise because they get exposed to information exchange. "Farmers who lack the means to acquire agricultural information from formal sources often rely on informal social networks" (Pratiwi and Suzuki, 2017:6) and they end up having improved decision-making skills in agricultural production which promotes empowerment (Malapit *et al.*, 2020).

Variations in responses of women is an indication of the different household's set-up, composition and dynamics. Women clarified that even though they have similar challenges, their household dynamics differ hence the variations in some activities.

Implications on small-stock production due to women's nature of chores, work-space and load. The study identified the following common women's household chores to be taking care of children, the sick and elderly; various domestic work; income generation through informal sector employment; and farming. The nature of these chores except farming, compels women in small-stock production to move from cattle-posts to villages or peri-urban areas. The best place to rear livestock in Botswana is at the cattle post because there is good range for communal grazing and natural water sources open to farmers. Women clarified that they practice village farming because of the nature of the chores that culturally they are their responsibilities and these determine villages as their work space. Work load of women also has shown to be a disturbance on small-stock production by women. Women are involved in many activities which call for diversion and division of time based on priorities. Unfortunately, these are associated with the following negative implications on small-stock production; Grazing land in and around the villages is small and degraded, hence the small-stock does not have enough to feed on which is not good for their health and reproduction. Additionally, there are no or limited free and natural water sources

Table 2. Average time (hours) spent per activity and category

		Average hours per activity (hours)	STD
A	Daily activities		
	Self-Care		
	Eating	1.40	0.52
	Personal-care	1.85	0.78
	Exercising	0.07	0.30
	Total average	3.32	
B	Laborious work		
	Work as employed	1.42	2.43
	Own business	0.66	2.31
	Farming	2.47	3.08
	Service/shopping	0.32	1.21
	Textile/weaving	0.11	0.57
	Cooking	0.90	0.93
	Domestic work	1.77	1.80
	Care-taker	2.27	3.25
	Travelling	1.05	1.37
	Total average	10.97	
C	Sleeping		
	Sleeping and resting	8.49	1.39
	Total average	8.49	
D	Leisure		
	Watching/Listening to TV/Radio	0.83	1.12
	Social activities	0.23	0.82
	Religious activities	0.16	0.71
	Total average	1.22	

around the villages. Therefore, women have to water their animals from household water taps or buy water for the animals. Hence, they are obliged to limit the amount of water that animals could take per day to reduce costs. Watering livestock from household water taps conflicts the initiatives of the water utilities cooperation in the country of saving water for domestic use since there is water crisis in the country for consumption. Furthermore, women pointed out that, the water bills are always high and very difficult for them to take care of them hence lead to water disconnections in their households. Even though small-stock are known to be adaptable to scarce nutrition and water, they need adequate water consumption per day otherwise their lives and production would be compromised (Bras, 2010).

In some instances, women cannot leave the household at all or for a long time, for instance, when they have gone to bed or taking care of critically sick household members. This diverts their focus on small-stock management hence they open the kraal for the animals to go and graze and hope they would come back. This is a type of part-time small stock management which is very risky in Botswana. During cropping season, livestock farmers have to look after their animals full-time

to protect them from damaging peoples' crop stands. If they do, traditionally the owner of the livestock is fined to compensate the owner of the crops and this is a burden for women. Sometimes the animals go astray or get stolen because they are not herded hence affect the accumulation of the herd stock.

It was also revealed that small-stock sometimes trespass in people's homes and cause damage hence incite conflicts amongst the villagers. Some end up harming the animals and the women cannot even report to the village leaders because all farmers are encouraged to farm outside the village to avoid all these conflicts.

Due to poor pasture, inadequate water and inadequate labour, some women end up with no choice but to ask friends and relatives to look after the animals on their behalf or hire herdsman in the cattle post. The disadvantage is that, the caretakers of the of the herd stock do not do their best in managing the animals as the owners could. Most of the time women experience reduced herd stock hence suspect cheating from the caretakers.

Workload is spending time on more demanding and/or laborious activities. Spending more time on some activities destructs attention given to other activities. Women narrated that; they have a lot of activities to attend to per day therefore they have to prioritise. Mostly they would compromise on full-time small-stock farming more especially after taming the animals. They give the animals water in the morning and open their kraals to go out for grazing and then they are able to do some activities while waiting for the animals to come back on their own in the evening. This has led to the exposure of the stock to going astray and be stolen. Sometimes because of fatigue they don't have time to even observe some changes in the health and number of the animals and may realise all these very late.

It was pointed out that sometimes it is not all about doing many activities per day but spending more time on one uneconomic activity because it of priority by the that time. Spending many hours on one activity is disadvantageous that it compromises the importance of other activities, for instance, taking care of the sick, the caretaker cannot take care of the small-stock properly or can she look for a job for income generating. The livelihood activities do not get a balance hence the persistence of poverty.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Women's work space and load have negative implications on small-stock production. Women's nature of chores such as taking care of children, the sick, elderly; domestic work, informal sector employment oblige them to practice village farming. Village farming has its advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages of village farming overcome the advantages. The advantage is that, the animals are near the owner and are taken care of at same time taking care of other household activities. On the contrary, animals suffer because of competing activities that need women's attention. This leads to compromised small-stock management (poor feeding, poor watering, poor restriction movements of animals) which in turn lead to poor productivity, low small-stock accumulation, conflict with some government initiatives on the use of water and land. The social aspects such as the nature of women cores, work space and workload need to be considered in policy and programme development. Extension services also have to be tailor made

considering nature of household chores, work space and workload. There is a need to educate the women in aspects of time use for the sake of their health and production sustainability in agriculture.

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