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Comparison of Time Utilization of Urban, Rural and Tribal Farmwomen in Daily Routine Activities

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Abstract:

The study was carried out from two agro-climatic zones of Maharashtra. Nanded district was selected from Central Maharashtra Plateau zone and Nagpur district was selected from Central Vidarbha zone. This research consists sample of 600 farm women 200 each from urban, rural and tribal areas. In the present study, time spending pattern of the respondents from urban, rural and tribal areas was compared for daily routine activities. Time spending of the respondent for daily routine activities was recorded for 24 hours. This was noted for peak period and slack period. As regards time utilization in daily routine activities, it was noted that women from all the three areas spent maximum time on farming or farm related activities and kitchen work in peak period whereas in slack period they spent maximum time on kitchen work and on extra household work. Urban women spent minimum time on grazing animals and collection of fuel wood/making dung cakes during peak period and they spent minimum time on cash earning outside home (service) and grazing animals in slack period. As far as rural women were concerned, it was seen that minimum time spent by them in peak period was on grazing animals and on other activities while in slack period, they spent minimum time on cash earning outside home (service) and on other activities. In case of tribal women, it was observed that they spent minimum time in peak period on the other activities and grazing animals whereas in slack period they found to be spending minimum time on the activities like, grazing animals and cash earning outside home (service).

Keywords: Comparison, daily routine activities, farmwomen, time utilization

1. Introduction

Of the resources, time is one of the easiest to measure but one of the most difficult to understand. That it is a resource at all has even been questioned. Its present independent right as a resource is, a matter of practical acceptance and usage. Warren, after considering pros and cons, accepts it as a resource. Hall says, "Time with us is handled much like a material; we earn it, spend it." Materials are resources. When we ask "What's the time?" we usually indicate the need for synchronizing our activity with that of others, whether for food, work, rest, or entertainment.

Carrying out time and activity plans to successful completion follows the making of the plan. Whether a plan is a mental record or a written one it must be workable to be of any value. It must work when things are running along normally and with adjustment should work when emergencies arise. A good plan will always serve as a guide no matter what happens. As it is stated earlier, time has the greatest importance in one's life as it can neither be extended nor be bought with money. Everybody is pressed for time, particularly the housewife who has to do so many jobs, each as important as the other finds it very difficult to manage these within the limited period of time. Home-maker meets the demands of responsibilities associated with her role as a homemaker along with other demands on her time and thus distributes her time over the three general uses such as work, leisure and sleep & rest. (George & Bafna, 1982).

The time spent on various household activities varies from family to family. No two families are alike in their way of leading life. Factors of difference in time use may be socio-economic status of the family, composition of the family, social environment and location of the family such as rural or urban area. Rural homemakers differ from their urban counterparts mainly in the farm and farm related activities they perform. So it is essential to know how the homemakers from different areas use their time. Hence the present investigation was carried out with the following objective –

- To know the general profile of the respondents.
- To study the difference in time utilization pattern of urban, rural and tribal women in daily routine activities.

2. Methodology

The study was carried out from two agro-climatic zones of Maharashtra. Nanded district was selected from Central Maharashtra Plateau zone and Nagpur district was selected from Central Vidarbha zone. This research consists sample of 600 farm women 200 each from urban, rural and tribal areas. It was easy to get sample of farm women from rural and tribal areas but difficult from urban area. Hence the localities of the urban area, where farming or farm related activities were done by the women, were selected. Data were collected by administering the pre-tested interview schedule. All the respondents were interviewed personally by the investigator at work spot, which enabled her to get the first hand information. In the present study, time utilization or time spending pattern of the urban, rural and tribal respondents was studied for daily routine activities like personal care, kitchen work, household work, care of children & family members farming or farm related activities etc. Time spending for daily routine activities was recorded for 24 hours. This was noted for peak period and slack period. Peak period is a period when farm women are fully loaded with their farm activities and slack period is that period when they have not much work on farms i.e. after harvesting. The respondents were asked the time utilized for each activity in hours and minutes and the actual time was recorded. Total of each respondent's utilized time was 24 hours. Frequencies and percentages were calculated for statistical analysis.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. General Profile of the Respondents

It is clear from table 1 that majority of the women from urban (54.00 %), rural (46.00 %) and tribal (45.50 %) areas were from the category middle age i.e. 31-45 years. This result was found to be in different line with that of Bhalerao (2002) while it was comparable with the study of Bhamare *et al.* (2006) and Rathod (2008) who reported that majority of the Banjara women were middle aged i.e. in the age group of 36-50 years.

SN	Particulars	Urban (n = 200)		Rural (n = 200)		Tribal (n = 200)	
		Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)
1	Age (Years)						
	18-30 yrs.	46	23.00	65	32.50	74	37.00
	31-45 yrs.	108	54.00	92	46.00	91	45.50
	46-60 yrs.	46	23.00	43	21.50	35	17.50
2	Education						
	Illiterate	0	0.00	4	2.00	00	0.00
	Can read / write	8	4.00	74	37.00	83	41.50
	School level	52	26.00	109	54.50	108	54.00
	Jr. College/ Diploma	31	15.50	9	4.50	8	4.00
	Graduate	53	26.50	4	2.00	1	0.50
	Post Graduate	56	28.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3	Occupation						
	Farm labour	0	00.0	134	67.00	159	79.50
	Farming	32	16.00	96	48.00	110	55.00
	Farm related	63	31.50	15	7.50	4	2.00
	Service	63	31.50	5	2.50	7	3.50
	Business	66	33.00	13	6.50	3	1.50
4	Family Structure						
	<i>a) Family Type</i>						
	Nuclear	132	66.00	101	50.50	115	57.50
	Joint	68	34.00	99	49.50	82	41.00
	Extended	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1.50
	<i>b) Family size</i>						
	Small (Up to 4 members)	131	65.50	76	38.00	68	34.00
	Medium (5-8 members)	60	30.00	106	53.00	116	58.00
	Large (> 8 members)	9	4.50	18	9.00	16	8.00
5	Family income (Rs.) Per year						
	Up to Rs. 25,000.00	86	43.00	185	92.50	197	98.50
	Rs. 25,001.00 to 50,000.00	76	38.00	13	6.50	3	1.50
	> Rs. 50,000.00	38	19.00	2	1.00	--	--
6	Land holding						
	Landless	126	63.00	101	50.50	90	45.00
	Small (Up to 2.5 acres)	8	4.00	31	15.50	16	8.00
	Marginal (2.5 to 5 acres)	19	9.50	34	17.00	46	23.00
	Medium (5 to 10 acres)	19	9.50	15	7.50	37	18.50
	Large (> 10 acres)	28	14.00	19	9.50	11	5.50

Table 1: General profile of the respondents

As far as education of the respondents was concerned, it was seen that more than one fourth (28.00 %) of the urban women were post educate. More than half of the rural (54.50 %) and tribal (54.00 %) respondents were educated up to school level. The study clearly indicates that educational level of the women in the study is fair. The results are contradictory with the studies of Mohanty (1995), Bhat (2001), Bhalerao (2002), Bhamare *et al.* (2006) and Bhoyar *et al.* (2014) who noted that majority of the respondents in their studies were illiterate.

Major occupation of the selected women from rural (67.00 %) and tribal (79.50 %) areas was found to be farm labourers. These women were working on others' farms while one third (33.00 %) of the urban women were doing business related to farming activities like, selling of agricultural implements, preparation of agricultural edible products at home (turmeric, chili powder making, masala making etc.), dhal making, selling vegetables, flowers and garlands selling and selling preserves (papad, pickles, vermicelli etc).

These findings in case of rural and tribal respondents are in line with the studies of Bhat (2001), Bhalerao (2002), Annual Report of AICRP – Extension Component (2003) and also Rathod (2008) who reported that majority of the respondents were having farming + farm labour as their occupation. The results in this case did not support with the results of Bhoyar *et al.* (2014) who found that majority of the urban respondents were engaged in service.

As far as family type was concerned, nuclear type of families were seen to be predominant in all the areas (urban - 66.00 %, rural - 50.50 % and tribal – 57.50 %). It is clear from the data that the trend of nuclear families has been increasing in rural and tribal areas also. Bhat (2001) and Bhalerao (2002) also reported that the percentage of nuclear families were more in a study from rural area whereas the same result was noticed by Bhoyar *et al.* (2014) in case of urban families.

It was observed that majority (65.50 %) of the urban families were small sized (up to 4 members) whereas the trend of medium sized (5-8 members) families was found in more than half of the selected rural (53.00 %) and tribal (58.00 %) families.

These results are in line with Bhalerao (2002).

The annual income of the respondents' families was categorized under three income groups as up to Rs. 25,000/-, between Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- and above Rs. 50,000/-. It was observed that a thumping majority of the rural (92.50 %) and tribal (98.50 %) and less than half (43.00 %) of the urban families had their annual income up to Rs. 25,000/-. The result is same as Bhalerao (2002) and Rathod (2008), who mentioned that in their studies majority of the families, belonged to the lower income group. But the result is not matching to the result of Bhamare *et al.* (2006).

When the respondents were classified according to their landholding categories, it was noted that majority of the respondents from all the areas were landless (urban - 63.00 %, rural - 50.50 % and tribal 45.00 %). It may be due the reason that majority of the rural and tribal respondents were farm labour. The result is not supporting to the result of Bhamare *et al.* (2006) who reported that majority of the respondents were having high land holding.

3.2. Time Utilization Pattern of the Respondents in Daily Routine Work (Average time utilization of the respondents for total day).

Table 2 shows the comparison of time use pattern of urban, rural and tribal women or time utilization pattern of the respondents in their routine work. This work for 24 hours was divided into 18 different activities as shown in the table.

Sr. No.	Type of work	Time used for various activities					
		Urban (n=200)		Rural (n=200)		Tribal (n=200)	
		Peak period Minutes	Slack period Minutes	Peak period Minutes	Slack period Minutes	Peak period Minutes	Slack period Minutes
1	Personal care (bathing, dressing, eating)	60.17	73.42	59.22	77.25	62.62	78.30
2	Kitchen work (pre & post cooking work, meal preparation)	120.07	140.77	114	129.45	115.20	132.52
3	Fetching water for household work	18.30	18.15	37.47	38.125	44.02	43.90
4	Household work (brooming, mopping, washing clothes/utensils)	64.97	73.72	109.62	129.00	113.70	128.25
5	Religious work	30.65	33.00	26.27	27.55	23.82	26.67
6	Management of animal, shed (related acti. s)	5.1	4.95	19.70	25.65	15.45	22.27
7	Care of children & family members	93.25	54.2	90.15	114.45	92.25	120.15
8	Collection of fuel wood/making dung cakes	3.15	59.47	40.20	82.95	37.05	107.40
9	Grazing animals	3.00	1.50	3.60	5.25	1.80	3.00
10	Cash earning outside home (service)	100.50	3.90	6.00	2.4	10.80	0.00
11	Cash earning at home (enterprise)	77.02	34.12	11.85	16.2	4.65	11.25
12	Mid work rest/leisure time	52.87	92.40	48.82	76.87	47.40	64.20
13	Farming activities (related activities)	148.45	30.00	365.22	32.4	363.22	23.10
14	Social activities (SHG, bhajan, mahila man- dal, social work, community festivals etc.)	20.55	30.75	5.70	9.15	9.15	15.15

15	Recreational activities (watching TV, listening radio, watching movies in theatre)	87.10	116.90	39.45	62.32	33.05	59.47
16	Extra household work	35.75	126.95	29.47	155.10	30.27	142.70
17	Other activities	32.45	38.25	0.00	0.15	3.00	7.20
18	Unaccounted time + sleep	486.62	507.52	433.22	455.72	432.52	454.45
19	Total minutes	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440	1440

Table 2: Time utilization pattern of the respondents in daily routine work (Average time utilization of the respondents for total day)

It is evident from the table that as far as personal care of the respondents i.e. bathing, dressing, eating etc., was concerned it was observed that the time required for these activities did not vary much in all the three groups for peak periods. In peak periods tribal women spent 62.62 min. on these activities, followed by urban women who spent 60.17 min. and rural women whose time spent on personal activities was 59.22 min. All the women from three areas are working women and in peak periods they have very less time for their personal activities. In slack period time required for personal care by tribal women was 78.30 min. that for rural women was 77.25 min. while the time noted for urban women was 73.42 min. It means amongst all, tribal women spent more time for personal care in both peak and slack periods. Comparatively more time was spent in slack periods by the respondents from three areas for this activity. It was obvious, because in peak periods the women have to rush out for work and they have to finish their household and other tasks quickly. But during slack periods they do not have farm or farm related activities and there is no hurry to finish the work. The finding of the present study corroborates with the finding of Bala and Singal (2003).

Kitchen work is the activity that a woman has to perform on priority. She spends a major period of the day in kitchen work which includes pre & post cooking work, meal preparation etc. It was noticed that urban spent 120.07 min. for cooking and related work during peak period, while tribal women required 115.20 min. followed by rural women who required 114 min. It can be also seen that the time required for these activities by urban women in slack period was 140.77 min. whereas for tribal women the noted time was 132.52 min. and for rural women it was 129.45 min. Time spent by tribal and rural women was almost same. But it was noted that urban women spent more time in both the periods. It was due to the fact that in urban areas the items prepared for meals are more in number as dhal, two types of curry, salad, chutney, buttermilk or curd, chapatti, rice, papad etc. whereas in tribal and rural areas only 2-3 items are prepared as dhal, roti or curry and chapatti for which less time is required. Number of items is prepared only on the special occasions in the rural and tribal areas. The results are similar as the results of Kulkarni and Murali (1991) and as Bala and Singal (2003).

Researches have shown that fetching water for household purpose is a time consuming and drudgery prone activity for rural and tribal women. They have to fetch water from a long distance. But in urban areas this activity requires few minutes. In this investigation also it was found that tribal women spent 44.02 min. for fetching water in peak periods while time required for rural women for this activity was 37.47 min. in peak period. It was also noted that urban women spent only 18.30 min. for fetching water in peak period. In slack period, time spent by tribal women was found to be 43.90 min., for rural women it was 38.12 min. and that for urban respondents 18.15 min. According to the tribal and rural respondents, they had to fetch water from wells, common water taps or common tube wells which were situated in common place. The sources of water were found to be very few. Hence more time was required for fetching water. On the other hand, water tap was available in each of the urban house. So time required for this activity was comparatively very less. The results are in agreement with the studies of Ahuja *et al.* (1993) and Bala and Singal (2003)

To complete household work, like brooming, mopping, washing clothes or utensils etc. more time is required. These activities are tedious and drudgery prone. Women spent major period of a day to accomplish these tasks. It can be expressed from the table that in peak periods tribal women spent 113.70 min. followed by rural women who spent 109.62 min. to complete the household work. It was noted that there was a remarkable difference in the time spent by urban women when compared to tribal and rural women. Urban women found to be spending 64.97 min. for household work. In slack period the time required for these activities does not vary much for rural and tribal respondents who spent 129.00 and 128.25 min. respectively. In slack period also time spent by urban women found to be a noticeable difference. It was seen that urban women took only 73.72 min. to complete household work. It was due to the reasons that in tribal and rural areas the women did these activities by themselves while in urban areas; the maids or servants were found to be doing these activities in majority of the houses. Another reason is that in rural and tribal areas, the women wash clothes not in their houses but in a common place like, rivers, wells, tube wells etc. which may be away from their houses. In rural and tribal areas, the women have to plaster the house with dung, especially floor, which is very time consuming and tedious job. The result is nearer to the finding of Bala and Singal (2003).

Each and every person spends some of the time of the day for religious work or worshipping to God to get satisfaction and relaxation. It was observed that urban women spent little bit more time for this activity than rural and tribal women in both the periods. In peak period the urban women spent 30.65 min. whereas rural and tribal respondents required 26.27 and 23.82 min. respectively for worshipping God. In slack period, urban women spent 33.00 min. followed by rural (27.55 min.) and tribal women (26.67 min.). In rural and tribal areas, the respondents replied that daily *Pooja* was performed by the male members or the elder members of the family; hence women need not to perform this activity while in the urban area, the respondents replied that performing daily *Pooja* was their duty. Hence urban women required more time.

As regards the activity, management of animal/animal shed and related activities, the data indicates that time required for the rural women in peak period was 19.70 min. and that for tribal women it was 15.45 min. while for urban women it was very minimum i.e.

5.1 min. In slack period, the time requirement noted for rural women was 25.65 min. while for tribal women it was noted as 22.27 min. For urban women time recorded was very negligible i.e. 4.95 min. The results show that time requirement for management of animal/animal shed and related activities, rural women spent more time followed by tribal women. Ownership of livestock is more in rural area followed by tribal area. So the time requirement for these activities might be more in rural area. Another reason was, in urban area the paid servants were appointed to carry on these activities. Hence the women did not participate in these activities. But in rural and tribal areas the women had to manage these things for some extent.

For care of children & family members the women require more time irrespective of the area. To look after the elder members as well as the children, is a responsibility of the women in the family. The table clarifies the time required for this activity did not vary much in all the three groups for peak periods. Urban women spent 93.25 min., followed by tribal women (92.25 min.) and then rural women who required 90.15 min. to accomplish this task. It can also be expressed from the same table that the figures for slack period had variation. In slack period, tribal women spent more time (120.15 min.) followed by rural women (114.45 min.) and urban women spent only 54.2 min. In peak periods respondents from all the areas had to rush out for their work. As it was seen earlier, in urban area the family pattern noticed was nuclear. So the female member in the family has to carry all the activities in the house. So she required more time. But in rural and tribal areas joint family pattern was noted. Hence other women in the family shared the workload. So they required less time. As mentioned earlier, small family trend was observed in the urban area while in rural and tribal areas medium sized families were noticed more. Hence in slack period when women were at home they took care of the family for which they spent more time due to relaxation. This finding lends support to the finding of the study of Bala and Singal (2003).

Women cannot participate in collection of fuel wood or making dung cakes in peak period. It is the activity which can be carried out in free time. It can be portrayed that among the three areas, women from rural area spent more time (40.20 min.) for this activity in peak period, followed by tribal women who found to be spending 37.05 min. whereas women from urban area spent a negligible (3.15 min.) time on this activity in peak period. In slack period much variation was noted. Tribal women were spending more time (107.40 min.), for rural women time spent was 82.95 min. and the urban women were found to be spending 59.47 min. on this activity. Participation of rural and tribal women was more in both the periods for collection of fuel wood because cooking was done on traditional chullas and for that they had to collect the firewood. The women from both the areas replied that they used to go for collection of fuel wood either on the days when they had no farm work in peak period or they collect it in slack period. In urban area no chullas were used. The women used LPG stoves or kerosene stoves for cooking purpose. Making of dung cakes was also the dominant activity in tribal and rural areas because as stated earlier, livestock ownership was more in these areas than urban area. The result regarding peak period related to rural and tribal women is coinciding with the finding of Ahuja *et al.* (1993). Result in case of slack period is comparable with study by Bala and Singal (2003).

It was observed that irrespective of area, the least time was spent on the activity grazing of animals by the selected respondents in both the periods. Average time spent by the rural women on this activity was 3.60 min. followed by urban women who were found to be spending 3.00 min. whereas time spent by tribal women was 1.80 min. per day in peak period. In slack period, rural women spent 5.25 min., tribal women spent 3.00 min. while urban were spending only 1.50 min. It may be due the reason that the animal sheds were mostly on the farms. Hence there was no participation of women in this activity. Even if the animals were kept near to the houses of the livestock owners, this activity was carried out either by the male members of the family or by the attendant.

A perusal of data furnished in table indicates that in the activity cash earning outside home i.e. in the service, the urban women were spending 100.50 min. on an average in peak period. The figures for tribal and rural women found to be meager i.e. 10.80 and 6.00 min. respectively. It was obvious as involvement of the urban women was more in the occupation service than rural and tribal women while majority of the rural and tribal respondents were either farm labours or involved in the occupation farming. Slack period for the respondents involved in the occupation, service was considered as their weekly holidays or other type of holidays like festival holiday or summer and winter holidays. It was found that the women from all the areas spent a negligible time in this activity. For urban women it was 3.90 min. and for rural women it was only 2.4 min. It was also noted that no tribal woman was found to be working in slack period. As involvement of urban respondents in the activity enterprise i.e. cash earning at home was more than rural and tribal women, the time spent of the women from this area was more in this activity in both the periods. It can be inferred that in peak period urban women spent 77.02 min. Rural and tribal women spent very less time on this activity as 11.85 and 4.65 min. as their main occupation was either farm labour or farming. In slack period urban women spent 34.12 min. for enterprise. Rural and tribal respondents found to be spending more time in enterprise as compared to their time spent in peak period as 16.2 and 11.25 min. respectively. As replied by the respondents, in slack period they had no farm work so they could spare time for this activity. In peak period due to engagement in farm work they did not get time for other activities.

Leisure time is an important part of the total pattern of living. In a total working period, there should be a little time for resting. It helps to refresh a person. It can be revealed from the same table that there was not much difference in spending time for rest by the women from all the areas. Urban women spent 52.87 min. while rural women spent 48.82 min. followed by the tribal women who spent 47.40 min. for resting while working in peak period. There was variation as regards slack period for time spent by urban women while compared to rural and tribal women. It was noticed that urban women spent 92.40 min. for resting in slack period whereas rural and tribal women spent 76.87 and 64.20 min. respectively. In slack period urban women were at their homes and they could spend more time for rest due to extra household work. But some of the rural and tribal women had to work on farms in slack period also as majority of them had farming or farm labour as their occupation. So they could not spend more time for resting. The above finding is in accordance with the observation of Ahuja *et al.* (1993). The result for slack period is comparable with study by Bala and Singal (2003).

This investigation was aimed to find out the data of the women respondents involved in farming or farm related activities. Hence their time spent in the activities related to farming is important. It was noticed that time spent in farming activities by the rural and tribal women was almost same in peak period. For rural women it was 365.22 min. and for tribal women it was 363.22 min. It was also observed that the urban women spent 148.45 min. in peak period on this activity. There was not much difference in time spent by all the women as far as slack period was concerned. In the slack period rural respondents spent 32.4 min. followed by urban women who found to be spent 30.00 min. while tribal women spent 23.10 min. on actual farming activities. Time spent by urban women in farming activities was less compared to rural and tribal women which is obvious as majority of the urban women were engaged in doing farm related activities, service or business and very less of them had their occupation as farming whereas majority of the rural and tribal women were either farm labours or farmers. This finding of the present study corroborates with the findings of Kulkarni and Murali (1991) and Annual Report of AICRP – Extension Component (2003). The result also supports to the study of Bala and Singal (2003). During investigation it was noticed that apart from daily routine work, women participated in the social activities like, Self-Help Group, Bhajan, Mahila Mandal activities, social work or community festivals to get relaxed from boredom or for entertainment. It can be seen that urban women spent on an average 20.55 min. to participate in these activities in peak period. It was found that tribal and rural women spent comparatively less time in these activities as 9.15 and 5.70 min. respectively. Whereas in slack period it was noted that women from all the areas spent slightly more time as they were free in these days. Urban women spent 30.75 min., tribal women spent 15.15 min. while rural women spent 9.15 min. Due to comparatively more extension contacts, more media ownership, social contacts urban women were more involved in social activities. They had more exposure. Urban women were also involved in service so they had more social contacts. Hence their involvement was observed more in social activities. Whereas tribal and rural women work on farms and returned to home. They could not spare extra time for these activities. In many of the families from these areas it was noted that the women were not allowed to move for participating in social activities. They were only allowed to go for Bhajan and Kirtan. But nowadays many of them are participating in Self-Help Group or Mahila Mandal activities.

Though all the women under investigation were working women and they had no extra time for recreational activities especially during peak period, it was observed that they spent some time for recreation which was very useful to refresh them. It can be expressed that urban were spending comparatively more time (87.10 min.) for watching TV, listening radio or watching movies in theatres in peak periods. These means were easily available to them. Due to unavailability of TV, radio and theatres rural (39.45 min.) and tribal (33.05 min.) women were found to be spending less than half of the time spent by urban women for recreation. For watching TV these women had to move to neighbor's house. In slack period also urban (116.90 min.) women's involvement was found more for these activities while rural women spent 62.32 min. and tribal women found to be spent 59.47 min.

Apart from the routine duties, women have to do extra household work to furnish their homes like, washing extra clothes, cleaning grains, maintenance of the home, stitching work, preparing preserves, collection of fire wood, preparing cow dung cakes and so many other tasks. It was noticed that in peak period they could not perform these activities. They could spare less time for extra work. In peak period urban women spent 35.75 min., followed by tribal women (30.27 min.) and rural women (29.47 min.). But on holidays or when they had no farm work, the women accomplished their extra work. It was found that rural women spent 155.10 min. followed by tribal women who spent 142.70 min. Urban women spent comparatively less time as 126.95 min. in slack period. The findings are matching with the results of Bhalerao (2002) and also with the finding of Annual Report of AICRP – Extension Component (2003).

It was noted that women were also participating in the other activities like, joining gym, reading books, helping children in their studies, attending get together, conducting or attending tailoring classes etc. Urban women's participation was found to be more in these activities. In peak period they spent 32.45 min. for these activities. Time spent for tribal women (3.00 min.) was negligible whereas rural women could not spend any time for these activities in peak period. In slack period urban women spent 38.25 min. while time spent by tribal (7.20 min.) and rural (0.15 min.) women was very less.

Lastly it was observed that the unaccounted time, which included the period for sleep also, was 486.62 min. for urban women in peak period. Unaccounted time + sleep period for rural (433.22 min.) and tribal (432.52 min.) women was almost same. In slack period the women can get some more time for rest, sleep or for other activities which were not accountable. Here also the same results were noted. For urban women it was recorded as 507.52 min. and for rural (455.72 min.) and tribal (454.45 min.) women there was not much difference. The result is nearer to the findings of Bhalerao (2002) and Bala and Singal (2003).

4. Conclusions

It can be stated that women from all the three areas spent maximum time on farming or farm related activities and kitchen work in peak period whereas in slack period they spent maximum time on kitchen work and on extra household work. Urban women spent minimum time on grazing animals and collection of fuel wood/making dung cakes during peak period and they spent minimum time on cash earning outside home (service) and grazing animals in slack period. As far as rural women were concerned, it was seen that minimum time spent by them in peak period was on grazing animals and on other activities while in slack period, they spent minimum time on cash earning outside home (service) and on other activities. In case of tribal women, it was observed that they spent minimum time in peak period on the other activities and grazing animals whereas in slack period they found to be spending minimum time on the activities like, grazing animals and cash earning outside home (service).

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