

Agency and time poverty: Linking decision-making powers and leisure time of male and female farmers of Central India

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Background

- Women represents 43 % of the agricultural labor force in developing countries and India 30 % (FAO 2011).
- In literature excess workload is termed as “Time poverty” (Vemireddy and Pingali, 2021; Seymour et al., 2020)
- Mixed answers from available literatures on women excess workload and decision-making.

Material and Methods

- Household survey conducted during July-September 2019 in 18 villages in Madhya Pradesh (Figure 1).
- 694 individuals (husband and wife) belonging to 347 (420) farm households.
- Decision-making scale (Figure 2) was constructed considering the level of involvement in food crop production, cash crop production, cattle raising, non-farm work, wage-salary employment, minor and major hh expenditure.
- Multivariate regression: Productive, reproductive and leisure time as dependent variables and decision-making scale is the key independent variable.

Results

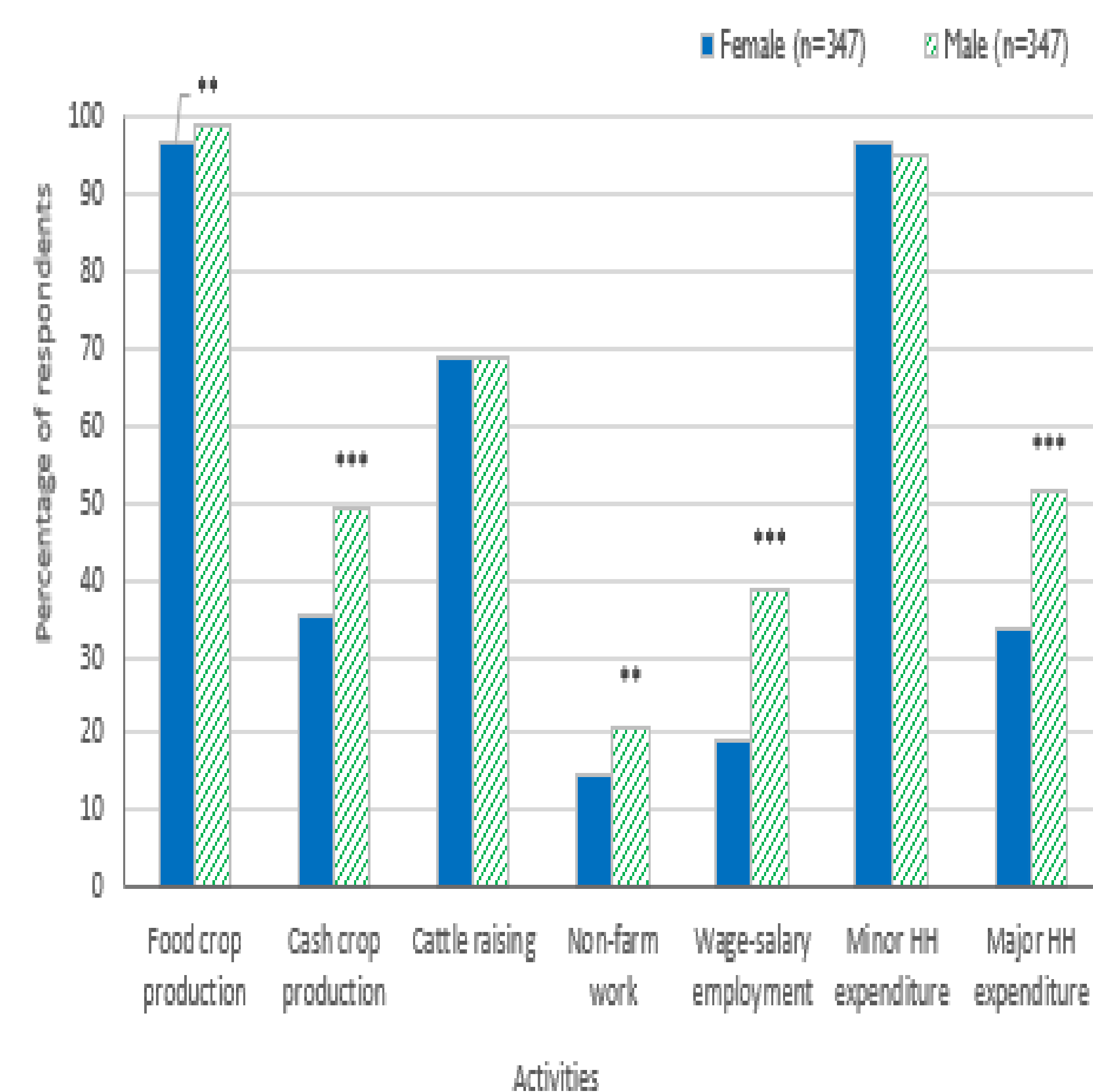


Figure 3. Female and male respondents' participation in different activities

• Women faces tradeoff between agency and leisure time

• Balance between empowerment and wellbeing is crucial for women overall growth and achieving gender equality in all sphere of life

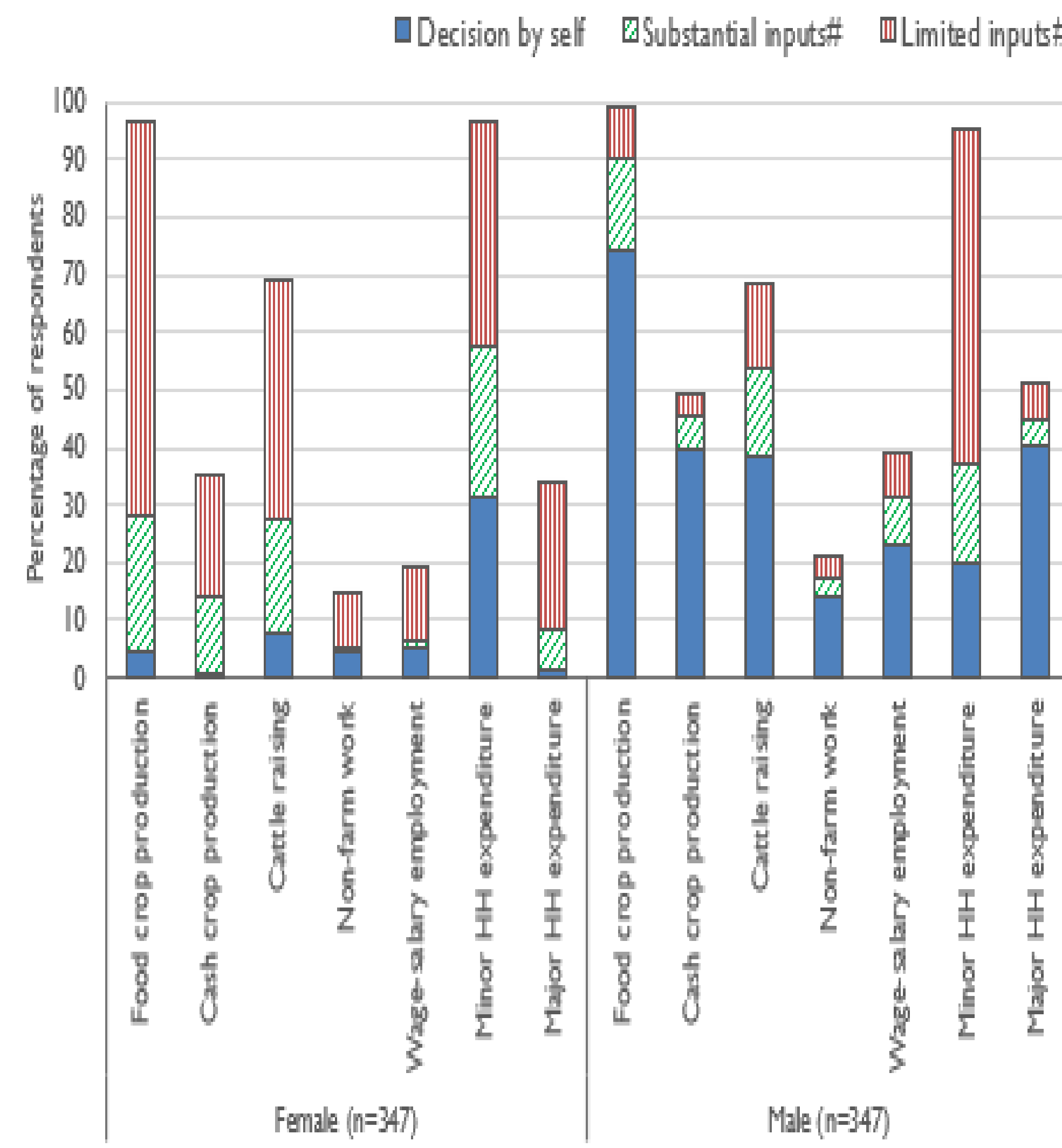


Figure 4. Female and male respondents' involvement in decision-making in different activities.

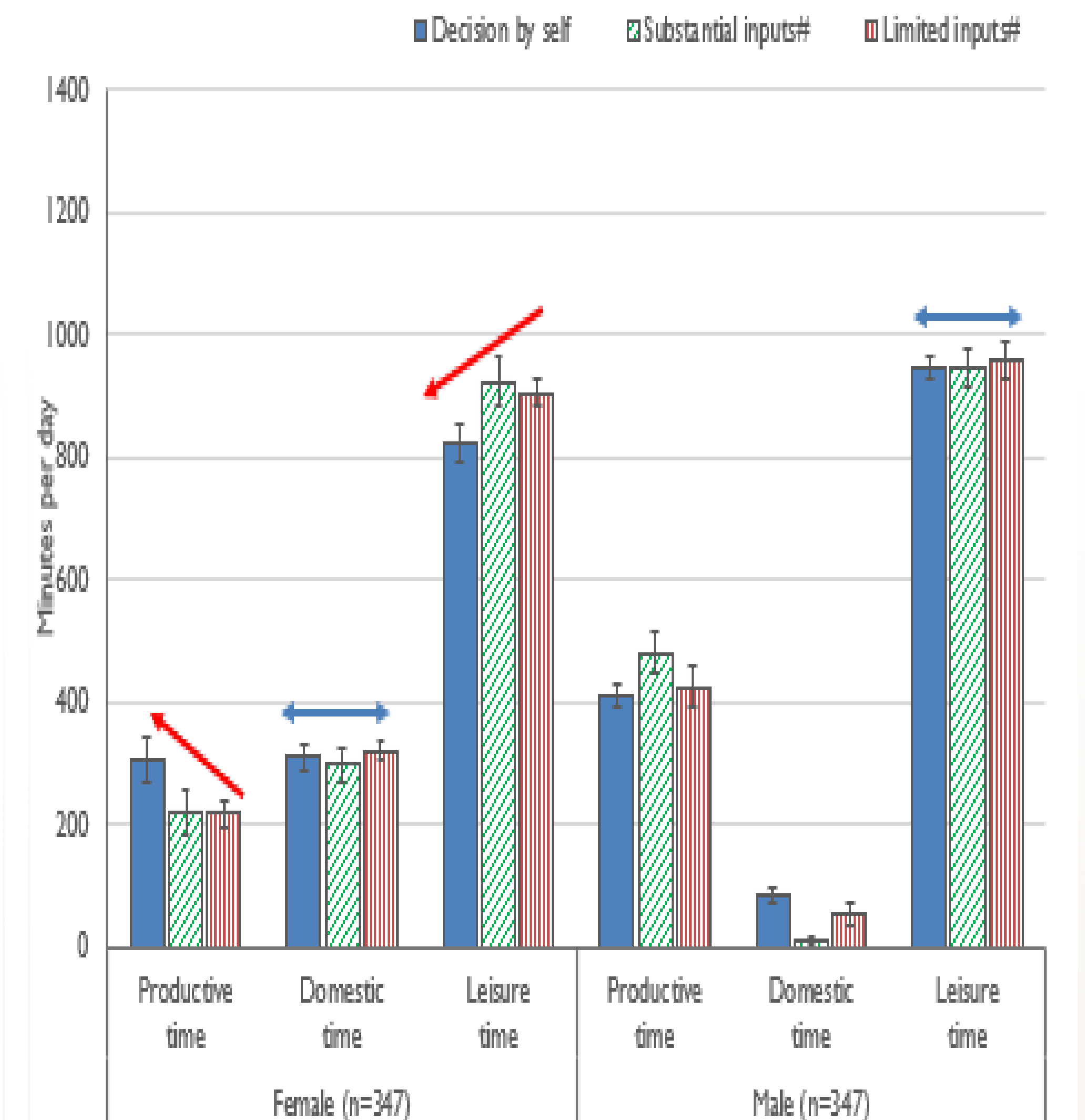


Figure 5. Female and male respondents' time allocation in different activities and their level of involvement in decision-making

Research questions

- Whether agricultural feminization is mere labour feminization or managerial feminization? Or it is both?
- How agricultural women are managing increased workload? What actually it means to women?

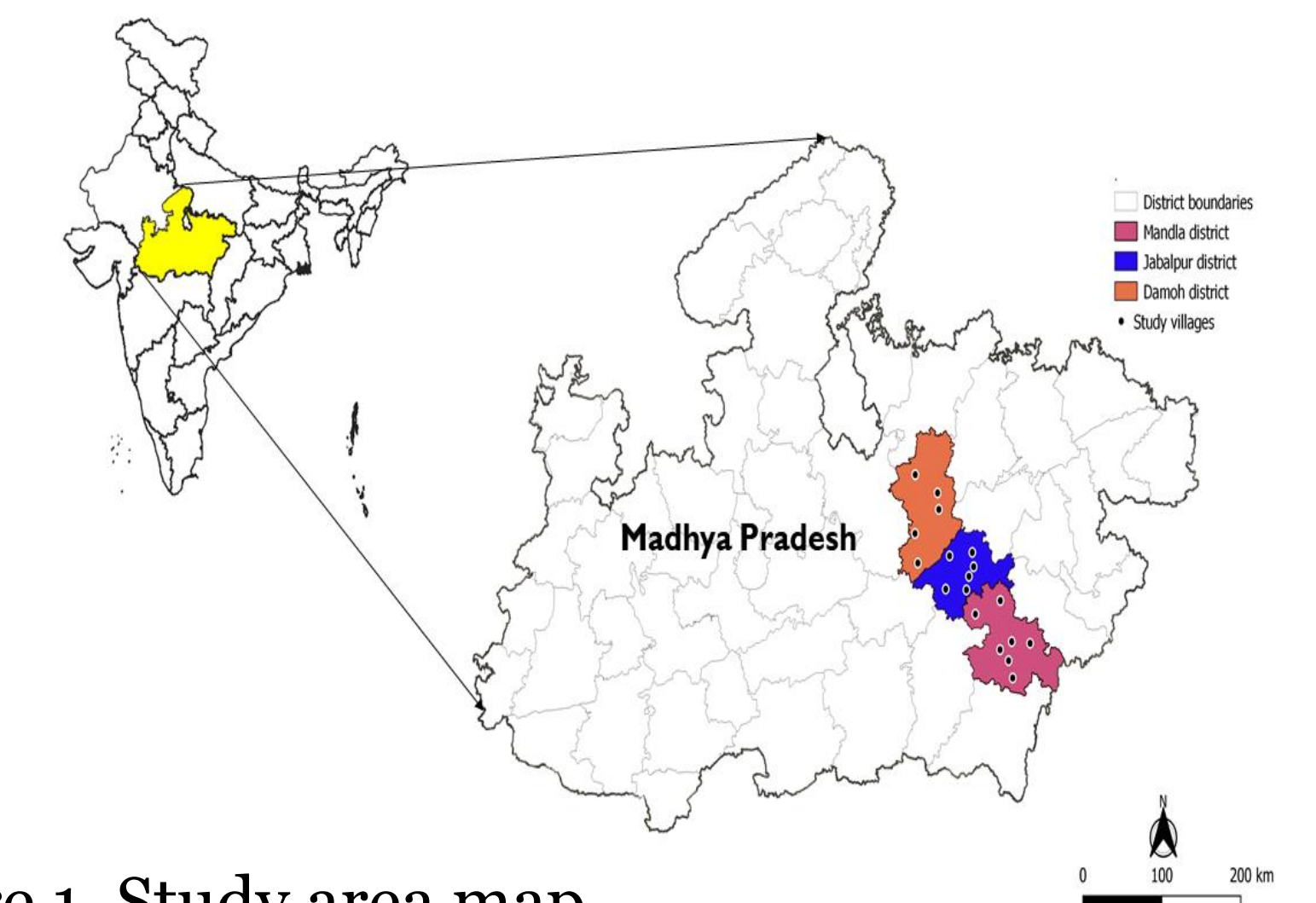


Figure 1. Study area map

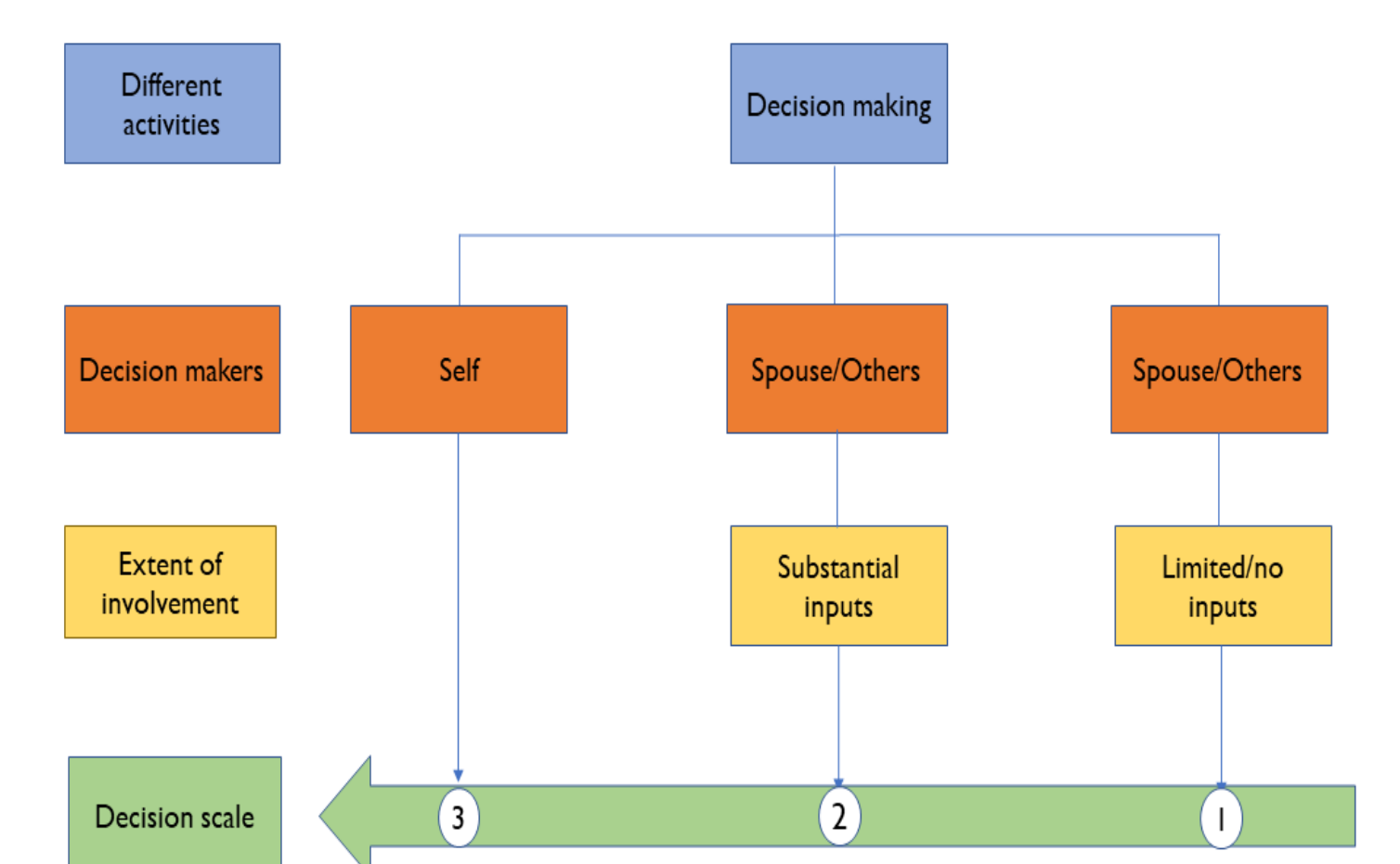


Figure 2. Decision-making framework

Discussion and Conclusions

- Significant gender differences in the total number of work hours, patterns of time-use, and the power to make decisions within the household.
- Irrespective of their higher workload, women's involvement in decision-making is limited.
- Observe a trade-off between leisure time for women and their involvement in decision-making.
- Our paper concludes that the agency in decision-making for women in the study area comes at a cost of leisure time, unlike in the case of men.

References

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