ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study were to identify the village resources and socio-cultural factors in a typical PNG village, determine the household time allocation in different activities by men and women, the problems confronting women in potential income earning activities and their training needs in different activities for family livelihood.

The study was carried out in Tumua village in Kaiapit District of Morobe Province. Data on village resources and socio-cultural factors were collected through interviews with the village leaders, other key persons, secondary sources and direct observation by the researcher. Survey was carried out to determine the household time allocation of men and women and women’s problem confrontation and training needs. The sample size of the time allocation study was 86 men and 86 women from the same household representing 50% of the population. Study on problem confrontation and training needs of women consisted of 60 women representing 35% of the population. Interview schedule was used to collect data from the 1st of February to the 15th of March, 2005.

Types of village resources available and the lifestyle of the people in the study area were identified. Relationships between the selected characteristics of men and women and their time allocation in agricultural, subsistence, domestic and personal activities were found out. Moreover, the relationships between the mean time spent by men and women in these activities were also identified. Problem Confrontation (PCI) and Training Need Indexes (TNI) were computed and used to measure women’s problem confrontation in potential income earning activities and their training needs in different activities for family livelihood respectively.

Findings revealed that Tumua village is a hamlet-type village with the characteristic features of being located away from the urban center, with the absence of basic infrastructure and services, usually located in other villages near the urban centers. Land is abundant with no intensification of commercial agricultural activities. There is no restriction to the use of land and is accessible to all households. The village experiences a unimodal pattern of rainfall distribution which has an effect on the types of crops cultivated and the activities carried out. There is no proper management of water in the area and hence, unavailability of water during the dry season is the main problem faced. The village is made up of six clans viz., Aridagin, Bamparumpun, Ganayun, Munchir, Sampai and Uri. The organizational structure of the village is observed as a social pyramid in which the village leaders with high status occupy the top, other men are found in the middle places and women and children occupy the base of the pyramid. Gender division of labour exist where women are responsible for the
housework, subsistence activities such as water and firewood collection and different agricultural tasks which include weeding, sowing and transportation of food crops and certain post-harvest activities.

Comparative analysis revealed that women spend more time per week in agriculture (29.29 hours) and less time in personal activities (36.58 hours), while men spend less time in agriculture (21.76 hours) and more time in personal activities (58.55 hours). Age of women had a positive relationship with their time spent in agricultural activities. Farm size had a positive relationship with time spent by men in domestic activities. Income of men and women had positive relationships with their time spent in domestic and subsistence activities respectively.

A high proportion of women faced a lot of problems in potential income earning activities. "Unavailability of water during the dry season" was the top most problem faced in both broiler production and vegetable farming. "Lack of knowledge in sewing", "lack of capital" and "lack of knowledge in peanut butter production" were the main problems faced in sewing, baking, and production of peanut butter respectively.

Majority of women (81.66%) had high need of training in different areas suggested and the training areas of priority were “health education”, “sewing” and “cooking and nutrition” which ranked as first, second and third respectively.