

Adoption of women-friendly tools in Dailekh, Nepal

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Introduction

Due to male outmigration, women face the dual burden of managing farming and carrying out household responsibilities. In Nepal, agricultural tools are largely designed for men, creating challenges for women who now perform the majority of farming tasks. This mismatch exacerbates their struggles in adapting to climate change (Thakur, 2023; Yoder et al., 2010).

Research questions

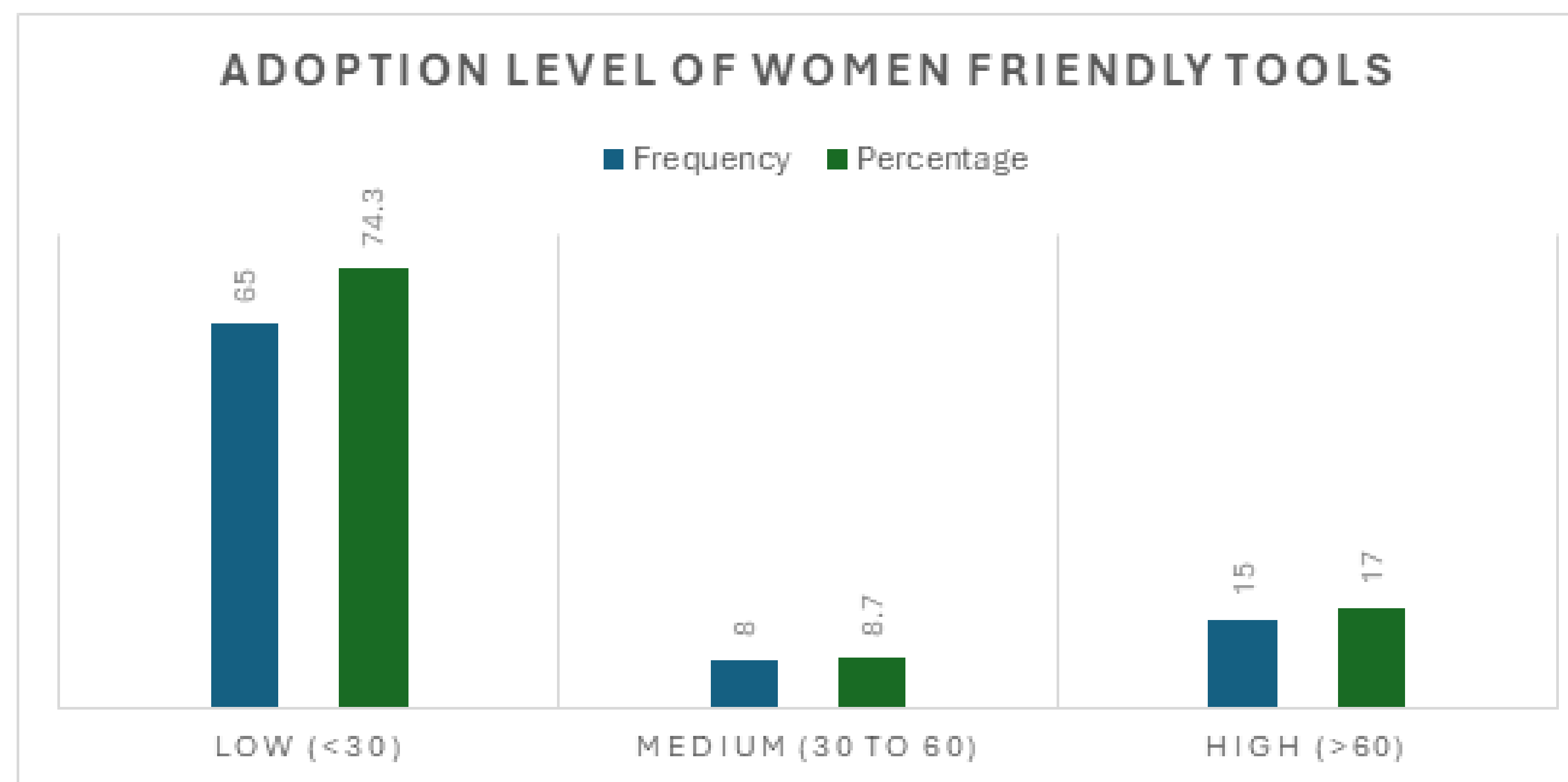
- Assess the availability and status of women-friendly tools, identify factors influencing the adoption.

Methodology

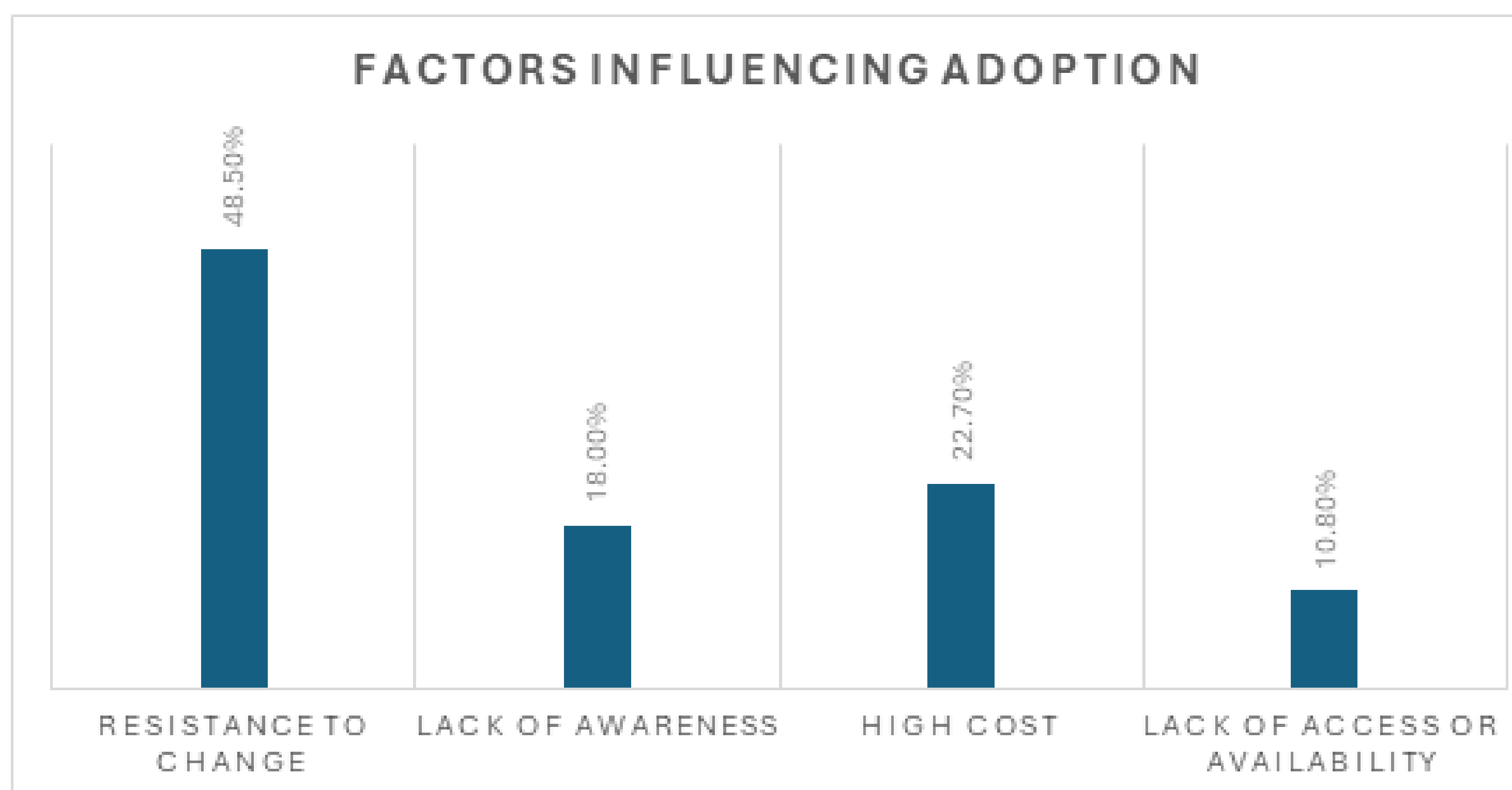
This study was conducted from July to December 2023 in Dullu Municipality and Namule Rural Municipality of Dailekh District, Nepal. Using purposive and simple random sampling, 87 women vegetable growers (44 from Dullu, 43 from Namule) were selected. Data was gathered through household surveys, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Both qualitative and quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics, frequency distributions, and indexing techniques.

Key findings

- Women are 100% involved in essential farming tasks such as hoeing, weeding, land levelling, and harvesting.
- 96.6% of respondents reported health issues caused by these activities.
- 51.7% of women were aware of women-friendly tools, but 48.3% were unaware, showing a significant gap.



The table shows the adoption levels of women-friendly tools among female farmers in Dailekh, Nepal. A majority 74.3% reported low adoption, while 8.7% had a medium adoption level, and only 17% demonstrated high adoption of these tools, indicating limited uptake across the community.



Conclusion

The study highlights women's crucial role in agriculture in Dailekh, but the mismatch between tool design and women's needs poses challenges. Limited awareness and adoption of women-friendly tools persist. Targeted interventions and collaborations are essential for promoting adoption and improving accessibility, reducing drudgery and enhancing productivity.

