

AN ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE AND ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL WOMEN IN DIFFERENT SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY – A CASE STUDY OF PAKISTAN’S BADIN AND MATIARI DISTRICTS

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ABSTRACT

This study examine the contribution of women in diverse sectors of the economy and estimates their workload in order to realize their value which they perform as unpaid workers in the rural area. A sample of 260 respondents were purposively selected from Badin and Matiari districts in Pakistan. Finding of the research reveals that females are main contributors in the household economy and participate fully to support the family income. The results showed that about 8.89% male contribute imperceptibly whose financial worth is equivalent to Pkr 10,000- Pkr 50,000 as compared to 71.9% female in the animal husbandry sector. In farming sector, just female contribute imperceptibly whose monetary worth is equivalent to Pkr10,000-Pkr 50,000 every year. In the household chores male participation is almost negligible cutting woods from the trees and arrange water for the family. About 80.5% male respondent involved in unpaid activities whose financial worth is under Pkr 10,000 out of a year when contrasted with 84.1% of females go through 5 to 7 hours to accomplish domestic management task monetary worth is equivalent to Pkr 50,000 – Rs.100,000 per annum. Thus female perform more unpaid work as compared to male.

Keywords: Unpaid Work, Workload, Gender Discrimination, Economic Valuation

INTRODUCTION

Gender is one of the forming rules of Pakistani society. It has socially defined roles and responsibilities assigned to male and female by society. These differences happen because of social, cultural and economic factors

influence on women. Some cultures have specific gender roles that can be conceived as different from male and female (Naila, 2003).

Razavi (2011) argues that gender roles can be described as traditional norms and values, or rules that prescribe different responsibilities, opportunities, boundaries, and behaviors of men and women. These differences may produce the ideology of gender division of labor.

Shrestha (2008) elaborated workload of women in his research that women's contribution has not been recognized and valued in economic terms yet. Women spend much time to perform household activities including cooking, cleaning, washing, child rearing, besides work that she has to bear the responsibilities of agricultural work, care of livestock and perform community work, the work done in agriculture may not be considered as economic. Thus, men are supposed to be wage earners and have dominancy in home decision. Such non-recognition and ignorance of the valuable work adversely affects women's position in the society, and impacts their self-possession and their access to wealth, income, business, training and other assistances such as access to credit and assent in choice.

Role of Women in Different Sectors of Economy

In the developing countries, due to low income and less productivity females get lesser than the males. Usually they do not get a direct return in terms of money. These differences occur between men and women because of social, cultural, and traditional norms.

Shahnaz Akhtar (2015) elaborated that in entire Sindh all women who depend on agriculture sector work along with men to perform all agricultural activities. Pakhtunkhwa, and in Balochistan women are restricted to do work outside the house due to purdah, rigid society and social-cultural reasons.

In the southern part of Sindh province of Pakistan, district Badin has total area 6,726 square kilometers with a population of 1,804,516 in the census of 2017. Male population is 7,03,254 and females are 5,93,050. Literacy rate is 24.6%. The district is administratively subdivided into the following talukas: Badin, Matli, Talhar, Tando Bago, Golarchi which are further subdivided into the Union Councils numbering 49, Tapas 109 and Dehs 511. Matiari district was carved out of Hyderabad district in 2005. Matiari district is part of the Hyderabad division. The district is administratively subdivided into three talukas: Hala, Matiari, and Saeedabad. There are 30 union councils in the district. The total population of district was according to 2017 census

769,349 whereas total number of households is 143,023.

According to Ahmed (2001), the role of women is very significant despite many social barriers. They help a male member to perform agricultural activities along with the livestock production activities and actively participate in household management and food preservation. Whatever work she performed contributes towards expending household income. About two thirds of total food production gets produced with the contribution of women. In all the activities of crop production from sowing, harvesting and storage of the crops, women equally participate with their male members of the family. In the same rural environment, women effectively play their role in animal brushing, draining, clean sheds, cutting grain, and slashing grub, etc. What's more, ladies additionally engaged in revenue generating activities to help and boost their family income, such as selling milk, spread, ghee making, and conservation of milk and milk items and showcasing creature.

According to the Census 2017, female population in Pakistan is 10.64 million (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2019) majority of which live in rural area where their contribution is huge in the economic development of the country, but is not to be reckoned. Women cannot participate in the labor market or paid work because of the strict obsrvance of purdah. Romero-Paris (2000) highlighted the women's economic contribution, he said that 66% of women activity are involved in the agriculture, which leads to get two third of GDP from agriculture.

Fig. 1: Gender-Wise Cropping Activities in Punjab

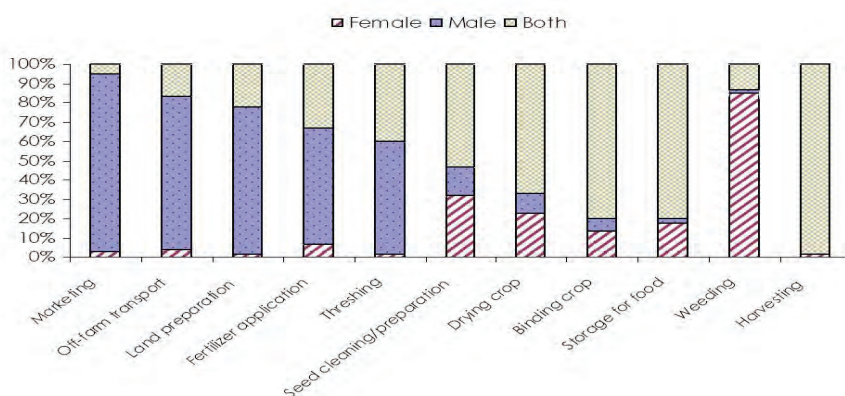


Fig-1 reveals that the female is actively involved in all activities along with men, but their contribution is high in the different activities of agriculture of weeding plants, cotton picking.

Economic Aspect of Visible and Invisible Work

In the less developed countries, much of economic activities performed in the household sector as the informal economy, and the output from the informal economy excluded from money transaction and producer do not get a direct return from selling their output. According to the World Bank (1995) report, \$11 trillion income is generated with through the contribution of women and \$5 trillion of income of women by performing unpaid work are absent from the worldwide economy every year (World Bank, 1995). Additionally, unpaid work, for example, family unit work or work performed for care of older or kids, involves no defensive enactment, strategy, no government managed savings and no economic well being. The income which may contribute to improve the lives of the family are not counted or recognized.

Naila (2006) argues about gender inequality according to her in different societies. She posits that gender inequality occurs in perspective of production and reproduction sphere. A man has to play a significant role in earning household income, but has a neglected status in the unpaid work of reproduction in the household sector. Women's role and their responsibilities in terms of productive and reproductive have changed with time. When she is unmarried, she has to confine limited work when she gets married being a mother and wife she has to bear more responsibility and do more work as an unpaid worker. This unpaid work or invisible work seems to be highest among poorer households. Unpaid work is that work in which mostly women engage in productive and reproductive activities, but their work is not being counted in economic terms and paid work are those work which are mostly performed by men in the productive activities in the labor market and their work is counted in economic terms. They get direct rewards of their services in terms of money.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Charmes (2018) while referring the SNA (United Nations System of National Accounts) report that the location of the production boundary in the SNA is a compromise, but a deliberate one that takes account of the needs of most users. In this context it may be noted that in labour force statistics economically active persons are defined as those engaged in productive activities as defined in the SNA. If the production boundary were extended to include the production of personal and domestic services by members of households for their own final consumption, all persons engaged in such

activities would become self-employed, making unemployment virtually impossible by definition. This illustrates the need to confine the production boundary in the SNA and other related statistical systems to market activities or fairly close substitutes for market activities”. As a matter of fact women’s work either productive or reproductive has been always unrecognized. In fact, the household work is generally considered as “natural” role of women as primary role which she has to perform every day. Women’s work is always considered as the responsibility of women a pre-condition she has to perform anyway. As Brohi (2013) also strengthened in these words, “people in rural areas argued that women work as compared to men, do not involve implements and is largely on human energy. Therefore, their work is known as unskilled and hence less productive. These arguments are made base and result women’s work as low paid work and low wage. As a matter of fact women in rural Sindh work harder and for longer hours than do men, are totally ignored”.

Elson (2008), applied opportunity cost method to determine the real price of domestic work in a market economy. According to his opinion, this is the best way to measure household work from the market because there is no market value exists for household service. The opportunity cost is forgone incomes which are supposed to get from women from employment instead of performed home activities as unpaid worker is estimated by multiplying income per hour by the amount of time worked at different activities at home.

Let, **A** is the mean income for the working women.

And **n** be the average amount of time utilizes for work

If **m** is the mean of working days, then income per hour for working women is **A/n**.

Now opportunity cost method to estimate the forgone income of domestic activities and gets the income per day. As women who works usually at home usually work more than any employed women who works in the labor market, we can write her total working hour as **(n+c)** where **c** is represent additional time utilize by a woman to perform domestic works over the mean working hours of those working women who performed formal job that **c** always positive.

In Guinea time poverty was measured by applying the household survey for the period 2002–2003. Traditional concepts and techniques were applied for the estimation of wages/income or consumption poverty due to time

poverty (Wodon & Bardasi, 2006).

Applied methods were applied for the estimation of wages or utilization destitution because of time needed. In a period destitution system, the headcount file speaks to the bit of the populace, which is time poor, that is, the proportion of the populace (Wodon & Bardasi, 2006).

Since the 1970s, time use data proved as a useful tool for assessing non-monetary data of economic activities within the household. (UN, 2005). Time use surveys are now more applicable in European countries. Eurostat, the statistical body of the European Union, conducts time used surveys at five-year time interval. US has recently initiated monthly time use surveys, which is an important step towards the development and provision of a comprehensive record of all activities.

Justification of the Study

AAs we know women usually have lower status and limited access to resources and opportunities due to gender discrimination which highly prevalent in our society. Due to that reason, the women's role has not been recognized. Women are actively participating in all activities, but their work has no recognition in terms of money. Rural women in Sindh perform invisible work in the agriculture sector along with household work with little time for leisure and no right to control productive resources. The role of women is mostly neglected or underestimated in economic term nether measured in quantitative terms, nor valued in the national accounts. Therefore, it is necessary to give visibility of women's work in the national economy.

The purpose of this study is to highlight women's role and their contribution to provide care and basic necessities of life and estimate women's unpaid work and analyze how that work may be internalized in terms of legal perspective in different countries.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the women's contribution in agriculture, livestock and household sector.
2. To estimate women's contribution in different sector of the economy.

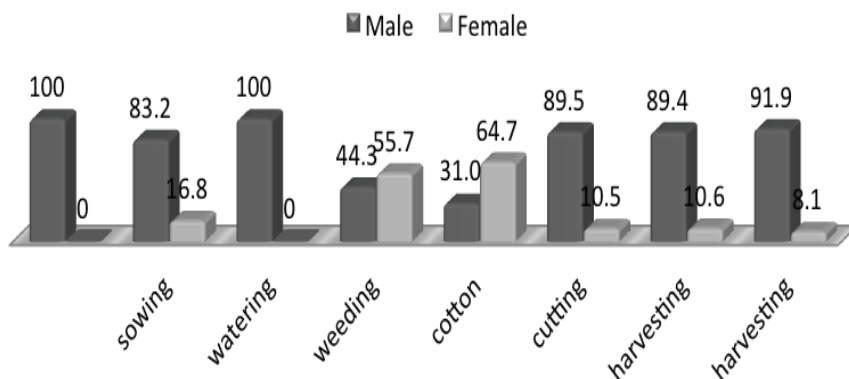
Hypotheses

H₁: Women performed more unpaid work than men in the household and other sectors including agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

H₂: Women's unpaid work contributes substantially to their household incomes, expenditures and savings as compared to men's unpaid work.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

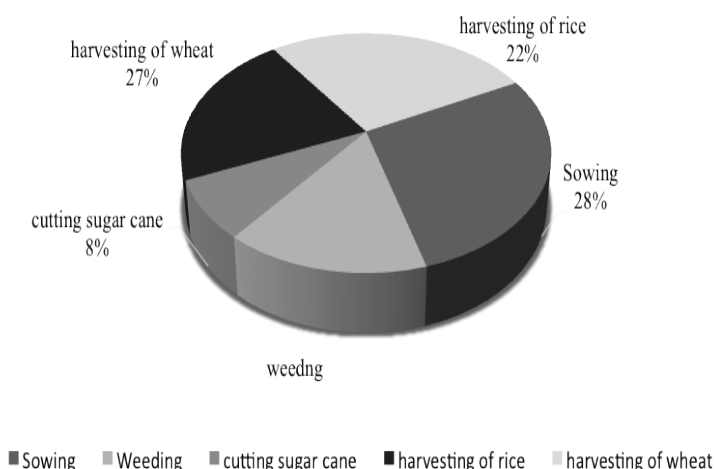
Fig.2: Family Member, Agricultural Paid Activities by Respondent n=260



Source: Study Survey (2014-15)

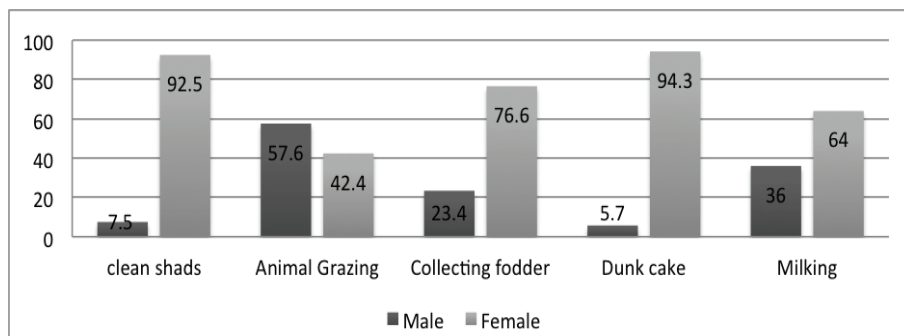
The above diagram (Fig.2) visualizes paid work of male and female respondent in a farming area. The most noteworthy level of females is taking part in cotton picking and weeding paid work on day by day compensation which is about 64.7 and 55.7% when contrasted with 31% and 44% of male. And in land cleaning and watering activities only male has to perform these activities.

Fig.3: Contribution of Women as Direct Beneficiaries



The Fig.3 shows the contribution of women as direct beneficiaries. About 28% of the women contributes in sowing activities, 27% in the harvesting of wheat, 15% in weeding and 22% in the harvesting of rice. In all these activities, female contributing with the men without getting a direct return of their work.

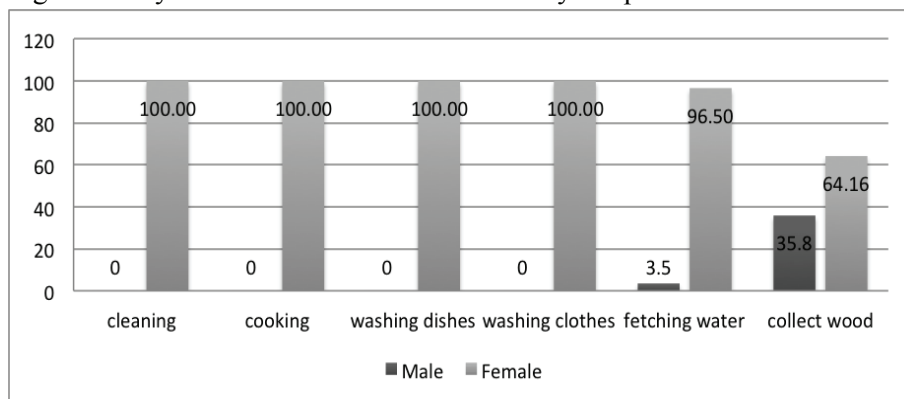
Fig. 4: Family Member livestock Activities by Respondent n=260



Source: Study Survey (2014-15)

This graph (Fig.4) represents the participation of men and women in livestock activities. In livestock sector most of the activities are performed by the female. About 92.5 % women is engaged in clean sheds activity as compared to 7.5 % of men. 94% of women engage in dunk cake activities as compared to 5.7 % of men. About 64 % of women involve in milking activity as compared to 64% of men. The largest proportion of mens is involved in animal grazing activities because this activity performed outside the house and women are restricted to go outside most of the males involve in animal grazing activities.

Fig.5: Family Member Household Activities by Respondent n=260



Source: Study Survey (2014-15)

This graph (Fig.5) assesses the contribution of women in the household sector. Women play a significant role in the management and wellbeing of all household tasks for family members. In contrast to 3.5% of males, 96.5 percent of women fetch water from far off areas. And 64.6% of women collect wood for preparing food compared to 35.8% of men. Other activities like cleaning look after children, washing and cooking all these activities performed by female only.

Table 1: Income Contribution of Invisible Work by Respondent n= 260

Gender	Activity	Level of Income in Rupees	Sum	% of Total Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Male	Livestock	Less than 10000	89	32.96%	1.4127	0.71018
		10000-50000	157	58.15%	1.3894	0.68704
		50000-100000	24	8.89%	1.7143	0.82542
		Total	270	100.00%	1.4211	0.70642
	Household	Less than 10000	134	80.72%	1.1858	0.39071
		10000-50000	29	17.47%	1.7059	0.68599
		50000-100000	3	1.81%	0.75	0.5
		Total	166	100.00%	1.2388	0.47776
Female	Agriculture	10000-50000	231	59.69%	2.2647	1.15978
		50000-100000	75	19.38%	2.0833	0.84092
		Above 100000	81	20.93%	1.9286	1.17687
		Total	387	100.00%	2.15	1.11102
	Livestock	Less than 10000	4	1.02%	2	1.41421
		10000-50000	106	27.04%	2	0.85485
		50000-100000	282	71.94%	2.0435	0.98803
		Total	392	100.00%	2.0311	0.95146
	Household	Less than 10000	1	0.21%	1	.
		10000-50000	74	15.68%	1.6444	0.77329
		50000-100000	397	84.11%	2.057	1.04675
		Total	472	100.00%	1.9749	1.01221

Source: Study Survey (2014-15)

This table assesses the contribution of male female income from unpaid work. About 8.89 % of male engaged intangibly whose financial cost are equal to 10000-50000 when contrast with to 71.9% of female contributes in the management of animal husbandry. In farming side, only female contribute

intangibly whose financial cost worth is equal to 10000-50000 thousand in a year. In the household unit, male only engaged in cutting wood or bringing Water from far places for drinking and consumption purpose. About 80.5% of male respondent contribute as a voluntary worker whose financial cost is less than 10000 thousand in a year when contrast with 84.1% of female devote 5 to 7 hours to perform household activities whose financial cost is equal to 50000-100000 in a year.

Table 2: ANOVA of Income Contribution of Male Female Invisible Work

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups Male v/s Female Group	70.602	1	70.602	78.257	.000
Within Groups With Male and Female Group	549.434	609	.902		
Total	620.036	610			

Results: Results showed that with the noteworthy number of .000 which is under .05, there is a measurably critical variation between two numbers.

Table 3: Income Contribution of Visible Work by Respondent n=260

Gender	Activity	Level of Income in Rupees	Sum	% of Total Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Male	Agriculture	10000-50000	65	11.19%	2.5	1.52971
		50000-100000	316	54.39%	2.2098	1.01989
		Above 100000	200	34.42%	2.2222	1.27003
		Total	581	100.00%	2.2432	1.16751
Female	Agriculture	10000-50000	435	95.60%	2.3641	1.23829
		50000-100000	12	2.64%	2.4	0.89443
		Above 100000	8	1.76%	2.6667	1.52753
		Total	455	100.00%	2.3698	1.22953

Source: Study Survey (2014-15)

This table conceives participation of respondent in agriculture sector around 54 % of male take part in a farming area whose monetary cost be assessed, which is equivalent to 50,000-1,00,000 thousand rupees when contrasted with 95.6% of females whose financial worth is equivalent to 10,000-50,000 thousand rupees in a year.

Table 4: ANOVA Table

			Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Number * Gender	Between Groups	(Combined)	1.717	1	1.717	1.200	0.02
	Within Groups		645.051	451	1.430		
	Total		646.768	452			

Results: results indicate that with the significant number of .02 which is less than .05, there is a statistically significant variation between two values.

Table 5: Expenditure Pattern of the Respondent n=260

Items	Frequency	%
Buying Cloth for Children	12	4.61
Food	156	60
Health	60	23.0
Education	23	8.84
Social Events	9	3.4
Total	260	100

Source: Study Survey (2014-15)

This table shows a spending pattern of female respondent whatever the income she earns from different sources have to utilize on food health and for education of children. The highest percentage of income spent on food items that is about 60 percentage.

CONCLUSION

Women are forced to endure the severe helpless condition in rural areas of Sindh, which can establish discernment in every part of life. Since the ancient time due to the social factors women always considered inferior in our society. She has to restrict household task and spend take 8 to 11 hours in a day, such as food preparation, house cleaning, washing clothes and dishes, taking care of families, as well as field and animal husbandry, all these tasks are not considered economically significant. When we simply see that women contribute significantly to good health, food and nutrition.

It has been found in this research that volunteer labor has the significant value that could not be objectively understood or internalized. Women do not

only care for their families through unpaid work, but also be responsible for producing subsistence food. They are actively involved in the development activity in agriculture, but they are known as an unpaid helper to their kin.

Research also analyzes the income support provided by women from the different sources to run household expenses. Approximately 71.9 percent of the male in animal husbandry contributes invisibly to the economy of 10,000-50,000 compared with 71.9 per cent. Even women contribute invisibly in agriculture whose economic value equals 10,000-50,000,000 per year. Males only engage in wood cutting or water fetching tasks in the household sector. About 80.5 percent of male respondents spent less than 10,000,000 households a year in unpaid jobs compare to 84.1 percent of the female respondents investing 5 to 7 hours per year, whose economic value is equivalent to 50,000 to 100,000 households per year.

Whatever the work she carried out, including housework, cooking, washing, laundry or dishes, if the midwife was hired to carry out all those duties, 400-500 rupees for every task would have to be paid by her family. He predicted 4,000 rupees in an urban area equal to Pak per month for one household. 48,000 rupees a year, or 800 dollars. The figure is Rs 25,800 per year, equivalent to US\$ 430 for a rural household Pkr 2,150/month.

By this research realize the that without the support of women, any development either social or economical of the country could not be possible. They are effectively engaged with the farming sector part along with performing revenue producing activities. What's more, further prescribes that so as to increase the ability of human capital and financial development of women's participation must be coordinated, should be given fair access to and power over the land, monetary assets.

By this study, women make a contribution and conclude that rural development in developing countries would not be possible without the active involvement of women. They play an active role in agriculture, carry out household tasks and make a financial contribution by carrying out income generating activities. It also recommends to improve the ability of human capital and financial development of nation's ladies' commitment must be incorporated should be given impartial access to and command over the land, monetary assets.

RECOMMENDATION

It is also recommended that states regulate funds to poor houses and care

services which may reduce the workload of women in societies. Finally, acknowledgment of the economic participation of voluntary household activities needs to be estimated by applying the time-estimation method in various European and south Asian countries and embedding time-use modules within household surveys. Within rural areas, a particular organization, child care and treatment of elderly people can provide a greater right to use public services at community level, encouraging women to live a better life within employment. To order to ensure that women working in unpaid activities are properly recognized and that their contributions to the informal economy are decreased, the government must concentrate in alternative policies and the employer should be given social security benefits.

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