

## Rural women as an effective force in rural development

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**Abstract:** Access opportunities to different sources and needed inputs at agriculture activities for them should be prepared. thus , women at village have activity by help farming and other rural affairs such as ranching , nurturing poultry , gardening and ... and recently by participating at related programs to rural development including organizing cooperative associations related to women , establishing handicraft factory at village and even marketplace for it , organizing occupation plan for inhibited girls and women , related activities to filling rural women's leisure , participating at rural affairs which previously managed by men and etc . Now, women alongside men attend at all rural affairs and even at some case it has been seen that programming related to provide different services, were done by women at villages. All we can say that women in current villages enjoy better freedom and they do rural affairs by managing not as their duties and obligation like in the past. Now, women are not seen as passive receiver of help to improve their welfare, but as active social propagators who can change women and men's life condition (Farghdan, 2001).

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### Introduction:

Importance of women issue at Iran especially rural area, at one side face with fast population growth and mass of unemployed at process of access to rural growth and development, and at other side with limitation of facilities and productive resources. Rural women at all production level of agriculture products and livestock productions work alongside men and generally, development is multidimensional process and contains different economic, social, cultural and political dimensions. Women's participation at this process is active and affective participation, and main aspect of this participation was its economic dimension for rural women. Rural women have key role as a producer at agriculture activities, rural sources and services at rural area. rural women most efficient women of society and among people who are active at productive occupations , so it is obvious that attention to rural women as a strong arm at rural development can follow positive and undeniable affects , in this purpose(Lahsaeizadeh, 2000).

Means participation of women in all stages of development, evaluate needs, identify problems, planning, management, implementation and evaluation is. Equity participation in a patriarchal society was not easily achieved, such matter requires the participation of women, especially rural women in projects is the way that they are concerned. Rural population of Iran always different roles in the production and distribution have been responsible. Agricultural sector, supplier of about

one third of employment, food needs of more than Chharnjm country, half of exports, do not need the agricultural products industry and one-fifth of GDP countries.

In all communities, rural women as an important factor in achieving rural development goals were discussed and in fact, half of rural human resources development are needed, however, the rural population of Iran, the ruling class (the owners of capital) and rural people, between urban and rural, between literate and illiterate, between men and women, there is a deep cleft.

Women, especially in villages of fewer possibilities in terms of investment, credit and enjoy the power. Miran role of rural women more than men, influenced by various factors, conditions and economic, social, cultural and ecological is.

Rural women, either directly (production of crops, livestock, handicrafts and rural) or in terms of helping the agricultural sector (as labor) considerable potential in the community are considered. About 5/6 million women in the production Iran's agricultural sector involved. Activities related to planting, and harvesting, processing and preparation of animal feed, preservation and care of livestock and poultry and some related activities including marketing and sales field role and participation of rural women to sue.

Women's access to farm land is very important in order to producing agriculture productions and realization of agriculture goals in order to increase women's efficiency. Rural economy of country is

largely require to attention from point of increasing efficiency of rural economy activities , because waste growth , reduced efficiency of workforce and capital in close cycle , had led to loose economic activities attraction at these area and also special attention to this issue would work as rejection reasons for range of economic activities of village . Among this, according to very critical women's role at agriculture activities, focus and certain attention to this group and preparing them supporting, educational and extensional services, can help to remove obstacles and problems which they face, and consequently lead to increase and improve their efficiency about agriculture and finally lead to increase welfare of rural societies (Samadi Afshar, 2004).

In Semi-desert areas in Africa, women traditionally are active in keeping poultry and Vegetarian animals and wild plants and trees fruit collected. In Turkey, women are employed to produce vegetables and dairy products. Among Indians ,agricultural activities of women include the region around the home and caring small animal, garden products and collective activities such as spinning, weaving, wool weaving, and the cheese production. In China, when the job opportunities outside the farm is not available, the men are trying to produce crops and women are keeping livestock, doing crafts and spending to food products. In that case, women are responsible for all the agricultural tasks and do some activities such as the poultry production. (Ehsani, 75:1375)

However, experts believe that China in contrast to other nations, especially developing countries, participation rate of women labor force is in high level and also their participation rate in the villages are a little more than cities. However, this participation is evident in most areas that the dominant form of employment is agriculture (Ebadallahy 13:1375).

In recent years, the point was well clear that a major share of the income of rural households are obtained through the women activity, and sometimes even share of women income in the household economy is more than the share of men. For example, in 2000, about 854 million women that include 32 percent of the workforce of the world are active economically and their major activity in third world countries are in the agriculture sector and 60 percent of cultivated rice, 90 percent produce vegetables and, 50 percent cotton and oilseeds, 30 percent had affairs and gardens, 90 percent silkworm related activities and 65 percent of rearing livestock-related activities and handicrafts have the highest proportion (Emadi 38:1380.) This shows that the role of women as agricultural work force, not only isn't less than men but they have greater share in the process of planting, cropping, and more importantly in the sale of crops and livestock and a research specialized that 50 percent of food global production activities were owed

to women (mice, 1380:163).

a positive relationship between women's participation in agricultural and non-agricultural employment of men can be seen, so that in some countries men migration to cities or bringing them on a day wage jobs has led them responsibilities in the absence of their husbands take charge of 30 to 40 percent of work related to home and agriculture. In some areas this figure reaches to 70 percent. Number of factors also led to a kind of common gender division of labor, especially in rural societies and one the most veteran of these factors is a particular power and ability of women to provide sustenance (Ghaffari, 2005).

Women's productive activities has affective role to increase revenue, rural family welfare, and its consequents is: foods status improvement, health, preventing irregular migration, literacy enhancement and development of rural family social status. Despite clearness of affective women's role at production, economy of village and country, they don't enjoy proper social base and they were deprived of educational and welfare programs especially at rural and nomadic area. Thus women and their roles should be considered particularly in order that they would find that first they are important and efficient; second they have educational needs and many technical gaps; third they shouldn't forget efforts for enabling themselves. As girls and women's discussion and solving their historical lag and restoring their social right are important and necessary, it is sensitive and accurate equally, because dominant patriarchal cultures at rural societies, put women at lower status. So that at some societies, women's duties are just upbringing and reproduction and maybe they are considered as workforce, and they are deprived of decision making and opining at family and society environment

Economical-social studies have proven that various obstacles are at them way of women's role that majors are as follow (Samadi Afshar, 2004) :

#### **1- individual obstacles :**

- 1-1 - Low literacy that further numerous problems, lead to lack of self confidence, inferiority feeling and resignation.
- 1-2 - high extent activities and increased work inside and outside due to various reasons including men seasonal migration and seasonal variation of rural women's activity ( nursery , home affaires , farming , handicrafts and ranching )
- 1-3 - Having low information , knowledge and their applied scientific knowledge
- 1-4 - Malnutrition and low coefficient health and low individual health (Rivera, 2001).

#### **2- family obstacles :**

- 2-1- lack of knowledge about how to behave with girls

and women

2-2- family biases and husband and father disagreement with women's attendance at social and economic activities due to various cultural reasons and even unwillingness to loss house workforce

2-3- negative attitude and belief about their abilities

2-4- gender discriminations

2-5- economic poverty of family (Varzgar, 2001).

### 3- social obstacles :

3-1- bad customs and traditions such as superstitious and fatalism and ...

3-2- patriarchy and disagreeing with women's attendance at group activities

3-3- low women's access to credits and facilities, inputs and production factors

3-3-being far of accessibility of extensional services and or orienting social activities and participatory programs toward men

5-3- limited number of female experts to educate rural women

6-3- problems of access to services and social and health facilities

7-3- low extent of rural women's wage compared to men

8-3- low attendance of women NGOs to track their issues and problems

9-3- low women's attendance at rural management (Banihashem, 1999)

### Conclusion and discussion:

Rural women at agriculture activities have key role as producer. Rural women are most efficient among society women and are such individuals that work in productive occupations, thus it is obvious that attention to rural women as powerful force at rural development can have very positive impacts at this regard.

Women major force for change and a potential source for promoting rural economy and increase the further growth of food production, although agriculture and livestock are traditionally male job, but the role of women has never been confined to home and family and women in addition to activities home inside outside (agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, etc.) are also active. Importance of women in Iran, especially in rural areas with limited possibilities on the one hand and production resources and the other hand, rapid population growth and mass unemployment in the process of achieving rural development and rural women face is in all stages of agricultural production and livestock production activities alongside men to pay.

Women constitute half the world population are; wages they earn only 10 percent of the world; cortical working people and rural women are active in all daily activities including agriculture, livestock, produce

carpets, yarn, straw, tents, firewood, poultry rearing, porcelain and handicrafts and .. Men also work in conjunction housekeeping matters, got married and children are involved And pay portion of these efforts and consistent with its activity will not get the protection of women and training them and building their skills and empower women as a class and to transfer effective? Culture and values, something that should planning decision makers and policy makers to consider.

Razavi during a study has shown those women's achievements in academic and social areas in the past 30 years; according to their status in the labor market has not improved. Women's participation rates are low and their non- employment rates increase in these years their and their career options are still limited (lahsaeizadeh, 2004).

Hashemi (2000) with the employment status of women in Iran has shown that the rate of economic participation of women in Iran were similar with developing countries, while their literacy and education rate are comparable with advanced countries. He believes that formal institutions, namely laws and regulations have the most effective on women's employment levels that in their turn are under the social and cultural effects.

Bamdad during his study on socio - economic status of women has shown that social and economic improvement of society is associated by increasing employment rate of women. There are also differences in cultural and social discrimination between men and women, is a serious obstacle in increasing the economic participation of women. Finally, increasing women's economic participation is the function of social development – economic factor (Banihashem, 2002).

The positive effect of government spending in women employment indicates the fact that, there are limitations and discrimination for women in the labor market that the market mechanism can not destroy it thus recognizing these limits, discrimination and government intervention in the market (of course in cooperation with people) is necessary to eliminate them.

Today there is this belief that communities rather than, affected by mood men and environmental conditions, affect by personality and education of women. Thus in the process of economic and social development, women affects are more than men, and the non-developed countries have understood the undeniable fact that to achieve the economic development should employ women creative and effective forces. Structure of female employment in different countries shows that there is a direct relationship between population growth and increasing employment rates of women. In other words, in countries where female employment rate is lower, the population growth and economic development is slower.

So if the state goal and the country's development policies, be the attention to women's active participation in society as half of the labor community, the cultural, social, political and economic area of their presence should allow to provide till we can use their intellectual power, creativity, innovation and The large number of workforce innovation for family and society economic development, otherwise, with the slogan and write policies and strategies and using no proper tools and executive Migration, like the former, manpower of this huge group saw little presence in the various community activities.

Different economic sectors (particularly industry and service sector) have the capacity to create many job opportunities for active participation of rural women that can be more benefit in more employment opportunities. Some variables such as marriage to divorce ratio, the share of government expenditure of GDP, the degree of development and Underdevelopment, number of children born and household expenditure are impressive on rural women's employment rates. Thus, if policy makers intend to predict the employment status of rural women, they should attend to affective factors on this group employment.

One of the issues that government should pay attention to is rural development issue especially at undeveloped countries. in this countries due to lack of proper policy making to improve quality of people life level of these areas , villagers migration to cities has increased considerably and led to urbanization growth and emergence of problems and also psychological , social , cultural and economical abnormalities especially at agriculture and ranching part . Also method for growth and rural development growth, require research at this field which can help government in order to economic, social and cultural programming and policy making. Creating local organizations and regional institutions with affective women's attendance and villager participation to solve problems are among important and affective substances that should be considered in regional programming. at developing and changing process of developed economy system of agriculture, value of women's activity changed as form of money which previously was as no wage workforce at family , and was given to her. Other than agriculture part (i.e. industry and public services) which are main field of women's work, rural women's participation is very important. The most important issues about women's social and political participation are participating at programming, decision making, performing decisions and valuing results.

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