

A Review Study on Women Involvement in Agricultural Farming Systems in Pakistan: Constraints and Problems

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Received: February 21, 2022; **Published:** March 03, 2022

Abstract

Women are half of the population of the Pakistan and 41 % women are engaged in agriculture farming sectors in different aspects. As it is cleared that Pakistan is an agriculture country, and the numerous part of the country is living in rural area which depends directly or indirectly on agriculture production system for their livelihood. In Pakistan mostly women are engaged in Agriculture and performing different duties in farm management, farm operations, farm maintenance and crop production systems regularly and successfully, but they are still facing a lot of problems in the agriculture management systems. This paper has focused with objective on the problems of women in Agriculture production system in Pakistan. The discussion may help the policy makers of women rights and regulations.

Introduction

Women are half of the population of the world and without women the surviving of man is incomplete on planet earth. Both man and women are assisting each other in different aspect of life. The role of women in various aspects of life has been very important. Women perform more work than man but still women are called gender sensitive in our society. The reality is quite different because this gender adopts itself to critical situations in such a way that sometimes even men are left behind. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of any country and nations and I think women are the backbone of agriculture production system. Pakistan is an agriculture country. Agriculture support the major portion of Pakistan as it produced a bulk of raw material for industrial sector of country. It also directly and indirectly earned two-third of the export and seemed to be the core indicator of the socio-economic fabric of Pakistani society. Role of women in the agriculture sector of any country is very central. Women have always played important role in the field of agriculture such as food production, food processing, and sale of agricultural goods and product. Women are the backbone of the rural and national economy of various countries as they comprise 41 percent of the world agricultural labor force which rises to 78 percent in some countries.

Women are considered half population of the world. Women are performing best in different field of practical life such as Armed forces, labour, and offices, medical as well as in Agriculture sector. Female labour and farmers play a major role in agriculture food and crop production, crop management, food security and other cropping pattern techniques. Agriculture is considered the backbone of development of rural area and national economy of Pakistan. Pakistan is an agricultural country, 70% of its population living in rural areas depending directly and indirectly on agriculture for their livelihood and daily needs. In Pakistan there is 39% labour force involved in Agriculture sector, which are mostly about 67.2 % rural women and 30.2 % males. Besides, the agriculture sector contributes about 18.5 % to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (PBS, 2018). Women contributes largest percentage share in labour force of Agriculture sector but they do not have the right and power to control the whole management of land and crop production (Nazir *et*

al., 2013). The women are facing different type of problems and obstacle in the agriculture field. These problems are discussed in the below sections.

Role of Pakistani Women in Agricultur Sector

The significance of women's part in the procedure of progress was predictable long ago. Numerous woman have financial, political and the social roles to perform. Keeping in vision the significance of the female education, and there involvement in the agriculture it is supposed that chief cause of sheathing behind in common, in the economic and the social development, in majority of the rising countries, with Pakistan is the lack of the higher proportion of the educated and precisely qualified women, (Aslam, 2007).

The arrangement of the Pakistani society is extensively recognized to be extremely patriarchal. Evidently separated gender positions and huge gender discrepancies in contact to capitals of all kind sexist (Winkvist and Akhtar 2000). At macro level, a feudal and socio political system, fixed in unfair land and the resource division, hold up by a burly Islamic ideas, produces firm class and the gender hierarchies.

Chung, (2012) Highlighted that majority of southeast Asian countries lives in rural areas depends mainly upon agriculture. Pakistan derive two third of GDP from agriculture among wich women makes significant contribution wich accounts 66 percent out of the total economically active manpower in agriculture as a percent of total population (GoP, 2016-17).

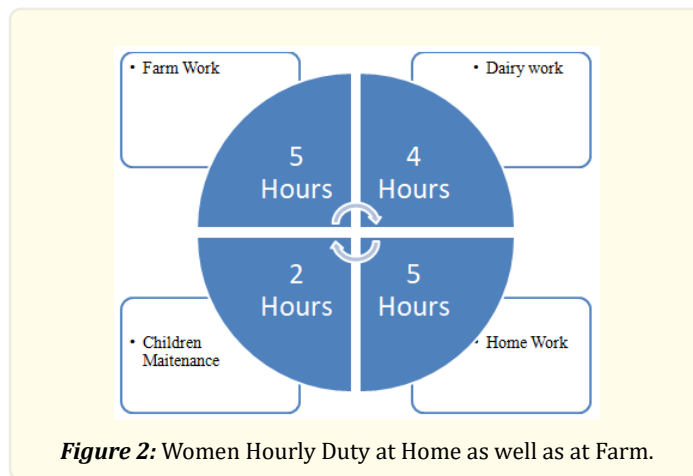
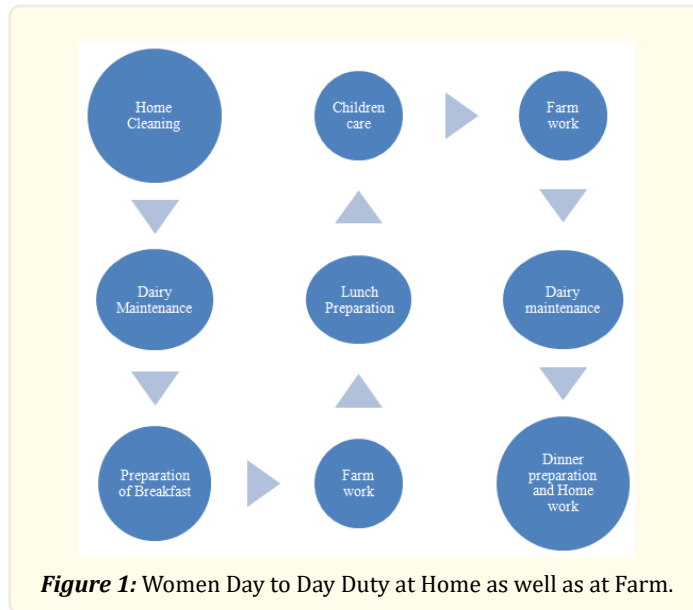
Naz *et al.*, (2018) conducted a study and revealed that most of the women in Pakistan are playing an important role in agriculture production as well as dairy livestock management by rearing different types of livestock such as goats, sheep, cow and buffalo. The author further concluded that majority of women in Pakistan were found mostly involved in farm related activities such as cattle feeding, the cattle shed cleaning and cattle milking.

Besides, Nazir *et al.*, (2013) conducted a study and concluded that majority of the rural women in the research region had well-built contribution in the activities related to farming. These activities included crop production, field management, crop harvesting, animals rearing and family work and home management but there importance and hard working have always been remained neglected.

But *et al.*, (2010) concluded that some cultural norms, male supremacy and traditional faith system were main and dominant social and anthropogenic constraints faced by the majority of rural women in Pakistan.

Parkash, (2003) separated specific task done one forms by men and women. Generally man contribution is more pronounced in physical labour like land preparation and other distantly located jobs .While female undertake repetitions and time consuming takes particularly close to name. The planting and weeding of plants is considered to be women job .But with application of new tools may reassign there already women assumed jobs.

Amin *et al.*, (2009) conducted a research study on women involvement and revealed that in Pakistan the majority of activities of the husband at farm are fulfilled with the help of their wives. These activities encircled the sowing and harvesting of wheat, wheat binding, threshing of wheat crop, preparation of land for sugarcane cut sowing, sowing of sugarcane sets, peeling of sugarcane crop, binding of cane, Gurr (a sweet brown color product extracted from sugarcane) preparation and making, rice crop sowing, eradication of weeding in rice field, assist in harvesting of rice crop. The author further revealed that the performance of wives' was higher as compared to their husband in different seeds cleaning and growing and picking of different vegetables. Besides, Men work firm and lengthy hours, but as the job is over they are serve up their foods and can comprise a crumb of the rest, in dissimilarity, women's effort is a 24-hour with full responsibility. (See Fig. No. 2), Moreover, according to Kasnakoglu and Yuksel (1997) the rural women farmers spent about four extra hours than the men in agricultural production per day, in addition to the other home every day jobs needing 4 to 5 hours in a day. Waking up earlier in pre dawn and leaving for sleep very late at the night is a usual obligatory habit for them.



Pakistan’s total population has been enhanced 57 %, from 132.3 million in the 1998 census to the 207.7 million in 2017 census, which making Pakistan world’s 5th the majority crowded state and 2nd biggest the South Asian state. (UN, 2020)

About 25 percent of Pakistan total land area is under cultivation and is irrigated artificially by one of the largest irrigation system in the world. Pakistan irrigates three times more acres than Russia agriculture, accounts for about 21 percent of GDP and employs about 45 percent of the labor force.

The role of women in agriculture and its means of production and its impact on rural development is relatively new research. In the summer 1988, the department of research forming system national agriculture research council NARC conducted a preliminary survey in Tehsil Fatehjang and Chakwal and concludes that in agricultures there is always a lack of official statistics and the role of women in our centuries-old traditions.

Rural women make up about 36 percent of the Pakistani population, but the literacy rate among women is barely 7 percent wich is matter of great concern. The first thing that was done under the research forming system was to get women in habit of sitting together

so that women could be aware of each other's problems. This is a new thing in the old environmental. In general, the role of women in official statistic is not given much importance, neither their full working hours are counted nor the financial benefit that results from it is counted even if their working hours and income are more than man. In a less developed country, a rural family depends on three things, including the sale of crops, livestock and farms as well as commercial namely, milk, meat, eggs and embroidery. Now it remains to be seen what extent women are involved in these activities. If we look at the current statistic the fact is very clear our women are also heavily involved in special crops as well as livestock and poultry care and off-farm work and especially women in our rain fed areas. Milk, eggs and meat significantly increase household income. In some areas, small scale vegetables cultivation is also a good source of income for rural family. Apart from Pakistan, other countries and African nations in the world there is no good tools available for the harvest and the cultivation crops and vegetables, family spent their own income from the livestock. Due to our economic and social conditions of life, rural women have yet adopted old and conventional agricultural methods, because the rural women's are also not known to modern modes and methods of cropping technologies. Therefore, the research formation system has given special attention to training of women. The training include show and the ways to protect poultry and how to rear livestock successfully, how to control insects in farm and how to grow vegetables.

The role of woman is very important because majority of men's are remains away from their home for the purpose of jobs in the cities. In this case the women become responsible for farm and home maintenance, therefore women should given training on crop production and animal rearing for their prosperity and happiness. Well plan and some clear policies and approaches should be prepared for the promotion and development of women's advancement and growth in the agriculture production system.

Objective of the Study

- To explore the women role in agriculture farming system.
- To mark the Problems and obstacles faced by rural women community in agriculture farming systems.
- To explore the challenges faced by women in the area of agriculture farming systems.

Review of Literature

Different researcher and reviewer conducted researches on women role on agriculture and revealed that women play an important role in agriculture production system and food security.

The following are the major points presented in the following cited references, which are related to the study:

- Women participation in livestock rearing is more visible than in crop production.
- Rural women spend more time in caring of livestock than their own children.
- Livestock is an important component of economic system of the rural families.
- Livestock have an additional welfare value as an effective insurance measure as compared to crop production.
- The knowledge of farming is less in females as compared to their male counterparts, which minimizes women farmers agricultural output.
- The concept of woman-farmers enables women to involved with heavy machinery physical labor and business management activities.
- Women perform wide range of tasks relating to livestock rearing and poultry caring.
- Women participation in crop fields is dependent upon their characteristic of femininity.
- Women perform multi-dimensional roles in agriculture that are not acknowledged by their male counter parts.
- Women's indigenous knowledge and skills are significantly required for food production and sustainable agriculture.
- Women's work in dairy sector contributes significantly to informal economy of the nation.
- Women participation in agriculture is a complex whole of traditional socio-cultural sector.
- Rural women do not possess a status equal to the work they do in the house and their contribution to economy of the household

which includes work in fields.

Shafiq,(2008) conducted a study and indicated that usually, role of the women in the rural livestock rearing can not at all be ignored because women take extra care of the grazing of animals, feeding livestock, cleaning their habitats and also provide them traditional treatment if a disease attack on cattle's. Moreover, women also do the milking of cow and the milk processing, the poultry rearing, and the poultry eggs selling. Women have an important function in the growth of livestock division in province Balochistan. Furthermore, in his study indicated that a woman makes considerable contribution to livestock production and this contribution was more visible than their work in crop production. A rural woman in Pakistan work on the average 15.5 hours a day out which spending 5.50 hours in caring for livestock and provides only 50 minutes for the care of her own children. A woman encompasses the half of the total rural population in the province of Punjab Pakistan. Besides, the livestock division offers marvelous opportunities increasing the household profits throughout women's participation (Dawn News 17 Dec, 2017).

According to the report of ESCAP (1997) have examined that women in Pakistan are responsible for 60 to 80 percent of the feeding and milking of cattle. ESCAP (1997) reveled the women were involved in caring and rearing of livestock and poultry in which filed they carry out wide range of tasks such as making food concentrates, collecting fodder, grazing animals, cleaning their sheds making dung cakes, collecting manure for organic fertilizer, as well as milking , processing and marketing of animal products (making ghee , selling eggs etc.)

According to a study by pesticide Action Network Asia and the pacific, (2005) more than half of the world food is grown by women. Women work is both wide-ranging and comprehensive throughout the year, and they perform multiple tasks in the sphere of agriculture. Women original knowledge and talents are crucially essential for the food production system and sustainable and consistent agricultural production system. Women intimate knowledge of seed preparation and soil management, plants production and pest control, post-harvest processing and storage, animal husbandry, as well as food processing and meal preparation is crucial to ensure food security through sustainable agriculture.

According to FAO, (2011) report, the child parents are key element in the intra-family transfer of agricultural information, as they are definers or interpreters of farming skills, combined with hands on work experience. But some parents construct and maintain various social limitations on the amount and type of agricultural information that their daughters are potentially able to gain.

Luqman, (2018) reported that among women farmers in Pakistan, lack of knowledge was a major issue. They reported those sons were giving more opportunities to learn about farming than daughters, because sons were considered the future farmers. Agriculture production sector encompasses of a numerous of agricultural actions, where both of the men and the women are mixed up in numerous mixed nature of the field operations. Besides, of their more contribution in the farm and the non-farm work and activities, there also present gender discrepancy with the reference to the agricultural extension services, education and some other farm consultative services. This is also because of the current existing public, social, anthropogenic, cultural, traditional and religious rules in the culture of Pakistan.

UN, (2020) finding complement that the identity of woman-farmers enables woman to be recognized for a farm-based femininity which is explicitly occupational, and associates women with physical and business activities on the farm. As such, it allows the acknowledgement of what has been a material reality for many women over a long period of time, namely the fact that women farm, and thus can be involved with heavy machinery, physical labor and business management activities. Various circumstances have been attributed to the rise of this alternative position for women, including the restructuring and labor-force contraction in agriculture, the growth of alternative farm women's movements, and the general changes in the socio-economic status of women as active participants in non-traditional industries.

Bari and Mariam, (2000) narrated that women lack ownership of productive resources. Despite women's legal rights to own and inherit property from their families there are very few women who have access and control over these resources. The author further

stated that the position of the women in the Pakistan society is same due to the interconnection of the gender with some other types of barring in the culture. There is substantial diversity in position of women crosswise classes, areas, and the urban/rural split because of rough socioeconomic progress and the brunt of family, capitalist, feudal and social formations on the women's lives.

Khattak, (2013) believed that the education of a girl is like educating a family while educating a boy is merely educating a person. The importance of female education in a society and its spreading to all section of the life is well appreciated and documented to solve existing and emerging problems of the society.

Andaleebet al., (2017) conducted a survey study in the district Mardan, a district of Pakistan to find out women's contribution in rearing of the livestock and to examine factors affect their contribution. Findings of the study suggest that importance of the women contribution to the livestock division must be predictable in government policies and strategies. The condition of tribute and livestock education facilities and agriculture training to the rural women and young girls could support their contribution in the livestock farming system and gives them choice power in the livestock management and production.

Malik and Majid, (2004) described that there was a wide range of discrimination in performing activities in agriculture sector, where women had to perform multi dimensional roles that were neither recognized or rewarded in kinds and coins. According to panhwar (1998) women involved in agriculture can perform the following functions as good as men: Transplanting of vegetables, rice, and bare root plants; Inter-cultivation of vegetables by removal of weeds and unwanted growth; Picking of cotton, small fruits, vegetables, berries of all types, harvesting of wheat, rice and other crops; They however excel men in all those operations which require squatting to carryout operations near the ground and keep moving simultaneously.

Discussions on Different Aspects of Life Women in Relation to Agriculture Farming Production

The present study of descriptive nature based on secondary data obtain from reports various departments, government statistics international publication reports, female of rural area of Pakistan who work in agriculture sector has been focused in this study . Their ratio of literacy, ratio of participation has been described and compare locally as well as globally.

Obstacles, Problems and Challenges faced by Women Community in Agriculture Farming Sector in Pakistan

Even though rural women in agriculture and household sector in all over Pakistan play an important and vital function in crop production and maintenance, food production and processing, feeding their families, and perform some other important and essential duties and responsibilities. It must be appreciated that they perform such type of responsibilities. Women make contribution to daily labour, daily wages earner and other entrepreneur. They are performing these duties honestly but unfortunately only 20% land area of the total world land is owned by women still them facing many obstacles and constraints in their way of work.(UN, 2018). These obstacles are discussed briefly below.

Problems in Land ownership

The land is a significant resource for the survival of rural women. In Pakistan the land is always transferred and shift on the name of man, but women are always avoided in land distribution. In the rural areas of Pakistan, agriculture land and any other types of property was owned by man. They used family labour including women for producing crops. Women were not paid but were fed, clothed and provided Sometimes, the land's share of women are occupied by their male and never allotted to women. Women are always keeping deprived from land allotment. They are pushed and keep away from land. This big problem of land ownership is creating sever problems for women in agriculture sector. The problem of landownership should be solved for women bright future in agricultural field.

Problem in Land Tenure System

The land tenure arrangement is very important for agriculture production. After land ownership it is very important to the extent to which women have formal and customary right over the land. The tenure is varying in different area of Pakistan. The land tenure

system problems are today serious problems of rural women in agriculture sector. Sometimes women do not have tenure money or don't have the income of that level. Therefore women are compelled to leave the land and they went in loss. Besides, the land owner always prefers men for land tenure and avoids women, therefore there is need of separated land tenures hip in Pakistan.

Gender Space and Division

At farm women are always considered as helper, and they are ignored in decision making. The women are avoided in resources distribution and duties allotment. Therefore the women farm and agriculture production affects very badly and the loss reached to threshold level. Therefore there is need to provide equal right and access to resources to the women farmers. The gender gap should finish and Government of Pakistan should do serious work for gender base discrimination.

Poor Financial Status

Poor or low access to financial support is a major constraint to women in agriculture farming production. Credit and financial support is an essential entity in agriculture sectors. They are always neglected in loan providence. The percent part for woman in bank is very low. Therefore the women should given equal rights same as men in credit receiving. For the development of woman in agriculture sector the financial support is very vital. The Government of Pakistan should take serious measures for women growth in cultivation sector.

Lack of access to Extension worker

Problem of low visit of extension officer is another major constraint that women are facing in agriculture sector. Extension officer guide the farmers about the sustainable agriculture production system. Furthermore the extension agents have a good knowledge and skills of farming. The lack of visit of extension officer at female farm creates many problems such as poor crop stand, low yield and low income. Government should regulate the extension officer visit to women farms.

Poor Farming Management

Complexity in accessing to major crop production farming inputs such as healthy seedlings, efficient fertilizers, effective pesticides, farm machinery, good quality seeds and other agronomic practices is often as the result of Poor financial support which women faced. These problems are the key practices and essential parts of farming. If these problems remain stable then the women farmers become unstable. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan should give proper response to these problems of women farming communities.

Physical Appearance

The physical appearance of women is another main problem. There body attracts many male workers. The male worker then tries to rape the women, therefore the woman avoid working in agriculture entrepreneurs. Women want to escape from agriculture field due to their self respect. This is the major problem to the woman. Therefore the Government of Pakistan should take serious measure against this criminal action of males.

Issue of Medical conditions of woman

Women passed every month through a medical illness for some days, due to which their interest decrease in farming. Whenever a woman absent from their farm for some days, then her farm did not runs properly in the absence of her. Besides, keeping a labour every month for 7 days is caused economical loss to the women in agriculture sector. However, this problem is natural.

Lower Participant in Farm Management decision

In Pakistan Women are always treated as labour or household keeper, they are always keep away from decision making regards farm management. This act decreased the self confidence of woman and women think that she is nothing. Sometimes women only work as

labour for their family. There is need of women participant in agriculture farm management. Woman can give a good advice regards farming techniques.

Absence of Agricultural Policies

Absence of agriculture policies for woman is another constraint for woman in agriculture sector. The greater part of Pakistani woman is involved in agriculture sector but there is lack of policies for women in agriculture sector. The numerous number of NGO's working for women rehabilitation in agriculture sector. The Government should take some serious steps for women policy making in agriculture sector, because women provide much number of labour.

Effect of Socio-Economic characteristic

Socio-economic characteristic among other factors may affect the women performance in agriculture crop production. These factors maybe act as obstacle in agriculture sector to women. In Pakistan although woman sharing in farm management decision making are pretty low attributable to their age, education, land tenancy, and the wealth status but there is still an urgent necessitate for a gendered advancement in to agricultural farming policies. An educated woman will make decision wisely, but uneducated will have no aware of farming techniques. Similarly, an old age woman will have a great experience of farming, while young age woman may make mistakes in decision making regards farming practices.

Lower Participant in Agricultural Training

Now a day's agricultural farming sector facing several problems such as climate change, insect-pest attack, drought, flood and some other factors. Women farmers should be trained regards these challenges for maintain sustainability in agriculture sector with an objective to achieve the economic development without environment degradation. Besides, the training of rural women is very necessary for learning modern farming techniques. Unfortunately the rural women participate rarely in agriculture farming.

Lack of Awareness

For training there is need of awareness in rural women about modern and sustainable way of farming. The awareness comes through seminars, functions, gathering, practical on farm. The lack of awareness in rural women is a major limitation to women in agriculture sector. There is need of proper campaign and awareness in rural women regards chemical farming, organic farming, climate change and other environmental and soil degradations factors.

Social Constraints

Women's position is immobile small in our nation by all public, economic, and political pointers. The majority of the career completed by rural women is physically laborious and there is no opportunity leave for the girl child of admitting in school. In such condition, the failure tariff of girls is superior and their circumstances remnants helpless. Rising food insecurity too has a gender measurement. The transit to cash export crops has also condensed women's hiring and purchasing authority and position as their task of food producers is put back by dependent and seasonal service and by voluntary family labor in men's crops.

Problems of Chemical Pesticides and Fertilizers

Gender distinction can influence farmers' acceptance of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which intend at reducing insect-pest problems, misuse and permanent use of pesticides, insecticides and herbicides and environmental pollution. This is a fact that women are liable for family unit health makes them extra approachable to information on pesticides and IPM methods. Therefore women are avoided by many organizations as they hate chemical farming. This way they are facing problems like low salary and bonuses etc.

Lack of Education Opportunities

Due to limited resources and lack of educational facilities, the illiteracy rate among rural women is very high which is dangerous in this age of development. Zeuli and Levins, (1995) reported that among women farmers in Minnesota lack of knowledge was a major issue. They reported that sons were given more opportunities to learn about farming than daughters, because sons were considered the future farmers.

Poor Malnutrition Facilities

In rural areas where women right is neglected, women's health and food security are also a problem. Lack of balance diet leads to many diseases and there is a shortage of female doctors in rural areas to treat them, which has led to many women during in child-birth.

Problem in Market Access

Women who work in fields day and nights do not have access to travel when the crop is ready which is why they do not bring their crops to the markets people who buy the crop from rural women always buy at a lower price. Rural women are unfamiliar with the methods of preserving the crop so it is advisable to sell it at a lower price to prevent it from spoiling.

Day to day one Routine

All women have one type of routine which has affecting their focus and decreasing their mental health, that's why they give less time to families.

No opportunity for outing and Refreshment

In numerous are of Pakistan women have no time for outing and refreshing their self. For physical and mental health an outing and refreshment walk is very necessary.

Conclusion

It is concluded that there are still many problem existing in the way of women in agriculture sector. Policy maker should keep in mind these problems for future planning, because no field or society can developed without women participation and share.

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Volume 2 Issue 3 March 2022

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