

**Importance of rural women as effective factor in rural households**<sup>1</sup> Ali Badragheh, <sup>2</sup> Mohammad Abedi<sup>1,2</sup> Department of Agriculture and Natural Resource, Mahabad Branch, Islamic Azad University, Mahabad, Iran

\*Corresponding author: abedi114@yahoo.com

**Abstract:** 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.

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**Introduction:**

Among developing countries, millions of women always are in farms and lands, work in engaged industries, keep the cattle, store firewood and water and earn livelihood and participation in economic activities is one of their important characteristics. But Despite their widespread presence in economic activities and benefits associated with it, they always face with discrimination. The discrimination has never tired them, but as a major force in economic activities around the world are discussed.

Therefore, their field of knowledge creation capabilities guide economic and social programs for women and their participation in various activities is essential. Role of women in rural areas higher than men on household economy and are responsible for activities within the home and community prosperity.

Women still further its position in world countries, especially developing countries as active citizens and enjoy the talent in the areas of economic participation - political - social and cultural activities and still have not lost women in economic calculation does not take into consideration And as they learn to be invisible workforce.

Very disappointing estimate the number of active women in rural and low estimation of women's participation in economic activities confirmed the lack of sufficient attention to the affairs of women and their added value.

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 Chharpnjm 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.

#### **Rural women at development process:**

History of development is ample and is contemporary with natural and social changes across world. From natural view, history of development is contemporary with geological changes and from social view, is equal with appearance of early human societies. First, discussion about more development was done by “development “and “progress” term. Development which mainly aimed for rural areas and it is necessary for programmers to consider follow issues (amiri, 2000):

- 1- development should “change” in order to improve conditions for majority of people
- 2- People who benefit from development should be more than loss ones.
- 3- Development should minimally ensure people to supply essential life needs or at least their minimum needs.
- 4- Development should be in harmonious and consistent with their needs.
- 5- Development should encourage self reliance.
- 6- Development should follow longstanding improvement.
- 7- Development shouldn't destruct natural environment.

While assessing historical flow of development , we find that trends to human dimensions after failure to fast industrialization , forced programmers and policy makers to revise their thoughts and consider occupation , population and adequate employing of workforce especially women who form half of population , as major goals of development(Fami, 2001).

Government and national organizations attention to this issue began from mid 1970's. After world conference in Mexico, year 1975 was named as “woman year” and after that year from 1975 until 1985 was named as “women decade”, and their certain needs were considered.

In this regard, vast studies were performed and it became clear that most of development programs including Green Revolution and high yielding varieties, as caused increasing productions, had negative affects on women's occupation and has increased their duties. At 1997, world conference on rural development (WCARRD) was held by participation of 145 representatives from different counties in Roma and identified problems which women faced with. Main goal of this conference was: to support rural women as producers and their certain preferences at access to productive sources especially technologies that be able to decrease extent and

hardship of their duties and lead to increase their efficiency (FAO, 1998).

Growing women's participation at labor market is one of development indexes of each society and represents increase of women's favorites to different aspect of participation at economic-social activities. Women's activities at its different dimensions at developed countries which rapidly changing by modern technology and difference at role and their functions is obvious even among poor countries. Attending to this point that women are at basic center of development, is very important. Because they control most of non-monetary economy by rearing generation, providing workforce and managing and performing family affaires and also subsistence agriculture. While always, women's productive role at agriculture has been introduces as concealed form and rarely manifested economically and socially, and maybe be most intangible participants at economic process (Emadi, 2001).

Although at all societies, rural women were introduces as one important factor for achieve to rural development goals but base on different economic, social and cultural reasons, they were considered less by programmers and practitioners, practically. Women as one intangible factor at agricultural economy, form great share of all human workforce needed for agriculture part, across the world (Ghaffari, 2000).

Rural women are considered either directly by producing livestock and agriculture products and rural industries and either by help to agriculture part as workforce and their share at third world countries is far more than other countries. Usually statistics about women's share at agriculture productions is less than real extent because largely, at these statistics seasonal job, part time job, no wage and housekeeping activities sere not considered. Nevertheless, they are forces for creating revolution and potential resources to progress rural economy and increase growth rate of food production (Nawab Akbar, 1997).

#### **Conclusion and discussion:**

According to the most important factor of economic population development and growth rate are human resources of that community and also each community consists of activist men and women that under the social interaction have direct influence on community economic and development therefore strategies are required to developed community base on more and active participation of women that include the half of society instruct in economic, political and social foundation. Women as an effective member of society, can crystalline their lead roles in various responsibilities formations. These

responsibilities include promoting the concept of participation and employment in life and building the suitable areas for freely activity and introduce the right of economic management, ownership and.... This requires that all fees and necessary training for women to be considered. Due to the fact that the concept of women's participation, is not necessarily the female employment, although certainly part of the participation of women will be crystallized in their employment, but in this context, home and family affairs by women and their role in nutrition and child growth and Their education are also many responsibilities that women often are responsible for them. Throughout history we have always been seen that women have always been active but in culture and tradition, this mentality largely exists that if the job exists, it would be for men. Because they are responsible for their families Economic or wherever there is a good opportunity for participation, men have a prior right.

Perhaps the reason that women are less important in the development is this thought and action. Because women are in occurred opportunities in the second stage, or even sometimes do not come into account. 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.

Mohammad Vahid Ghalafi, at one research, as “empowering women at rural development process” has put his main emphasis on agriculture part. so , first he , assessed rural women’s status and consequently their share at development process and economy of agriculture , thus he briefly analyzed different and multiple women’s role and their impact on agriculture part and related activities and through that he has determined their role at rural development process.

Mr. Aghaee in on research as “rural women’s role at economy of agriculture and their success at agriculture development programs “ further assessing their status at different countries and also emphasis on their participation at production activity of family , has expressed factors that led to ignorance of their role at economy of agriculture .

Lahsaee Zade at research as “assessing Iranian rural women’s role at economy arena: first assessed their position at occupation structure then has compared it with rural men’s occupation base. He expressed that rural women have equal importance compared to men.

Safiri, in his doctoral dissertation as “assessing quantitative and qualitative women’s occupation ant

its relation to economic development” has considered some of their problems of occupation due to obstacles which refers to structure of countries. And some contain social-economic and cultural obstacles.

Changizi Ashtiani in one research as “counting women’s share at production of country” addressed that studying historical process of social and economic development of countries represent that at development process , lagged countries are those which proper and favorite balance between men and women’s participation wasn’t created , and also there isn’t any fair and equal opportunities to flourish creativity .

Rasool Purarabi , in his thesis as “assessing women at economic activities in rural area of Ramsar “ has shown that more than 96% of rural women , at least had participated at economic activity that was supplement for family income . But they don’t participate at basic decision making of family, in spite of their affective role and vast attendance at economy of family, and also they enjoy owning production factors, less.

Development Realization is impossible without women’s participation at different social-economic aspect. Therefore, to understand unknown, researchers should strive and take basic step in this regard. Some programs should be provided at national level as long term projects at the field of education and Cultural Revolution in order to create needed knowledge in society and in women to identify their rights, education and extending modern techniques, creating infrastructure facilities and also rural development.

Since, village is suitable place for agriculture and additional related activities, so it can be said that women’s role at village and possibility to institutionalize proper infrastructure, we able to have suitable perspective toward development process.

Agriculture part as one of the most important productive parts of country have critical responsibility in preparing needed food security that can help this part to access its major goal according to efficiency of workforce up to proper level . In this regard, women play critical role. Nevertheless, they couldn’t represent their abilities at this field, due to various limitations which women face. Among this especial attention to this group of society and preparing them supporting, educational and extensional services for them can help to remove their vast future problems , according to major role of this forgot group at agriculture activities and finally lead to increase and improve their efficiency about agriculture and consequently lead to increase welfare and comfort of rural society .

In order to be able to remove obstacles and problems of women’s activity at villages , we should

reinforce stamina if women's work by one exact and codified programming in order to be able to progress at one correct direction.

Villager access to education at different level, possibility to enjoy suitable occupation opportunities and also industrial, technical and healthcare equipment has caused that cities go out from concentration and attraction of inside and outside capitals, and so possibility of fair distribution of resources and facilities between city and village be provided, and government instead of bear heavy cost of urban population, spend these costs for rural development and support rural women whom get more damage while face lack of facility and compared to men enjoy less migration rate and also have to adopt existing conditions and use available facilities. In today world, it is impossible to achieve development goals without applying abilities of half of people of society (i.e. women).

Women at most countries, have low access to economic resources at the field of economic activity. They should reinforce them at this field by supplying economic facilities. Another part that changed women's attendance at economic affairs is agriculture activities. Opportunities which they gain at this part can have important impact on economic function and related social relations

Same discussions were presented about identifying women's role on environment changes (especially in preserving natural sources) that related to women's life and job. Women's access to agriculture credits, because increasing and improving their efficiency at agriculture. Women's membership at cooperatives, also help them to receive facilities in order to supply needed inputs of agriculture, sale productions and make some production with aim of increasing efficiency. Most of researches found that women's education is related to their agriculture efficiency. Indeed, years which women used educational programs, related to their productions meaningfully. So, by identifying their needs, demands and interests and also by determining their issues, resources and preferences, we should prepare proper extensional and educational programs for them.

Also literacy programs and generally their basic education should be considered specifically with aim of better women's enjoyment of extensional and educational programs. And also access opportunities to different resources and needed inputs at agriculture activity should be provide for them. Development programs for rural women mostly have certain importance that should be considered at extension activity. Thus extensional programs should contain emphasis and trends on work with rural

women there are two ways that extensional programs can attract women:

- 1- Extension personnel can create interest in rural women by regular programs.

Women have certain problems and it is impossible to create interest through one program, because adult men of society are base of movement and needs at agriculture societies. At many countries, especial programs are under development for rural women that perform by female extension personnel. At field of issues such as internship in economy of family, especial training for girls to product vegetables and fruits, managing poultry and simple picking techniques and methods of how behave to spouse.

- 2- Extension personnel of agriculture, always should collect comments about important points and gain data from female leaders of society, and collect comments of women's club members and other affective and significant women. Women should have possibility to participate at programs of rural committee or other groups with assistance of performance factors of extension that through those local women's problems or every certain issue which can be helped through extensional services is clear.

Since, village is suitable place for farming and additional activities, so it can be said that women's role at villages, has been toward this point and by developing agriculture part and possibility to institutionalized appropriate infrastructure, we would have suitable attitude toward development process. Agriculture part has critical responsibility, as one of the productive part of country for supplying needed food security, that it can assist this part to access this main goal up to proper level, in accordance with workforce efficiency. To achieve this goal, women play main role, too. In spite of that, they couldn't represent their abilities in this field, because of limitations that they face.

Villager's access to education at different level, and their enjoyment possibility of suitable occupation opportunities and also industrial, technical and healthcare equipment, caused that cities go out from concentration and attraction of inside and outside capitals, and so possibility of fair distribution of resources and facilities between city and village be provided.

Government instead of bear heavy cost of urban population, spend these costs for rural development and support rural women whom get more damage while face lack of facility and compared to men enjoy

less migration rate and also have to adopt existing conditions and use available facilities . In today world, it is impossible to achieve development goals without applying abilities of half of people of society (i.e. women).

Empowering women is one of principal discussions of development process for many countries of today world. existing factors contain women's education , their ownership sample , their occupation opportunities and function of labor market but if we go beyond this rather classic variables , these factors also contain occupational relations nature , how to behave family and generally society with economic women's activity and economic and social conditions which encourage or prevent change at these moods .

Last conclusion is that men and women, play role at agriculture programs and rural development but each has different needs and knowledge base on kind of their activities, since total people activities were done to supply their needs and so governments should consider regional programming in their policy making and programming. This issue dose not achieved unless by identify climate, population, cultural, economic and politic constituents of each region and also kind of relation of these constituents with constituents outside village and region.

These kinds of study and recognition have provided causes of better programming and adopted with needs of region, and prevent loss of investment. If education, health, occupation, cure and ... facilities be provided in village and improving rural life level be considered, so migration would be regulated. At the other hand, protecting agriculture and livestock products and local industry, and attracting well condition markets for it, by governments, can be affective for villager's interest about rural life. Finally, positive attitude of development programmers, would help significantly to improve condition of one benefited rural family, and would act as a factor to diminish gap between urban family and rural family.

**\*Corresponding Author:**

Mohammad Abedi  
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resource,  
Mahabad Branch, Islamic Azad University,  
Mahabad, Iran  
E-mail: abedi114@yahoo.com

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