

THE LEVEL OF ECONOMICS PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN DUHOK GOVERNORATE IN KURDISTAN REGION OF IRAQ AND ITS RELATION WITH SOME VARIABLES

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ABSTRACT

Women play a vital role in economic activities. They comprise about 50% of the global total labor that engaged in agriculture and food production enterprises. This study is designed to determine the economic participation by rural women in Duhok governorate in Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The number of the respondents of this study was (474) were selected by area random sampling. SPSS software were used to analyze the data collected, statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, correlation, and regression was used. The results shows that the perception level of respondents in economic participation is high. The results also show there is a significant relationship between some social, demographic variables and 'economic participation level such as (age, number of study years, satisfaction with services in the villages, urban openness) and non-significant with (living conditions of the family, fathers occupation or guardian, current job, ability to solve problems). It is recommended that the extension agencies should have a re-orientation of their Programs and activities, where women will be treated equally with their male counterparts. This will ensure more rural and agricultural development in the targeted area.

KEYWORDS: Rural women, participation, Agricultural Economic, Duhok.

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INTRODUCTION

Society development depends on combination of two basic aspects; the people and the government, efforts by means of which, social, economic, cultural and psychological changes are materialized with an eye to improve and upgrade the status of the people of these communities. (Harbi 1997).

Women play crucial roles in the agricultural production in the developing countries, especially in countries with low income rate and where agriculture accounts for high ratio of the gross national production. Rural women represent the majority of the agricultural labor force in these countries because they produce the bulk of the locally consumed foods. This qualifies them to be one of the fundamental variables in achieving the economic development and family welfare in the rural communities Salih (2015). Curbing all their agricultural potentialities constitutes a

contributing factor in the slowness of development and absence of food security. (World Bank, 2008).////////The outcomes and recommendations, of many conferences and studies, highlight the need to pay attention to women and their participation in different aspects of, in order to achieve a thorough development. (Sherif, 2005).

In view of the considerable importance of the participation of rural women in the affairs of the local community, and in the light of economic significances.

Rural women as half of the rural population, have an important role in economic and social activities, and to achieve rural development requires more attention to women that are involved alongside and tandem with men in economic and social activities, in explaining the rural women's importance role in production is this. Thus we know that the achievements of the World Conference on the United Nations' Decade of Women, "which is entitled" Equality,

Development and Peace "in 1980 was held in New York, was that two-thirds of the total work done by women in the world which rural women do most of this work. (Adisa, 2013). Therefore, if that overlooked women in the production and does not matter to their important role in development and economic status each type of planning will fail and always lags behind the country in general and the village in particular, or in other words their lack in field of different agricultural activities not only makes trouble the family in the area of functions that are responsible as a mother and wife but is serious as power-efficient and effective in terms of rural economic caused a crisis. (Das, 1995).

Women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Their roles vary considerably between and within regions and are changing rapidly in many parts of the world, where economic and social forces are transforming the agricultural sector they often manage complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies therefore their activities typically include producing agricultural crops, tending animals, processing and preparing food, working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises, collecting fuel and water, engaging in trade and marketing, caring for family members and maintaining their homes. (Yousef Ghanbari¹, Hamid Barghi², Nafiseh ghotbinejad³, 2013)

Rural women participate to almost every agricultural activity both in all over the world. Especially in developing countries, women conduct irrigation activities or irrigation management successfully. On the other hand, women have big responsibility in a lot of production activities which needs intensive water use like fishery, cut flowers and garden, rice and etc. (Jonathan, 1998)

However, the rural women in the area of study are facing many problems. Among that is

the adoption of technologies that has been transferred to them. Their knowledge and skills are low because of the lack of training from agencies to them and lack of activities. Therefore this study come to discover the situation of participation level toward economic activities in area of study for rural women and to see wither their level of participation in economic activities is high or low. Therefore, this research intends to contribute to the existing literature by providing an empirical analysis to detect the possibility of applying economic activities for rural women point of view.

Objectives of the Study:

The Main Objective of the study is to determine the economic participation of rural women in Duhok Governorate, the specific objectives are:

1. To identify the economic participation level by rural women in Duhok Governorate / Kurdistan region of Iraq.
2. To identify the relationship between selected characteristics of rural women and their degree of participation in economic activities.
3. To diagnose the obstacles of economic participation by rural women in Duhok governorate / Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Methodology

A total of (474) respondents were randomly selected from different rural areas of Duhok governorate representing of total rural women who were above 18 years as shown in table (1). The data has obtained through face-to-face interview based on a structured questionnaire which has been held from April to June 2018. Three Likert scale was used to identify the level of participation in economic activities of respondents. The Cronbach alpha value obtained for the scales was (0.750) exceeding. The collected data was subjected to data analysis including statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, correlation, and regression using SPSS software.

Table (1): The population and sample size of the study

No.	Area (districts)	Area (sub-districts)	Villages	Number of women above 18 years of age	Size of Sample 10%
		Zawita	Mamani	102	10
			Kora	51	5
1	Center of Duhok	Mangish	Banda	78	8
			baroshka sadiny	274	27

	Center of	Sege	251	25
2	Semel	Qasir Yazdin	96	10
	Batel	Asahe	84	8
		Simail Ava	243	24
3	Rezkare	Feshkbor	180	18
		Kraola	94	9
	Batifa	Zereza	89	9
		Kashane	37	4
4	Sarsing	Hamzike	48	5
		Skreen	122	12
	Deralok	Sargale	134	13
5		Goharze	253	25
	Atrosh	Kaline	26	3
	Shekhan	Harmash	48	5
		Bstik	51	5
		Isian	339	34
6	Denarta	Kane Halan	163	16
		Glbish	116	12
	Gardasin	Sisna	236	24
		Similan	117	12
7	Darato	Du Gundan	180	18
		Bejeek		
	bardarash	Garbadu ni	106	11
		Dulijan Bjeik	364	36
	Rovia	Ismawa	858	86
		Total	4740	474

The names of the rural women in the targeted village were obtained from the local Administrations. A total of 474 women were randomly selected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Identify the economic participation level by rural women in Duhok Governorate / Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Table (2) shows the rural women in Duhok Governorate are divided into three categories. From table (2) it reveals that (30.169%) (143) of the respondents have high level of economic

participation. The table also shows that (47.257%) (224) have moderate level of economic participation, and only (22.574%) (107) of the respondents have low level of economic participation, may be the reason is that women participation in agriculture and economic activities make them self-reliant and enhances their empowerment status within the family and community in general.

Table (2): Shows distribution of respondents according to the level of Economic participation

Economic participation	Frequency	Percentage	participation Mean
(16-26) Low	107	22.574	22.169
(27-37) Moderate	224	47.257	32.491
(38-48) High	143	30.169	41.860
Total	474	100	

$\bar{X}=32.993$

sd =7.745

According to Table (3), items of respondent's participation in economic work were ranked based on their mean values. Respondent's participation level towards the item, "I sure to

cut home expenses" is ranked the highest mean value which was (2.592). This may be due to the difficult economic conditions experienced by families in the region, especially the 1990s

(economic blockade), and therefore rural women seek to reduce the expenses of the house and provide them in anticipation of similar circumstances. While such item as, “I present to

the officials proposals for development projects for the region” ranked the lowest mean value (1.582). This means that most of the respondents have not face problems with financial.

Table (3): Distribution of respondents according to the scale of economic participation

No.	Items	Degree of participation						mean	rank
		Big		Medium		Few or Non			
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
1	I sure to cut home expenses.	329	69.4	97	20.5	48	10.1	2.592	1
2	I participate the family in the savings and savings of the home budget	292	61.6	129	27.2	53	11.2	2.504	2
3	I participate the head of household in the home budget.	284	29.9	119	25.1	71	15.0	2.449	3
4	I would like to contribute to rural handicrafts.	211	44.5	173	36.5	90	19.0	2.255	4
5	I contribute to increased family income through plant products	223	47.0	148	31.2	103	21.7	2.253	5
6	Provide material assistance to poor families in the village.	187	39.5	210	42.4	86	18.1	2.213	6
7	I contributed to increasing family income through animal products.	201	42.4	154	32.5	119	25.1	2.173	7
8	Keen to participate in the food industry in the village.	164	34.6	199	42.0	111	23.4	2.111	8
9	Participate in manual labor to increase income	182	38.4	122	25.7	170	35.9	2.025	9
10	Participate in home economics training courses.	121	25.5	162	34.2	191	40.3	1.852	10
11	Participate in the marketing of agricultural products.	111	23.4	176	37.1	187	39.5	1.839	11
12	Participate in the fields of work available in the village and generate additional income	103	21.7	189	39.9	182	38.4	1.833	12
13	I sure to follow radio and television programs that are concerned with home economics	98	20.7	195	41.1	181	38.2	1.824	13
14	I make recommendations to improve the economic situation of families	104	21.9	166	35.0	204	43.0	1.789	14
15	I participate in economic development programs organized by the agricultural people or international organizations in the region.	68	14.3	193	40.7	213	44.9	1.694	15
16	I present to the officials proposals for development projects for the region.	75	15.8	126	26.6	273	57.6	1.582	16

2. Identify the relationship between selected characteristics of rural women and their degree of participation economic activities.

Pearson's and spearman correlation were used to examine the association between independent variables and degree of economic participation of respondents. Based on the results presented in Table (4), there is a significant correlation between each of (age, number of study years, satisfaction with services in the village, urban openness) with the economic participation of respondents in study area.

“Age” has a positive significant relationship with the economic participation of respondents the number of Person correlation value 0.132 this was significant at 0.01. The reason may be due to accumulated experience and increased

awareness of the importance of participating in economic activities to improve their position within the family and society.

Follow by, “number of years of study” has negative correlation with the economic participation of the respondents, the number of Person correlation value 0.210- this was significant at 0.01 may be the reason is that the majority of rural women in the targeted area are illiterate or fall into the low level of education.

Other characteristic is “satisfaction with services in the village” the results show that there is a positive correlation with economic participation, the number of Person correlation value 0.158 this was significant at 0.01 may be the reason for that when the respondents have high satisfaction with services in the village this

will encourage them to economic participation, and “of course” benefits from variable economic opportunities in their villages.

Other characteristic is “urban openness” shows that there is a positive correlation with economic participation may be the reason is that

more visits and more media contact one have the more aware on economic activities in their local communities, that contribute to raising the level of participation of rural women in economic participation as part of rural development.

Table (4): The Correlation between selected characteristics of rural women and their economic participation

No	Variables	Person correlation value	Spearman correlation value	Sigma value	Sig.
1	Age	0.132		0.004	**
2	Number of study years	0.210-		0.000	**
3	Living Conditions of the Family		0.040	0.380	ns
4	Father's occupation or guardian		0.074	0.109	ns
5	current job		0.018-	0.602	ns
6	Ability to solve problems	0.067		0.143	ns
7	Satisfaction with services in the village	0.158		0.001	**
8	Urban openness	0.521		0.000	**

3. To diagnose the obstacles of economic participation by rural women in Duhok governorate / Kurdistan region of Iraq.

Table (6) shows the obstacles facing economic participation of rural women that the

obstacle (High unemployment rates) is ranked first with an arithmetic mean (2.713), and that of (Women's economic dependency) occupied the last rank with an arithmetic mean (2.156)

Table (6): The Distribution of respondents according to the Obstacles facing economic participation of rural women

No.	paragraphs	Degree of participation						Mean	rank
		Big		Medium		Few or Non			
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
1	High unemployment rates.	364	76.8	84	17.7	26	5.5	2.713	1
2	Lack of material support for economic participation by the official authorities.	330	69.6	110	23.2	34	7.2	2.624	2
3	The social situation does not encourage economic participation.	265	55.9	179	37.8	30	6.3	2.495	3.5
4	Fear of losing money.	267	56.3	175	36.9	32	6.8	2.495	3.5
5	Weak financial resources for women's organizations.	279	58.9	143	30.2	52	11.0	2.479	5
6	Economic recession.	240	50.6	183	38.6	51	10.8	2.398	6
7	Lack of adequate education on the importance of economic participation.	227	47.9	208	43.9	39	8.2	2.396	7
8	Women's sense of psychological and physical instability.	225	47.5	202	42.6	47	9.9	2.375	8
9	Weak momentum of economic participation.	201	42.4	223	47.0	50	10.5	2.318	9
10	Women's economic dependency.	141	29.7	266	56.1	67	14.1	2.156	10

CONCLUSIONS &

RECOMMENDATIONS////////In brief, The economic activities is one of the most important factors which can increase the ability of rural women by giving them new courses or new training to make them more able to resolve their problems, therefore in this research the results indicated that the majority of rural women in Duhok Governorate that (30.169%) (143) of the respondents have high degree of economic participation level. The study results also reveals that the (4) greatest variables, hindering rural women participation in the targeted area, which are between (age, number of study years, satisfaction with services in the village, urban openness). Based on the results and observations made during the survey, it was clear that the participation of women in most areas is still less than the expectations. //////////Based on the results of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- 1- Agricultural extension agencies in the targeted area should encourage and cooperative the rural women to participate and be members of civil society institutions and NGOs or CBOS (Community based organizations).
- 2- The extension agencies should have a re-orientation of their Programs and activities, where women will be treated equally with their male counterparts. This will ensure more rural and agricultural development in the targeted area
- 3- Create an environment that encourages rural women's increased participation in extension, household decision-making.
- 4- Awareness raising program about the importance of rural women's participation should be made both for males and females. Religious and rural leaders, women associations, civil societies, NGOs and mass media can play vital roles.

5- Develop and promote personal skills training courses for rural women on leadership, public-speaking, family planning, decision-making, and self-assertion;

6- Expectations it is necessary to improve their participation in decision-making to enhance their empowerment as well as their status in the community.////////**REFERENCES**////////

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پوخته

ژن رۆله كا بهرچاڤ د چالاكیین ئابوریدا ههیه. و نیزیکی 50% ژ كاركه رین كه رتا چاندن و خرن ل نوكه، شیانا چاره سهر كرنا ئاریشان. ژ ئارمانجین قه كولین دياركرنا به شداربونا ئابوری یا ئافره تین گوندا ل پاریزگه ها دهوك - هه ریمما كوردستان- عیراق. ژمارا (474) كه سان هاتنه دیاری كرن بو قه كولین بریكا هه ره مه کی. پروگرامی spss هاتیه كارنinan بو شیکاری كرن داتایان. و د ئه جامدا دیار دبن كو ریزا به شداربونا ئابوری یا ئافره تین گوندا دبوارئ ئابوریدا بلنده. و په یوه ندی معنوی و باش هه بو دنا قه را هندك بگورین جفاکی دگهل به شداربونا ئابوری وهك (تمن، سالیین خاندن، رازیبون ژخزمه تگوزاریا گوندا، قه بونا شارستانی). و کاریگه ری نه معنوی بو دگهل (بارودوخئ ژیان خیزان، کاری ریفه به ری مالی، کاری پتر پیشكه فتنا گوندا و چاندن ل دقهرئ دیاری کری دیار دبیت. پیشنیار دهیته كرن كو دامه زراوین شیره تكای دووباره ریکختنا بکه ن بوکارو چالاكیین خو. و قیث سهره ده ری گهل ئافره ت بشیوارئ نیکسان دگهل زلامان بهیته كرن.

الخلاصة

تلعب المرأة دوراً حيوياً في الأنشطة الاقتصادية. وتمثل حوالي 50% من إجمالي العمالة العالمية التي تعمل في مؤسسات الإنتاج الزراعي والغذائي. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحديد المشاركة الاقتصادية للمرأة الريفية في محافظة دهوك في إقليم كردستان العراق. تم اختيار عدد من المستهدفين لهذه الدراسة والبالغ عددهم (474) عن طريق أخذ عينات عشوائية من المنطقة. استخدام برنامج SPSS لتحليل البيانات التي تم جمعها، واستخدام عدد من العمليات الاحصائية مثل التكرارات والنسبة المئوية والمتوسط الحسابي والانحراف المعياري ومعامل الارتباط البسيط والانحدار. وأظهرت النتائج أن مستوى المشاركة الاقتصادية مرتفع. واطهرت النتائج أيضاً وجود علاقة معنوية بين بعض المتغيرات الاجتماعية مع مستوى المشاركة الاقتصادية مثل (العمر، عدد سنوات الدراسة، الرضا عن الخدمات في القرية، الانفتاح الحضري) وغير معنوية مع (الظروف المعيشية للأسرة، مهنة ولي الامر، العمل الحالي، القدرة على حل المشاكل). يوصى بأن يكون لدى اجهزة الإرشاد إعادة توجيه لبرامجها وأنشطتها، حيث ستم معاملة النساء على قدم المساواة مع نظرائهن الذكور. وسيضمن ذلك المزيد من التنمية الريفية والزراعية في المنطقة المستهدفة.