Participation of rural women in the agricultural sector and their impact on sustainable development (Case study of rural women in big part of Kashan city)

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ABSTRACT: The main objective of this study is to investigate the agriculture activities of rural women particularly horticulture and their impact on village development and to identify risk factors (individual, family, organization), on the rate of their participation at agricultural activities in big part of Kashan city. The research method was descriptive – analytical and was collected the information required based on a survey studies and library. Statistical population required consisted of 6,300 people of rural women active in the agricultural sector particularly horticulture of area which were identified by using Cochran formula 320 women as sample size and with simple random sampling method has been interviewed. Coefficient of Cronbach's alpha for the determination the reliability of questionnaire was 5/71. For description and data analysis was used of software SPSS and single variable t-test and Spearman correlation coefficient. Research results show that is effective the agricultural activities of rural women in development of area. This relationship from standpoint regional authorities were examined considering the three sectors rural women's education, support of their economic activity and formation the cooperatives of rural women and according to that to itself is allocated training of rural women with a mean 60/3 the maximum amount.

Keywords: farmer women, women's participation, agricultural sector, rural economy, big part.

INTRODUCTION

Rural women as half of the rural population, have an important role in economic and social activities and for achieve to rural development requires more attention to women that are involved alongside and tandem with men in economic and social activities, (MirakZadehand others 2011).Was focused since 1970, international attention and research projects towards women. Were begin to discuss in this regard, national and international agencies concerned with women's involvement in the management and direction of development objectives thereby, researchers and policy makers came to a different understanding than to men and women in the field of agricultural projects and industry (Amiri, 2006).

In explaining the rural women's importance of 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 (Khatami, 2004). The value of women's work in villages of service not only less than men but also in many instances is more. Because do the work of agriculture and livestock is related to prepare of living conditions by rural women (Mehrabanyan and others, 2008). The aim of this study is to investigate the participation of rural women in agriculture and its impact on sustainable development in the region. To achieve the above objective, the following hypotheses were investigated.A) The relationship between individual characteristics of women farmers (age, household size and income of horticulture) with their agricultural activities B) The effect of women's economic activities in the area of sustainable development. In addition to question of status and role of rural women in agriculture, big sector is how much has been answered.
Theoretical Foundations

In the present world development goals without the use of a huge cache of half the body of the women would be impossible. Women's participation and their role in economic structures is one indicator of the modernization of the national economy and social development, Community development strategies should be based on a more active participation of women in economic, political and social is designed.

Given that women make up half the population of the rural community are considered the major manufacturers of food and income for rural households which are responsible the manufacture is an important part of the agricultural production in the world. So if that overlooked women in the production and does not matter to their important role in development and economic status each type of planning with fails 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 (Moshiri, 2010). The agricultural sector is one of important sector for the economy which emphasizes agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and etc.,And promote the countries at stake intended use of all forces and talents, including women These two cases including the topics that has attracted the attention of experts industrialized countries and although women of human society 50% constitute of the World Population and 66% hours worked (with wages and without wages) and is responsible by theyand 90% the affairs of production in average farms,have share of small percentage at the decisions and is dedicated only one tenth of the world's income and less than one percent of the world's land to them.Status of women in every society is marker the progress rate of its society.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methods used in this study from various aspects may be introduced. The objective of the present research is practical and terms of type of this research, descriptive - correlational. Independent variables include: Individual characteristics (education, age), family characteristics (family size, head of household) and the dependent variable, the impact of agricultural activities of rural women on the economic empowerment of households. By using data deal, research questions are evaluated.Data collection was performed by two methods library and field that is done in field method of questionnaire technique with open and closed questions (two options and multiple options) and spectrum of Leykryt. The population used in this research 6300 of active rural women in agricultural sector is a big part.In this study, we used simple random sampling the sample size was determined by using the Cochran formula320 is the number of rural women. To test the hypothesis using t test one variable, binomial test and Spearman correlation coefficients were used.

Introducing the area

Is big part of the city of Kashan in north of Isfahan province. Its longitude is 51 degrees and 31 minutes east and its latitude 33 degrees and 47 minutes north and is located in the southwest of Kashan in a mountainous area in mountains of Karkas about 45 kilometers from Kashan that ends from one side of the highway to Isfahan-Tehran and from the other side of the highway to Kashan - Qom. According to year of 85 big part have two rural districts with names (Baba Afzal and Golab) which include a total of 11 villages.Its population is 16,000 and average family size of 6/5 persons, male to female ratio is 9/92. In terms of literacy, 2/85% of men and 6/74% of women are literate.This section with despite great potential, Kashan city is ranked first in terms of agriculture. Most work of its inhabitants is agriculture that in addition it also pay to animal husbandry and handicrafts. One of the main sources of income and its economy is industry of flower Dewatering that it is engaged 40% of people that and 70% related to this part is rosewater in Kashan city (TashZendeh Rood city, 2011).
Research findings

Individual characteristics and descriptive of the study

Identification and analysis of descriptive characteristics of society showed that were of the Total sample size 320 rural women 87% married, and 12% unmarried. Mean age is 50 and family size 6 people. The level of literacy among rural women 81% literate and 18% are illiterate. The highest percentage of literates among the elementary level is with 41% and the lowest percentage of high school with 18% respectively.

The role of rural women big part in different activities

According to the surveys of above Part women are active in different fields and many more activities such as housework and gardening and handicrafts and etc. are doing together. Especially in spring and summer which men's feet to feet have significant activity in farming and State agricultural. Based on the results shown in Table (1) in this area gardening activities are more than farming and handicrafts. Most women work in more than one case of 58% and the lowest percentage farming with 30 per cent.

The relationship between age, family size and income of rural women horticulture with agriculture activity. Family is one of the major social institutions and many jobs in rural communities. In rural households there is a kind of merger or complete linkage between family and professional organizations that is the kind of autonomy in economic and family. The results in Table (2) the correlation between agricultural activity in women with age, income level, horticulture and family size 0.05 ≥ p was significant, so the age, income and family gardening farming activities directly associated with the women there. With the increase of agricultural activities for rural women is also higher.
Table 2. Correlation coefficient between agricultural activity and age, household income and gardening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic characteristics of women</th>
<th>Agricultural activity</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>p</th>
<th>r</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>age</td>
<td></td>
<td>298</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family size</td>
<td></td>
<td>298</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td>298</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.289</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research Findings, 2012

The position and role of rural women in the agricultural sector

Given that women make up half the population of the rural community, and is the major manufacturers of food and income for the household that are in charge an important part of the world production of agricultural products. Therefore, understanding the role of rural women in agriculture is very important. Based on the results in Table (3) in big part the average iswomen activity in agricultural sector more than 50% and shows that is the status and role of rural women in agriculture more than the average level. As well as binomial test based on findings in 05/0 p ≤ been significant. Thus, the difference between high and low activity was significant for women, women's participation in these areas is very high.

Table 3. Binomial test results in terms of agricultural activities women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agricultural activities women</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low activity</td>
<td>0/37</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>0.010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High activity</td>
<td>0/63</td>
<td>202</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research findings, 2012

Increase the efficiency of effectiveness and organization the economic activities of rural women in regional development

Women are in cycle of agricultural production as various forms involved and is increasing reflect of their activity in relation to production. Therefore, to achieve the goals of development is not possible without taking this stratum. Because rural women a major contribution in economic activities, particularly agriculture. Effect of increase performance and organization of rural women's economic activities in the study development in terms of experts and government representatives of area considering the three part of village women trained in agriculture and regional development, the protection of women's activities and women's cooperatives in rural areas we examined. The highest mean response to "effectiveness of Rural Women Training in improve of development" "increase the effectiveness of the training of rural women in agricultural production"to mean 60/3 and the lowest" effective of rural cooperatives formation in development the region". With an average of 11/3 is shown in Table 4.

Table4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>education for rural women in improve sustainable development</td>
<td>3/60</td>
<td>699/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>training of rural women in increase agricultural production</td>
<td>3/60</td>
<td>516/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of insurance of rural women in sustainable development</td>
<td>3/40</td>
<td>843/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact insurance of agricultural products in sustainable development</td>
<td>3/44</td>
<td>726/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>support the economic activities of rural women formation of women's cooperatives in rural areas</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>675/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bank lending to rural women</td>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>978/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research Findings, 2012

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Women's status any society indicators of progress of its society and promote countries require purpose of use of all the forces and human talent, including women. Rural women are responsible for the world food production by 50 to 60% and average participation of rural women in this sector is estimated at about 40%. In big part also to
having temperate climate and abundant agricultural potential constitute the main sectors of the economy, its agricultural land is divided into two parts garden land and the farm. Jobs of area most people are agriculture and come to work women as well as men's feet in plantations and gardens.

Based on the results shown in Table (1) women have participation in all economic activity in rural areas and their activity is more in agriculture sector, especially in the harvest. Factors such as age and family size income of horticulture that are related to agricultural activities with increase them the agricultural activity of women is more (Table 2). Also according to the findings of the rural women in agriculture is more than the average level and women are very active in the affairs of the farming and gardening (Table 3). As well as economic activities of rural women is effective in sustainable development of area. This relationship in terms of regional authorities considering the three sectors rural women’s education, support of their economic activity and the formation of women's cooperatives in rural areas were examined and based on training rural women with an average of 60/3 is allocated to highest value (Table 4).

The recommendations that can be used provided to whatever to improve the status of women and the improvement of agricultural activity in the region include: raising the level of productive skills for women, how to optimize the use of resources, specialized training in order to improve productivity, increase rural women's access to credit, that providing credits and loans to rural women especially female-headed households; comes conditions suitable for access to credit and create jobs in the region and significantly improve the development of family subsistence farming is effective. Make coverage for Social Security and the legal protection of rural women workforce, particularly women heads of household labor, given women in mentioned region who have participation in agricultural activities and spend a lot of time, but they do not have any support from government agencies. Thinking of a way to provide health care and other social services make improve the status of women and increase their safety against damage causes work. It is hoped that in the near future to further support government for living conditions of farmers, especially women farmers to make a full recovery.

REFERENCES
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