A Study on the Economical Contribution of Women to Domestic and Productive Tasks in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa District

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ABSTRACT: The major contribution of women to agriculture has never been adequately appreciated. The study was conducted in the Teonthar block of Madhya Pradesh's Rewa region. Using a random selection methodology, 24 villages were selected, and a sample of 10 households from each village was chosen, according to the number of homes in each category, for a total sample size of 240 respondents. Each sample farm's total expenditure for family labour undertaken for the study is Rs. 41,659. In this, men contributed Rs. 33411 compared to women's Rs. 8248. Women made up 23.87 percent of those working in agriculture, while they made up 29.61 percent of those working in animal husbandry. 46.52 percent of household tasks were performed by women. The study's findings support the notion that the majority of women in farming households contribute significantly to the economy by engaging in agricultural and related activities.

Keywords: Women, household activities, animal husbandry, Wages, Teonthar block, Madhya Pradesh.

INTRODUCTION

Women working in agriculture include both farmers and agricultural workers, as well as those employed in a variety of related non-farm occupations. The study's primary goal was to compare the economic advantages enjoyed by male and female service industry workers. Senthil Kumar and Sana Begum (2020) studied in their research that the gender gap is the difference between men and women in terms of salaries, leadership, and participation in the workforce, as well as in social, political, intellectual, cultural, or economic attainments or attitudes. Globally, and particularly in the workplace, gender inequality is a major problem. Today's farm women have a variety of roles to manage socioeconomic issues on the one hand and a variety of chances to make a more productive living and live healthier lives on the other. The many responsibilities that women play and the constructive contributions they make in terms of labour hours put in or corresponding income produced for the family, however, are neither acknowledged nor recorded. Although women make up the majority of the agricultural workforce worldwide, their labour is largely unpaid. According to Singh (2009), around the world, there have been numerous analyses of the expansion and development of human societies. The distribution and existence of human races, as well as their progress, have placed both genders in the spotlight. On the one hand, men have been shown to be primarily responsible for development, while on the other, women have been portrayed as being disadvantaged and neglected.

Chavan and Bedamatta (2006) analyse the trends in agricultural wages in India. In India, 80 percent of all economically active women work in the agricultural sector, compared to 63 percent of men. There are reportedly 75 million women engaged in dairying, compared to 15 million males, and another 20 million engaged in other livestock-related occupations, as opposed to 1.5 million men. Preeti *et al.* (2022), In order to provide women with a respectable position that can be commended with inclusive progress and greater social prospects, society must be civilised and aware of the potential victims of many social ills and social dilemmas that affect women. The study emphasises the roles and obligations associated with them. Position, independence, and respect are still far off in the distance. Amin *et al.* (2009) found that in a rural setting, both men and women's labour revolves around land and other resources that are either centred on agriculture or connected to it, like animal husbandry. Every home needs to complete a certain amount of housework in addition to these tasks in order to carry out its daily operations. In all such societies where agricultural output depends almost entirely on the employment of family labour, the household serves as a fundamental unit of production.

Sampreetha *et al.* (2022), the majority of the operations in the rice crop were carried out by women farmers.

Agriculture is seen as the most significant activity in a peasant household because it directly benefits the household financially. Agriculture-related tasks, including caring for animals, are regarded as being of secondary importance because they only bring a little more money to the household's finances and do not serve as the main source of income. Housework is a third type of work where people's labour is not compensated if it is done for their own families and is considered to have use value rather than trade value. It is extremely common to observe that in patriarchal countries, males are assigned to those sorts of work that have a direct exchange value; as a result, the work of men is viewed as more useful and the work of women as having lower social status. Some activities under the sex-based segmentation of labour are typically only allowed for men, whereas others are only allowed for women. Housework is frequently referred to as a woman's job and agricultural work as a man's. Yet, in a peasant household, women are also in charge of caring for the cattle, whose output is frequently sold to fund the family's subsistence needs. The work performed by women in the home, in subsistence agriculture, and in related fields is typically not counted or, if it is, is grossly underestimated because it is not thought to be economically productive. Work performed in the home is not counted as compensation, Sofa (2011). Das and Mohapatra (2022) explain in their research the wage structure, significant involvement in the farm and at home, fieldwork hours, and significant difficulties faced by female agricultural labourers. Therefore, equal access to natural resources, agri-inputs, finance, technologies, equipment, and knowledge is necessary to achieve gender equity, reform gender equality, and grant equal rights to women who work in agriculture.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

According to this analysis, the livestock industry provides a great entry point. Nine key areas of livestock production are examined based on the work of SDC and other organisations and a review of the relevant literature. These factors include labour division, household nutrition, the family economy, training in livestock activities, and the function of farmers' organizations (Bravo and Baumann 2000).

By addressing the data limitations of the Agricultural Wages in India (AWI) survey, this research analyses the trends in agricultural wages in India from 1964–1965 to 1999–2000 using data from the Rural Labour Inquiry. The patterns indicate that in the 1990s, more than half of the sample districts experienced a slowdown in the rate of growth of real daily wages for male and female farm labourers (Chavan and Bedamatta 2006).

Conducted an empirical analysis of Pakistani rural women's skills and capabilities in carrying out agricultural duties and family responsibilities and discovered that these women were not very involved in social, political, and agricultural activities (Amin *et al.,* 2009).

In Telangana, a portion of India's state of Andhra Pradesh, this article examines the effects of women working in agriculture. In a region where women make up the majority of the agricultural wage labour force, shecontends that greater capital expenditures for growers following liberalisation enhanced the incentive to manage wage expenses. Women are under pressure to limit their ability to negotiate for greater earnings when they labour in agricultural wage work in other people's fields, which contributes to the rising gender wage gap (Rao, 2011).

Although women make a considerable contribution to food and agricultural production, the percentage they contribute cannot be objectively verified. The participation of women in rural labour markets varies greatly among regions, but they are almost always overrepresented in unpaid, seasonal, and part-time work. Moreover, the research that is currently available indicates that women are frequently paid less than males for same work. Data on rural and agricultural feminization indicate that this is not a global trend but rather a phenomenon mostly seen in sub-Saharan Africa. It has also been shown in particular industries, such as the unskilled labour market for the export of fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers (Sofa, 2011).

Investigates the function of ICTs in a particular area of India and comes to the conclusion that women greatly benefited from the use of ICTs (Beena, 2012).

According to the report, women's shifting roles from reproductive to productive activities have brought about major changes in rural communities. As a result, women are perceived as playing a substantial part in the household economics. One could argue that women laid the foundation for the family's economic success. Due to their strong economic position, they were given considerable prestige and influence and were employed in wage jobs, businesses, the government, the private sector, and agriculture. The majority of these women worked in the private sector, but there were also those who worked in the public sector, were self-employed, or were wage earners (Handaragama *et al.,* 2013).

The purpose of this article is to investigate the prevalence of different types of inequality and the working conditions of workers in both formal and unofficial industries, as well as across gender, geography, and employment position (Lama and Majumder 2018). To analyse the contribution of inequality elements to overall inequality, the Oaxaca decomposition technique (Oaxaca 1973) is also utilised. There is a significant salary gap between workers from various areas, industries, and genders. Compared to men, women workers make substantially less money, and there is also far more disparity among them.

This research paper's goal was to investigate how women contribute to home income and how they affect the quality of family life. Five union councils of Tehsil Shujabad, District Multan, participated in the survey. Through random sampling, information was gathered from 200 working women using a questionnaire. Consumption was a dependent variable, and income opportunities, age, education, female participation, satisfaction, health, and living standards were independent variables. The results, which were drawn using multiple regression analysis, demonstrate that

women's earning opportunities, education, work happiness, age, health, and living standards all have a beneficial impact on their contribution to the household income. While their families' standard of life improved, their families' level of poverty reduced Parveen and Awan (2020).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The primary objective of this chapter is to examine several approaches and methods for selecting the study's area and location, sampling design, data collection methods, variables under examination, empirical measurements of those variables, and statistical tools for data analysis.

Locale of the Study. It has been attempted to discuss the historical background of the district and area selected for the study. This is essential for the study's ability to relate its findings to the real-world situations it is looking into.

Selection of District. Madhya Pradesh is divided into 50 districts, 10 divisions, 342 blocks, and 34415 village panchayats. Rewa was specifically chosen as the subject of the study because the researcher is familiar with the local language, culture, geography, and other elements of the region.

Selection of Blocks. Rewa district is made up of nine blocks: Mangava, Naigarhi, Sirmaur, Jawa, Teonthar, Hanumana, Raipur Karchulian, and Mauganj. Rewa city is situated in the Hujurs block of this district. The placement of each block was chosen by the maximum population area. The block Teonthar was chosen from among them using a random sample process.

Selection of Villages. A list of the villages, which were then ordered in ascending order, was provided by the Teonthar Block Development Office. The Teonthar block was divided into five communities at random for the study.

Selection of household. Using information about people' jobs, a list of homes was compiled for each of the chosen villages. The occupational holdings of the households were divided into four distinct size categories, including marginal (up to 1 hectare), small (1.01 to 2.0 hectare), medium (2.02 to 3.0 hectare), and major (beyond 3.0 hectare) farms, and were arranged in ascending order of their size. 20 households from each hamlet were selected as a sample, based on the number of households in each category.

Collection of the data and method of enquiry. The primary technique of data collecting used was personal interviews. A schedule was made in accordance with the specified objectives for the purpose of obtaining data, and each of the respondents who had been selected was personally contacted. An interview schedule that had been evaluated beforehand was used to collect the necessary data, which was then tabulated in light of the stated goals.

Period of study. The agricultural year 2019–2020 is covered by the study period.

Analytical tools

Percentage. A fraction with a denomination of 100 is referred to as a "percentage," and percentage is also the name of its numeration. To get the percentage, frequency was multiplied by 100 and divided by the total number of responses.

$$P = \frac{X}{N} \times 100$$

Where,
P = Percentage
X = Participants' frequency
N = Total number of participants

Correlation. According to the requirements stated in the third and fourth hypotheses, the correlation coefficient r was calculated as follows to assess the relationship between two variables:
Where; r - Coefficient of correlation between variables X and Y
X - Arithmetic mean of X variable
Y - Arithmetic mean of Y variable
The correlation coefficient ranges from -1 to +1. The correlation's sign, or the relative direction of changes in the variables, reflects the nature of the connection. In addition, a value closer to zero, regardless of its sign, indicates a lesser degree of correlation, whereas a value closer to one, regardless of its sign, indicates a higher degree of correlation. The significance of the correlation between the two variables was examined using the t-test'

Mean: The formula below was used to get the mean by dividing the total number of cases by the sum of the scores:

$$\overline{X} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{n} Xi}{N} \quad [i=1, 2, 3.........n]$$

Where,
X = Mean
Xi= Sum of all the scores in a distribution
n = Number of respondents
N = Total number of respondents

Standard deviation. The variance's square root is what it is. The standard deviation can be represented graphically as follows:

$$S.D. = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n-1}\left[\Sigma x_1^2 - \frac{(\Sigma x_1)^2}{n}\right]}$$

Where,
S.D. = Standard deviation of sample
Xi = each of the score in turn
n = Total number of scores in the distribution

't' test:
The significance of the difference between the means of the two categories of respondents in terms of their scientific temperament was examined using the t test. The formula below was used to calculate "t".

$$t = \frac{\overline{X}_1 - \overline{X}_2}{\sqrt{\dfrac{S^2}{n_1} + \dfrac{S^2}{n_2}}}$$

$$S^2 = \frac{(n_1 - 1)S_1^2 + (n_2 - 1)S_2^2}{n_1 + n_2 - 2}$$

X₁= Mean of first sample

X_2 = Mean of second sample
$S_1 = (1/(n_1-1))\Sigma(x_1 - x_1)^2$ variance of first sample
$S_2 = 1/(n_2-1))\Sigma(x_2 - x_2)^2$ variance of second sample
n_1 = Total number of observation in first sample
n_2 = Total number of observation in second sample
d.f. = $n_1 + n_2 - 2$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present chapter we have discussed the economic contribution of women's work on the sample households. Two alternative estimates have been worked out to measure women's economic contribution. Firstly, their work hours on economic and domestic work are multiplied by average wages to arrive at the value of their work. Secondly, total household income from different sources is distributed between males and females on the basis of the work hours put in by them.

Male and Female Wage Rates in Study Area:

Table 1: Activity-wise Agricultural Wage Rate in Rs. per Hour in 2019-20.

Activity	Female	Male	Female Wages as % of male wage
Land Preparation	5	6	83.3
Manuring	13	17	76.5
Seed cutting of Potato	13	17	76.5
Sowing	4	5	80.0
Irrigation	13	17	76.5
Weeding	9	10	90.0
Sowing of Potato	13	17	76.5
Fertilizing/pesticides	13	17	76.5
Bandhai	13	17	76.5
Chilai	5	5	100.0
Harvesting of wheat	27	27	100.0
Threshing of wheat	3	5	60.0
Dhulai	8	12	66.7
Collection/Grinding grain	10	10	100.0
Transplantation of paddy	12	12	100.0
Harvesting of Paddy	17	17	100.0
Threshing of Paddy	3	5	60.0

These are mostly labour intensive activities in which the participation of women labour is higher.
Economic Value of Total Man Days of Family Labour:
Value of Agricultural Work-

Table 2: Economic Value of Family Labour in all Agricultural Activities per Household (in Rs.).

Activity	Female	Male	Total
Land Preparation	84	493	576
Manuring	152	1446	1598
Irrigation	73	4948	5020
Sowing	67	501	568
Weeding	1235	1347	2582
Fertilizing	26	1553	1580
Seed collection/cutting	220	784	1003
Sowing of Seeds	330	1979	2309
Bandhai	71	3163	3234
Chilai	1552	5229	6781
Transplantation	21	19	40
Harvesting	3199	7988	11187
Threshing	52	197	248
Loading	750	3765	4515
Collection of Grain	417	1	418
Total	**8248**	**33411**	**41659**

Value of Animal Husbandry Work-

Table 3: Economic Value of Family Labour in Animal Husbandry Activity per Household (in Rs.).

Activity	Females	Males	Boys	Girls	Total
Bringing fodder from field	1727	4475	62	38	6303
Cutting fodder by machine	496	723	58	11	1288
Feeding fodder	1373	196	32	72	1673
Giving water to animals	921	126	22	91	1159
Washing animals	1044	73	64	60	1240
Cleaning animal shed	1333	61	23	144	1561
Removing Dung	894	21	10	11	936
Making dung cakes	338	0	0	8	347
Milking	1293	48	5	0	1346
Making ghee	664	0	0	0	664
Sale of milk	145	28	5	0	178
Total	**10229**	**5750**	**281**	**435**	**16695**

Economic Value of Domestic Work-

Table 3: Economic Value of Family Labour in Domestic Work By Sex and Activity per Household (in Rs.).

Type of Activity	Female		Male		Boy		Girl		Total	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Carrying Water	886	84.9	4	0.4	0	0.0	154	14.7	1043	100.00
Carrying Fuel Wood	668	93.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	43	6.1	712	100.00
Grinding flour	363	93.8	2	0.5	12	3.1	10	2.6	387	100.00
House Cleaning	4213	92.3	0	0.0	12	0.3	341	7.5	4566	100.00
Cooking	4616	95.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	201	4.2	4817	100.00
Cleaning Utensils	1631	87.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	242	12.9	1873	100.00
Cleaning Clothes	1580	91.4	0	0.0	6	0.4	143	8.3	1729	100.00
Dressing child for school	479	96.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	16	3.3	495	100.00
Supervising Homework	449	94.4	11	2.4	0	0.0	15	3.2	475	100.00
Going to Market	176	15.5	951	83.6	11	0.9	0	0.0	1137	100.00
Grinding Rice/Pulses	465	99.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3	466	100.00
Sewing, etc	546	95.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	27	4.8	573	100.00
Total	**16070**	**87.9**	**968**	**5.3**	**41**	**0.2**	**1194**	**6.5**	**18272**	**100.00**

Economic Value of Family Labour in All activities-

Table 4: Economic Value of Family Labour in All Activities per Household (in Rs.).

Activity	Females	Males	Boys	Girls	Total
Agriculture	8248 (19.80)	33411 (80.20)	0 (0.00)	0 (0.00)	41659 (100.00)
Animal Husbandry	10229 (61.27)	5750 (34.44)	281 (1.68)	436 (2.61)	16695 (100.00)
Household Work	16070 (87.95)	968 (5.30)	41 (0.22)	1194 (6.53)	18272 (100.00)
Total	**34547 (45.09)**	**40128 (52.37)**	**322 (0.42)**	**1629 (2.13)**	**76626 (100.00)**

Note: Figures in brackets show percent to total value of household work.

Table 5: Percentage Share of Different Activities in Value of Family Labour.

Activity	Females	Males	Boys	Girls	Total
Agriculture	23.87	83.26	0.00	0.00	54.37
Animal Husbandry	29.61	14.33	87.25	26.72	21.79
Household Work	46.52	2.41	12.75	73.28	23.85
Total	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**

Note: Figures show percent to total value.

Share of Women in Total Household Income. Based on the ratio of labour hours they put in, the percentage of women in net income from agricultural and non-agricultural sources is calculated. Net revenue from cultivation, wage income from agricultural labour, and net income from animal husbandry all fall under the category of agriculture. Non-Agricultural revenue includes earnings from businesses, services, etc. The idea of farm business income, or the gross value of output less paid out costs, is the foundation for the calculation of agricultural and animal husbandry income.

The total household income consists of income from agriculture, income from animal husbandry, and income from non-agricultural sources like wages or salaries. The total household income did not include income from the ownership or rental of assets, such as money from the sale of water, renting out a tractor, or income from leasing land.

SUMMARY

According to the research, just 3.8 percent of men in the household participate in domestic tasks, compared to 46% of women. Boys and girls who participate in domestic activities make up about 20% of the population. Depending on the activity, different family members may participate to varying degrees. The majority of members that participate in household chores, including cleaning, cooking, and washing dishes and clothes, are women (almost 60%). More than 50% of the female members walk out to collect firewood or cow manure, lean and grind grains, but only about 8% go out to market. A third to a half of girls also assist with tasks including carrying water, cleaning the house, preparing meals, washing dishes, and doing laundry. Boys hardly ever help out around the house, which reflects the patriarchal values of the culture. Members who are men also typically refrain from helping with household tasks outside of going shopping at the market, which is mostly their role.

The economic significance of family labour in many agricultural operations was discovered. The sum of the man-days worked by families on each example farm comes to Rs. 41,659. The contribution of women is Rs. 8248, and the contribution of men is Rs. 33411. It was found that household labour contributed Rs. 16695 to the economy through animal husbandry. In the Rewa district, female family workers made up 60.6% of this value. It was discovered that the total cost of family labour hours spent on home duties is estimated to be Rs. 18,272. The value of domestic labour performed by women is Rs. 16070, while that of girls is Rs. 1194. Men's labour is worth Rs. 968, but that of boys is only worth Rs. 41. Consequently, female family members contribute more than 90% of the value of domestic labour. Men only make up the majority of the workforce when the work is directly tied to the market (83.6 percent).

It was discovered that the combined economic worth of family labour in the areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, and home work is estimated to be Rs. 76626

per household. The economic value of female labour across all activities is Rs. 34547, compared to Rs. 40128 for male labour. Boys and females each provide 32 and 162 rupees, respectively. 45 percent of the total imputed value of the work is contributed by female members. They contribute roughly 20% to agricultural work, 6%1% to animal husbandry, and almost 8%1% to home work. Almost 80% of the value of work attributed to male members in agriculture, 34% of the value of work attributed to male members in animal husbandry, and barely 5.3 percent of the value of male members' domestic work These numbers provide unequivocal proof of the significant economic contribution women make to the domestic economy, and 46.5 percent of the female family members' economic contribution came from housework, 30 percent from caring for animals, and 24 percent from agriculture. The corresponding shares for male members are 2.4 percent, 14.3 percent, and 83.3 percent. In the Rewa district, the percentage of women working in agriculture is 23.87 percent, while the percentage of women working in animal husbandry is 29.61 percent. In the Rewa district, women accounted for 46.52 percent of household activities.

CONCLUSIONS

This study looked at how important it is for women to be involved in agriculture and other related activities and how much of a role they play in cultivating households. In particular, it has been found that women in farming households play a significant role and engage in agricultural and related activities alongside their male counterparts; their evolving role has been elaborated with socioeconomic constraints that impact rural women's economic activity. Women's efforts to raise living standards and well-being have been elaborated with special reference to a comparison between housewives' and economically active women's contributions in order to better understand the crucial role that women play in rural communities today. The study's broad and specific objectives are formed by the combination of all of these components. Women are not included as workers in the Census statistics despite playing a significant role in economic activities. In all social, economic, and political indicators, the status of women remains low. They only have a small amount of authority to make decisions regarding personal or professional matters.

It was crucial to have a broad perspective on Rewa's rural development process because the study's objective was to understand how women's roles are changing and how they contribute to the rural economy. Rural areas are home to more than 75% of the country's population. Therefore, policy planners focused their efforts on rural development in order to achieve national economic and social goals. In this instance, women were given significant consideration as active participants in rural development.

FUTURE SCOPE

During agricultural and livestock operations, the value of women's earnings will be further enhanced by this study because gender variations in pay for the same roles are identified. The social standing of women in society will also improve as a result of this study.

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