WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN SMALL RUMINANTS REARING OF PASHTUN AND BALOCH TRIBAL CULTURE OF BALOCHISTAN-PAKISTAN

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Abstract

The objective of the study is to investigate the women empowerment through small ruminants' rearing activities pertaining to Pashtun and Baloch tribal culture of Balochistan. Random sampling technique was used to collect the data through five-point Likert scale through self-constructed questionnaire. Hypotheses were tested using correlation and regression analysis. Results indicated that women participation may not be able to empowered them; causing difficulties to adjust themselves in a stern Pashtun and Baloch culture. The main stay of the common people in Balochistan is on the rearing of livestock especially small ruminants'. Every family member takes an active part in small ruminants' rearing

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activities. Women role in livestock rearing activities is significant. They work dawn to dusk and perform every activity within the boundaries of house. However, their participation regarding the livestock husbandry does not pay off which they deserve. In Pashtun and Baloch communities' women have to stay within the boundaries of home, hence, culturally and traditionally they are not permitted to go outside without the permission of male members (Nunnally, & Bernstein, 1994). As majority of inhabitants are engaged with livestock rearing activities, hence, their main focus is livestock rearing especially small ruminants' production. The results indicated that women empowerment relating to socio-economic, political, cultural and psychological are not substantive with the hypotheses. Factors such as Extensive illiteracy, lack of basic education, training and experience remain serious obstacles in women's empowerment in Pashtun areas of Balochistan.

1. Introduction

Balochistan is highly arid zone of Pakistan. It constitutes total area of 348189 Square kilometers, which is 45.5% of the country. A large majority of Population resides in different districts of the Province. The Pashtuns are residing almost 41000 Sq/miles of Balochistan, it is more than NWFP which has 28773 sq/miles area (Nunnally, & Bernstein, 1994). Baloch live predominantly all over the Province of Balochistan. They inhabitant of this province from centuries along with Pashtoon whose districts of Balochistan are 12 which are Quetta (Baloch and settlers also live there), Pishin, Sherani, Ziarat, Qilla Abdullah, Qilla Saifullah, Loralai, Sibbi (Baloch also live there), Hurnai, Musakhel, Zhob and Pishin. Pashtun culture is based on Islam and Pashtunwali, which is an ancient way of life. Balochistan province is consisted of (30) thirty districts. The researchers has selected twenty (20) Districts purpose due to the potential of small ruminants in these areas. These were: Loralai, Musa-Khel, Awaran, Killa-Abdullah, Pungoor, Turbat, Killa-Saifullah, Kharan, Machh, Harnai, Pashin, Zhob, Kohlu, Khuzdar, Mastung, Kallat, Lasbela, Hub, Chaghi, and Noshki. The majority of population pertaining to Baloch or Pashtun

tribes in these selected areas and have the magnificent for livestock in Balochistan. It is tribal system of living where traditions and norms have been set by their ancestors almost centuries before and they still following it. Population of the province is very low and scattered as compare to other proovinces of Pakistan. It is due to its natural climate and vast Rangelands, which encompasses dried and barren land. There are quite a few rainfalls in the major areas of Balochistan. It is still far behind from industrialization in the country. 75% population earns its time bread from the agriculture but fewer rainfalls do not suit the agriculture sector to grow (Humera, 2010). Hence, people look forward for the alternative sources to generate income for their living. Pashtun living in Balochistan have to spend their lives through cultivations in the field (Ashwini, 2002). However, Balochistan's climate is arid to hyper arid which does not support cultivation activities very much. Hence, they move to live their life through livestock rearing especially sheep and goats rearing. Women play very important role in it by participating in different activities (Deere, 2005).

Table III. Shows Comparative analysis of Pashtoon and Baloch belts of women task

TASKS (%)Baloch belts	Women Including Girl child (%) in Pashtun belt	Women Including Girl child
Milking	72	86
Feeding	50	60
Treating Sick Animals	20	80
Herding	30	1 5
Marketing	1 5	10
Slaughtering	3	4
Collecting Fodder	20	30
Poultry care	85	90
Breeding	50	20
Cleaning Shelters	70	70
Converting Manure into Fuel	90	95
Processing Milk	80	85
Processing Wool	60	80
Sheering Hair	60	20
Total	705 (54%)	745 (59%)

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However, women are not paid which they deserve in Pashtun and Baloch belt of Balochistan. *Purdah*[1]is quite frequent in Pashtun and Baloch women. It is the way of living for women in Pashtun culture and tradition. Nevertheless, women movement is more restricted and constraint to outside the house. They do not go outside the home without the permission of male members. Sheep, goats and cattle are the most significant, which are the basic elements to be kept by all sort of farmers and livestock traders. They are easy to graze on the natural postures of Balochistan, which comprise dry land shrub and small herbs that can only be benefited to small livestock of Balochistan. Therefore, the rural inhabitants frequently keep them (sheep and goats) in their daily consumption as well. They are valuable items for small, and land-less farmers especially, as they attribute them with good saleable product which has market indigenously (Humera, 2010). As a matter of fact, they perform all small ruminants rearing activities but major decision regarding the dispose-off of animal to market and its proceeds is entirely in the discretion of male member which limit and constraint women to be empowered economically. When she is not empowered economically and cannot take the decision on her own then she lag behind in other sphere of life such as socially, politically and culturally. She remains dependent on male disposition.

There are number of variables which definitely effect the empowerment of women in Pashtun and Baloch culture; e.g., factors such as extensive illiteracy, lack of basic education, training and experience remain serious obstacles in women's empowerment in Pashtoon areas of Balochistan. Women are living in extreme illiteracy. They are illiterate or less educated which definitely impact on their living style. They cannot resist for their due rights. Women do not have basic education for tiny issues relating to their living style. They lack training and development facilities due to norms and culture (Nadeem, 2004). On the other hand,

[1] Modesty in the form of being covered from head to toe.

their contribution to livestock rearing activities are significant. These participatory approach of women regarding small ruminants' rearing to their family is significantly important. However, they are not empowered which requires to address in order to flourish the small ruminants' business in the province.as more the women can take decision regarding the sale and purchase of sheep and goat and get the profit, more the business will flourish (Thornton et al., 2002).

Hence Livestock plays pivotal role in their economic and social activities in Balochistan and women play a vital role in the development and progress of sector Shapiro et al.,1998). It is a major dealing in day to day business of majority of rural population. This research is an endeavor to purport the development of mall ruminants through empowerment of women as their participation is significantly important (Harrington, 1992). Topic carries its significance because of no development prospectus, and due to dependency of major population on livestock development in Pashtun and Baloch areas of Balochistan. The objective is also to trace out, small ruminants' potential for development through the participation of women in small ruminants' in Pashtun and Baloch culture of Balochistan.

Women empowerment potential

Women contribution to livestock sector is highlighted in different ways. Women can save more than men (Shafiq, 2008); however, they have no access to the income directly which reduce the ability of family to save (Shapiro *et al.,* 1998). Women are more involve in poultry production service at home rather than small ruminants as they are well paid in domestic poultry (McAinsh *et. al.,* 2004). Women participation is making the difference in livestock of Balochistan (Afzal, 2008); in the same way small ruminant can bring change in the lives of women working in livestock sector. In Balochistan, women collect direct income from egg and poultry selling. In rural societies, women are still far away from their right to make decision and self-sufficient (Niamir-Fuller, 1994). Role of women decides about the number of small ruminants' herd to be reared (Nadeem

and Sajida 2004). Rural woman's work included livestock is the real potential for sector (Nazli and Hamid, 2007; Reddi, 2003).

Hypotheses

H_1: Illiteracy increase the lack of awareness in women livestock holders in Balochistan

H_2: More the lack of basic education, the more the lack of basic education.

H_3: lack of training and development program, increase the lack of awareness.

H_4: The more the lack of awareness, the more the disempowerment.

H_5: Training and Development can have empowered women in rural setting

Sample Size and area of research

Sample size was estimated 300 livestock holder women. Simple random sampling technique was used to collect the data by using the close ended interview as the majority of women were illiterate or less-educated. The target population was females who have attain the age of 18 and above which includes the nomadic, transhumance, sedentary families and other ordinary women who involve in livestock rearing activities. As the study expected the high unreturned rate of response 20% extra questionnaire were distributed which ultimately became the form of interview to collect the data the data was analyzed by utilizing the software called SPSS 19.0, through which hypotheses were tested.

Measures

Several measures were applied to test the data. First of all, eight scale was studied to consider for the study. In this regard, demographic information relating to age, education, occupation, type of livestock and their number of each type of livestock. Process of data collection started with the help of self-administered, well-structured self-constructed interview. The response scale had been five point Likert-type scale ranging

from one (strongly disagree) to five (strongly agree). Measure which was used in the study was different from other measure in the prevailing study. Measure was quite significantly revising form the 2 points (Danserreau, *et al.,* 1975), it was also depicted quite significant differences from 4-point (Linden & Graen, 1980) and from five item (Graen, Linden & Hoel, 1982). Before constructing the measure several scales were closely studied. Therefore, 5-point Likert-type scale was borrowed and adopted for the study. Moreover, the Cronbach alphas are consistent in the study. Thus, the 5-item Likert scale ranging from (1) "strongly disagree" to (5) "Strongly Agree" were used in the study. Person correlation and other descriptive statistics is shown the table No. 2 below:
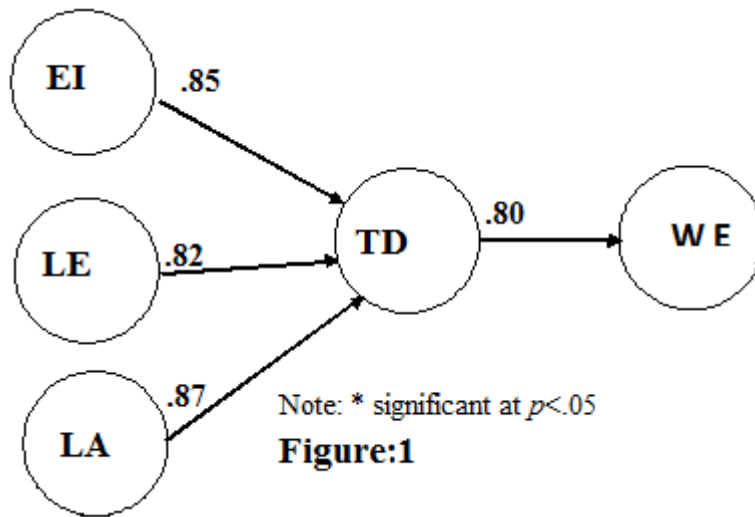
Table: 2 Means, Standard Deviation, and Correlations

Items	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	Beta
1. extensive illiteracy (EI)	2.6	.80	1.00					.881
2. Lack of basic education (LE)	2.0	.47	.861	1.00				.891
3. Training and development(TD)	2.8	.46	.881	.815	1.00			.884
4. Lack of awareness (LA)	2.6	.86	.791	.847	.838	.1.00		.811
5. Women empowerment (WE)	2.7	.81	.832	.896	.800	.806	.1.00	.854

*. All items are Correlated significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).
Cronbach, L. J. (1951)

Note: * significant at *p*<.05

Figure:1

Result and discussion

IBM Amos 19 was used to measure the SEM shown in figure 3 above. In the current study, confirmatory factor Analysis (CFA) has been utilized in order to verify the suitability measurement model for each variable. Adequacy of model fit was determined by several Goodness of fit statistics, these are; Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA), Standardized Root Mean Square Residual (RMR), Goodness of Fit Index and Comparative Fit Index (CFI). The basic objective in the testing procedure of model is to estimate the goodness of fit between the hypothesized model and the sample. RMSEA is a traditional measure used to test the error of population approximation. It shows that sample data fit the population covariance matrix. If the value is less than 0.5 then it's a good fit whereas the average value.8 shows reasonably good fitness of the model. Standardized RMR defines the average across all standardized residuals, and ranges from zero to 1 in which 5 describes good fit of model. Standardized RMR depicts that there is inconsistency between the hypothesized correlation matrix and the observed sample averagely. On the other hand, Comparative Fit Index (CFI) measures relativeness of variance

and covariance in the sample. It ranges from zero to 1, closeness of value to 1 being an indication of best fit; therefore, CFI procures the measure of comprehensive conversation of data (Byrne, 1998).

Research results suggest on several constructs, such as; extensive illiteracy (EI), lack of basic education (LE), training and development for worm livestock holders (TD), lack of awareness (LA) and livestock holders' women empowerment (WE) are considerably significant. Constructs of the research show the relationship with each other's. All the variables show the positive relationship with the women empowerment. Hypotheses are tested and they support the data i-e the results of the study revealed that women small ruminants' holders are not empowered in the area. All independent variables are positively related to dependent variables. Furthermore, majority of population consists of pastoral livelihood. Study results are closely associated and supportive towards the past research and findings on the potential of livestock in Balochistan, particularly small ruminants which substantiates the notion that the livestock generates ample income at every level and to capacitates the livestock holders to consolidate saving abilities.

Conclusions

The primary purpose of this study was to develop and to test a model that examines the relationship of small ruminants' constraint to profit of small ruminants. The study found out that a number of constraints are positively impact development and backwardness. The results of this study provide considerable insight into the small ruminants' importance. Hence, the test of model indicates that the financial, marketing and environmental constraints do not let the livestock sector to flourish. The study also indicates empirical sign of the effect of disempowerment of women who are engaged with small ruminants'. This study may provide better understanding in decision making about the outcomes and end results.

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