

## **The Role of Rural Women in Economic Development: A Case Study of Mastung District**

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### **Abstract**

*The current research was conducted to examine the conditions of women as well as the exploration of steps taken in respect of women empowerment in District Mastung. It has been proved that women had contributed for the strengthening of economic and educational aspects in Mastung. They have played vital role for the development of District Mastung. The status of women could not be denied in Baloch Society because they have given great contribution for the development of District Mastung. In Balochistan mostly the men are regarded as the head of house and have the all rights, which is the identification of male dominant society. Women had faced many challenges but later they have given their role in development of region and showed their dignity and strength.*

**Key words:** Balochistan, Women, Contribution, Education, Economic, Empowerment, Mastung,

### **Introduction**

"Behind every successful man there is a woman", This saying is most frequently heard and not just regarded in terms of man only, in fact it stands for the performance and functioning of the entire globe. ([www.medibizv.com/articles/women](http://www.medibizv.com/articles/women)). Women are considered to be of paramount strength and abutment (support) for the individuals. A Society can not be formed without the participation of Women. (Mariam, 2014). Emphatically, According to Ellis et al (2006) women are a great strength and force for the growth and development in Africa. They further say that women are workers, entrepreneurs, property owners and in a broader sense economic actors. However, this is not the case only with Africa, this situation is mourned

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by all those societies where more than the half of the population i.e. Women, is out of strength and lacks access to the resources. Therefore, this the main focus of this study is the Women, its empowerment in one of the tribal and rural area of Balochistan i.e. District Mastung and its impact on the economic advancement.

### **Women Empowerment**

Women empowerment is a concept that has been defined and re-described from time to time. It actually is considerably related with the gender equity and equality.

Women empowerment actually is the society's structural adjustment through exposing women to opportunities for education, fair access to economic and other official resources, immunity from violence, authority to make decision, and also the authority over the fertility and reproduction.

### **The Role of Mastung Rural Women in Economic Development**

Mastung, one of the districts of Kalat division with the area of 5896 square kilo meters, is situated in north-west of Balochistan. However it used to be the part of Kalat district but later in early 90s was given the status of separate district. According to the Population census of 1998 its overall population is 164645 out of which 87334 are male and 77311 consist of females contributing to 46.96% of the total population. Moreover, its larger area is rural with the population of 140514 which is equal to 85.34 %. Urban population consists of 24131 i.e. 14.66 %. As far as the literacy ratio is concerned it contributes to 37.66% to males and only 15.73% to females. More than 99% of the population is Muslim and belong to Baloch cast consisting of different tribes. The local languages spoken mostly are Persian and Birahvi. (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics).

### **Review of the literature**

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different tribes. The local languages spoken mostly are Persian and Birahvi. (Pakistan Bureau of Statistics).

The arguments of Bradshaw (2013) and the report of Dr. Rakesh Chandra are utmost important here to highlight, as it supports the points proposed in the report published by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (2007-2008) (mentioned in the above paragraphs) to some extent that women confront the responsibility of work at home for which they are not paid whether it be family business or some other cultural work. It could also be fetching water or collecting wood for daily house hold necessities. Moreover, they have the initial duty of cherishing their children and caring their older members as well. It is important to remember that women. They further reveals that women execute an essential role in "Care economy" which without a doubt produces young and healthy workforce and also cares for the sick and old people. But it also a bitter truth that all these efforts made by women are not valued and highlighted that much as it should be and this entire endeavor doesn't come under the heading of general conceptualization of economy. Even if they are paid for their work, still they are confronted with the double duties as they might be allowed for paid work only after they complete their primary house hold duties.

### **Empowerment in Economy**

There have had been multiple microprograms in past few years that were developed for the possibility of progress in this context. These programs were especially famous among social workers, governmental organizations, and other donors. They specifically targeted women having less wage and power, no labor, less credit to give them the equal opportunity of development in the economic field. Women's economic development has been a topic of discussion since various decades and this led to the change in country policy. Their current focus is to give them a credited system of economic freedom rather than financial help since the former helps the women to become independent by being linked with the banking field. This marks their expectations of development in the areas of inequality.

This credit system has been the topic of discussion for everyone around the nation. Various firms and organizations tried to have a specific model that should be as good as banks from other countries that has credit system successfully established for poor citizens. The micro-credit system can be said as firmly developing a methodology that has given its cooperation towards the economic growth. This has made women feel empowered and it gave them the productive role they desired to have in the society. This happened due to the establishment of credit program that mostly focused on the measurement of

success to see the number of credit being delivered to the women and the level of repayment to provide better facilities.

According to one published study, among all the small kids ranging from 6 to 10, about 40% girls and 30% boys do not go to school. And the ratings become worst as the age goes higher. Now it indicates that since education system is not up to the mark in Pakistan, especially in rural areas, employment is also degrading in its way. Even if the women are given the opportunity for employment, they are being kept underutilized and the major focus is usually given to male employees. The number of women receiving actual training is considerably lower, about 11% than the rates of males. Among 15 to 64 aged women groups, the rates of females decreased to only 26% of having labor job. Even after this, the number employed women remains 12% of the entire population in urban areas.

Among women graduates, about 30% of them earned less wage whereas, only 10% of graduates among men earn the wages similar to these females. Females usually working for some relatives or her family member are usually left unpaid. There are about 60% women who are unpaid workers and work a full day as a regular employee. Another problem that was seen in the economic sector of Pakistan was the gap of gender wage. Women who have high education, such as engineers, earn almost similar to that of men. But the level of earnings decreases for women as the level of the post comes down. For example, a primary school teacher in Mastung district earns the wage of 43% while the male teachers have 60% earnings in their respective hands.

### **The Study Area Selection Criteria**

Mastung district has ranked 13th in the entire Balochistan with respect to the enlarged area, which is 5,896 SQ KM. there have been major divisions of society: Khan, Brahui, and Dehwar. Among these groups, Mastung has about 80% population of Brahui alone. There are many sub-tribes of Brahui namely, Shahwani, Sarpara, Raisani, Kurd, Lango, Mahammad Sahi, Lehri and many more. The tribes that reside in Mastung have farming or agriculture as their primary occupational duty for earning money. People living in this district usually settle for having two meals per day but this was found to be the system of rural areas. Majority of urban population settle for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It a usual routine to have women at home and men at work in many houses in Mastung district. The decision making in most of the joint families of Mastung is in the hands of senior male member and women are always dominated by them. Women don't have the freedom to select their own husbands with respect to marriage; it usually is either their fathers or brothers who take care of this (Tisdell, 2002).

Being a tribal society, most men are in the highest political position in Mastung. Social power is always in the hands of men in Mastung and females are usually seen as a domestic person. Women usually take care of children, clothes, field, and livestock and also do the household chores; the literacy rate of the women in Mastung is currently (2011) 27.9%. The social status of women is usually determined by the level of status achieved by their husbands. Suppose if the husband is the Nawab of the town, his wife will be greatly respected around the place whereas the wife of a laborer will be neglected. The main reason for it seemed to be the tribal system that was found to have a deep root in their family traditions (Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan 2015).

### **Working on the Mastung project**

The Mastung project was successfully carried out and respondents didn't have the slightest complaint about the work of the researchers. They noted that the education and training facilities provided by the Mastung were better than they could ever receive. Many of the respondents had direct contact with the project staff and some of them had indirect contact with their guardians or family members. The unique quality of training project including practical was greatly able to help them in establishing their personal small-scale business.

### **The project staff**

The head of the Mastung and the teaching staff were females since they could better understand it through the perception of working females and guide the respondents better. Even the community members, in their separate interview, stated their supportiveness towards the Mastung project and noted that this project has greatly helped them in hoping the growth of their small district. The community also helped in providing the teaching staff to train the respondents whenever there was need of it. There were several volunteers or paid staff arranged for this purpose. The respective family members were also asked to give the feedback over the entire scheme and they were confident about the safety of their respective females because of the presence of female staff. Some of them, however, were initially not happy about it since they didn't want their females to go out alone due to cultural norms (Khan and Sajid 2011).

### **Conclusion**

There is no right path to development unless the women condition is improved. Women are the icon of sacrifice and development. Women empowerment refers to the ability of women to renovate economic and social development. Women are facing much difficulties because of male dominant

society which is the main obstacle in front of women empowerment. Those nations have progressed in which the status of women were high but when we take a look towards our region the condition of women are same as they were in past decades.

Behind every successful man, there is woman. The above mentioned lines show the role of women in the development process of the country. The contribution of women to the strengthen in every Women are integral part of society. Every society is based on women empowerment. When we take a look towards the position of women in the develop countries we see them as a major contributor for the development of society. The women have great strength to take the society on pinnacle of success same we see in the district Mastung. The women have played vital role to develop the society. Mastung is an agriculture region in Balochistan the role of women of development of the region has great importance. They have given their energy to strength the society. The role of women in regard of development the district could not be denied because they have given their strength for development of the society. women should be treated as human which had given birth to the human.

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