

Role of Earning Rural Women in Decision-making in Important Family Affairs

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Abstract

The role of women in the development process of a country is vital. Keeping in view its importance, it is enormously accentuated by the development practitioners in Balochistan. Serious attention is being paid to streamline her role in the development activities of the province. This is reflected by the interest of the researchers' in carrying out women related research studies in order to generate information regarding the important aspects of women life in the province. In this connection a study was conducted to analyse various types of work done by women and nature and extent of women's participation in rural economy of Balochistan, the extent to which they have control over the incomes earned from their occupations and whether their say in decision-making in the family affairs has improved as a result of their earnings.

The information collected from the field shows that women are mostly occupied in trades that can be carried on at a home-based level. They are engaged in embroidery work, cutting and sewing, rearing poultry and selling eggs, ornament making, rug making, sheep and goat rearing and wool spinning. A few women were also involved in other formal types of jobs like teaching, practicing as TBA and midwives etc. Most of these working

women are living in extended or joint family. The earning of women is mostly spent on the basic needs of the family and in some cases it is spent on specific needs of the women e.g. on their marriages. The study reflected that women who were capable of earning and contributing to the family needs had a better status in the family and enjoyed the privilege of having a say in important family affairs. The women in Mastung District claimed that they had comparatively more control over their incomes and household expenditure and their status of decision making in family affairs was much better than their counterpart from Muslim Bagh.