

## IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN AGRICULTURAL DECISION MAKING AND EXTENSION WORK: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT CHAKWAL

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### ABSTRACT

Gender mainstreaming of women is more than a political process that would enable women to participate equally with men in all spheres of life and at all levels of decision making so that their different needs could be equally addressed. In Pakistan, it was, therefore, imperative to conduct a study to find out the problems being faced in gender mainstreaming and their possible solution in the rain fed area of Chakwal district. Total 400 respondents (200 husbands and 200 wives) were selected in District Chakwal taken as universe through simple random sampling technique and adopting multi stage random sampling approach. Twenty households were randomly selected from each selected village for formal interview purposes. The married couple from each household was interviewed during the formal survey. The data acquired from the field were transferred in the Microsoft Excel and SPSS in order to summarize the gathered data and chi squared distribution was applied with single degree of freedom. Turning to gender equality problems faced in the society, the most reported problem reported by wives was gender specific work (91.5 %), male dominant society (89.5 %) and lack of job opportunities (88.5 %) for the females in the area. The husbands reported reasons slightly differently as lesser opportunities for women (86 %), cultural values (87 %), less recognition of women work (86 %) and male dominance in the society (85.5 %). The low intensity problems reported by male and female respondents were giving more weight to cultural values and low level of literacy among women. It is, therefore, suggested that female children should be encouraged to acquire higher education, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the area should promote gender equality and the financial institutions should be emphasized to extend small loans to women folk to bring them in gender main streamline in agricultural decision and extension work.

**Key words:** Gender mainstreaming, problems, identification, solutions

### INTRODUCTION

Mainstreaming refers to the specific ways of acting that form the standards and common patterns of action in an organization, which result in intentional or circumstantial outcomes, expectations, patterns of behavior and interaction (Rangnekar, 1998). Gender mainstreaming is a technical process requiring the use of various gender tools, including gender analysis, statistics and budgeting or audits, to identify the differential impact on women and men of all policies and programs so that appropriate measures can be developed to achieve gender equality (Barton and Nazombe, 2000).

World has developed few standards to check the position of gender mainstreaming of the country like Human Development Index (HDI), Gender-related Development Index (GDI) and Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM). According to Human Development Report 2009, Pakistan ranks 139 out of 177 countries in HDI. For GDI, Pakistan stands 107 out of 140 countries and ranks 71 out of 80 for GEM (UNDP, 2007). The present situation is better than 2001 when Pakistan stood

at 136, 134 and 110 for HDI, GDI and GEM, respectively (UNDP, 2001). But still there is an extensive way to achieve the situation of gender mainstreaming which is the major responsibility of the government to formulate such strategies which lead to gender equality in the society (NCRFW, 2003).

This process is lengthy and full of constraints/obstacles as identified by many researchers (Hassan, 2008; Nosheen *et al.*, 2010). Out of them some are listed here are directly related to the Pakistan's present situation. They include value, norms, myths, taboos and traditions along with distortion in decision-making, unequal access to and control over resources (land, capital, agricultural inputs, income), major work burden on women, lack of social services including education, healthcare, child care, poor access to extension and marketing facilities; faulty and discriminating judicial and local level customary system, gender violence including verbal, physical and economic *etc.* (Mashkoor, 1995; Rangnekar, 1998; Barton and Nazombe, 2000; Whitehead and Tsikata, 2001; OECD, 2002).

Keeping in view the above facts it was imperative to conduct a study to find out the problems being faced in gander mainstreaming and their possible solution in the rain fed area of Chakwal district of Pakistan.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Total 400 respondents (200 husbands and 200 wives) were selected from District Chakwal by using Fitzgibbon and Morris (1987) table through simple random sampling technique for the present study. For the present study, multi-stage random sampling approach was adopted. At first stage, all four tehsils of Chakwal district were taken as universe and two tehsils were selected randomly names as tehsil Chakwal and tehsil Choa Sadden Shah.

At second stage, five villages were randomly picked after consulting the officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension and the District Local Government. Five villages were selected randomly from each chosen tehsil keeping in view the socio-economic variables like the farm size distribution, representativeness in cropping patterns, level of infrastructure development and remoteness from the main roads. Twenty households were randomly selected from each selected village for formal interview purposes. The married couple from each household was interviewed during the formal survey.

A semi-structured interview lasting for almost an hour was used to collect the data. The collection of data was started during the year 2007 and it continued till 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The data acquired from the field were transferred in the Microsoft Excel and SPSS in order to summarize the gathered data, the information was presented in the form of simple-tables containing mean values, frequencies and percentages for comparison across various groups.

Consider the following 2 × 2 contingency table.

		Variable 2		Total
		1	2	
Variable 1	1	A	B	A + b
	2	C	D	C + d
Total		a + c	B + d	a + b + c + d = N

$$\chi^2 = \frac{N(ad - bc)^2}{(a + b)(c + d)(a + c)(b + d)}$$

Under the null hypothesis of independence, the statistics has an asymptotic chi-squared distribution with a single degree of freedom. An assumption is also made when using the chi-square distribution as an approximation to the distribution of  $\chi^2$ , is that the frequencies expected under independence should not be “too small”. This rather vague term has historically been interpreted as meaning not less than 5, although there is considerable evidence that this rule is very conservative.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The respondents were asked about the types of problems regarding gender equality. The problems reported by the wives in decreasing order were gender specific activities, male dominance in society, lack of job opportunities for women, lesser availability of social/economic opportunities, lower literacy level in the village, conflicts arising in the house, non-recognition of work done by females, gender violence, social security, transport related difficulties faced by women, poverty, lack of credit facilities for women, lack of women organization, cultural values, drug addiction and low literacy level among females. The order found from husbands was gender specific activities, cultural values, lesser availability of social/ economic opportunities, male dominant society, non-recognition of work done by females, transport related difficulties faced by women, poverty, gender violence, conflicts arising in the house, low literacy level among females, lack of credit facilities for women, drug addiction, lower literacy level in the village, lack of women organization, social security, lack of job opportunities for women (Table 1).

Again a good degree of consistency in response from husband and wife was obtained implying that both sexes have similar understanding about social problems. Problems like social security, less opportunities for women due to social/economic experiences, gender violence, male dominance, household conflicts, gender specific work and overall low literacy level in the village. Comparable situation was observed by Nosheen *et al.* (2010) and Hassan (2008) that women used to face more problems of gender specific activities, lack of job opportunities, lesser availability of social/economic opportunities, lower literacy level in the village and more conflicts arising in the house as compared to men. Similar situations have also been reported by Barton and Nazombe, (2000), Whitehead and Tsikata (2001) and OECD (2002) that women are not gender streamline with men in respect of job availability, loan facilities and access to education. |

**Table 1: Distribution of opinion about problems faced in their respective society on gender main-streaming**

Gender mainstreaming problems	Wife		Husband		$\chi^2$ -value	Sig. level
	Yes (#)	Yes (%)	Yes (#)	Yes (%)		
Gender specific work	183	91.5	175	87.5	1.703	0.192
Male dominant society	179	89.5	171	85.5	1.463	0.226
Lack of job opportunity for women	177	88.5	135	67.5	25.699	0.000
Lesser opportunities for women than men for social and economic experiences	172	86.0	172	86.0	0.000	1.000
Overall literacy level in the village	169	84.5	157	78.5	2.388	0.122
Household conflict	169	84.5	159	79.5	1.694	0.193
Women work not recognized	155	77.5	171	82.5	4.245	0.039
Gender violence	155	77.5	162	81.0	0.745	0.388
Social security	154	77.0	154	77.0	0.000	1.000
Transportation difficulties for women	149	74.5	165	82.5	3.792	0.051
Poverty	144	72.0	163	81.5	5.058	0.025
Lack of credit facilities for women	140	70.0	158	79.0	4.264	0.039
Lack of women organization	135	67.5	156	78.0	5.561	0.018
Cultural value	125	62.5	174	87.0	31.802	0.000
Drug addiction	102	51.0	158	79.0	34.462	0.000
Low literacy level among women	81	40.5	159	79.5	63.375	0.000

The order obtained from husbands in declining fashion was cultural values, gender specific activities, male dominant society, lesser availability of social/ economic opportunities, non-recognition of work done by females, transport related difficulties faced by women, conflicts arising The order obtained from husbands in declining fashion was cultural values, gender specific activities, male dominant society, lesser availability of social/ economic opportunities, non-recognition of work done by females, transport in the house, poverty, gender

violence, low literacy level among females, lack of credit facilities for women, lack of women organization, lower literacy level in the village, social security, drug addiction and lack of job opportunities for women (Table 1 a). These results are in line with the findings of Barton and Nazombei (2000), Whitehead and Tsikata (2001) and OECD (2002) that gender violence, poverty, lack of organization, lack of credit facilities, cultural values and low literacy level is more common in women than that of men.

**Table 1 (a): Gender-based ranking by mean scores on problems faced in their respective society on gender main-streaming**

Gender mainstreaming problems	Wife			Husband			F-value	Sig. level
	Mean <sup>1</sup>	Standard Deviation	Ranking order	Mean <sup>1</sup>	Standard Deviation	Ranking order		
Gender specific work	3.765	1.382	1	2.940	1.479	2	33.228	0.000
Overall literacy level in the village	3.565	1.437	2	2.860	1.521	13	22.705	0.000
Male dominant society	3.560	1.721	3	2.455	1.476	3	47.510	0.000
Lack of job opportunity for women	3.555	1.533	4	2.255	1.813	16	59.981	0.000
Lesser opportunities for women for social and economic experiences	3.490	1.665	5	2.805	1.479	4	18.914	0.000
Household conflict	3.375	1.667	6	2.630	1.589	8	20.929	0.000
Social security	3.125	1.883	7	2.435	1.624	14	15.393	0.000
Women work not recognized	3.025	1.887	8	2.745	1.477	5	2.730	0.099
Transport difficulties for women	2.920	1.819	9	2.625	1.574	6	3.008	0.084
Gender violence	2.915	1.894	10	2.655	1.552	9	2.256	0.134
Poverty	2.860	1.965	11	2.635	1.491	7	1.665	0.198
Lack of women organization	2.650	2.019	12	2.525	1.629	12	0.464	0.496
Lack of credit facilities for women	2.630	1.940	13	2.555	1.619	11	0.176	0.675
Cultural value	2.475	2.076	14	3.270	1.536	1	18.952	0.000
Drug addiction	1.890	2.014	15	2.315	1.423	15	5.938	0.015
Low literacy level among women	1.515	1.923	16	2.560	1.516	10	36.424	0.000

### Recommendations

- Female children should be encouraged to acquire higher education to bring them in to gender main streamline for better decision making in agriculture and extension work.
- The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the area should promote gender equality through media campaigns on involving gender in all walks of life to make them equal and active partners in development.
- The financial institutions should be encouraged to extend small loans to women folk at domestic as well as institutional levels.

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