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**EXPOSING THE GENDER ROLE IN DAIRY FARMING IN RURAL  
AREA OF OKARA, PAKISTAN: A CASE STUDY OF TEHSIL  
OKARA**

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### **Abstract**

In the whole world especially in Pakistan the dairy farming is extremely influenced by gender role. Seeing this scenario the researchers conducted this study among the male and females villagers of Pakistan. The main purpose of the study was to expose the gender role in dairy farming. This research was conducted in one of the Tehsil of Okara district of Punjab, Pakistan. By purposive sampling technique, one tehsil i.e., tehsil Okara from District Okara was selected. The 120 respondents were selected randomly (60 males and 60 females) who were directly or indirectly engaged in livestock dairy farming activities. A close-ended questionnaire was constructed for data collection. The data were analyzed through descriptive statistics i.e., frequencies, percentages and means. The main findings of this research showed that female role was extremely neglected by their males in dairy farming activities. There were 98.5% males who were the head of their families while only 1.7% were the females who were head of their families. Surprisingly the mentioned 1.7% females were those who were widowed/ separated. Further, the male had 63.3% power of decision while the females (wives) had only 2.5% power of decision. The control over income regarding male had 88.3% whereas women had only 2.5%. This research demonstrated that there is a lacking regarding the consideration of women role in dairy farming activities and the position of women in the dairy activities is underestimated.

### **Introduction**

Livestock is the backbone of the agricultural sector where animal care has been predominantly considered the work of women. Pakistan has a great potential in domesticated animals. In Punjab Pakistan, 80% of work is done by women in the dairy farming sector. Livestock is also considered as the black gold in Pakistan as well as a sub-sector of the agricultural economy (Manzooret al., 2018). Empowering of women may change the farm practices at the grass-root level which would increase their incomes (Meraj and Sadaqat, 2016). Women involvement in productive and reproductive duties affects the country's productivity performance. Many demographic, social, cultural, religious, and economic factors negatively influence women's productive potential (Jabeen et al., 2020). Women play a direct and indirect role in livestock activities and dairy production in rural areas of Pakistan. Hence, the observation should be on the services of its major labor force (especially rural women), who are neglected (Hussain and Zaheer, 2020).

A woman is always known as an indispensable part of livestock management which includes all the activities related to dairy production. All the women are not involved in controlling livestock activities but 89.9 percent of our country's population is habitant of rural areas (Pakistan Demographic profile, 2016). Family farming is comprehended as a family business which is integral part of agribusiness. On farms, division of work has been generally based on mutual segregated duties within the individuals of a different gender. This segregation is dependent on the status of works on a farm and position in the farming system despite gender personality which creates issues later in matters associated with farm business, for instance, gender equality. This knowledge empowers a dialogue of equity and decency. Family farming represents difficulties to gender correspondence. A few sorts of cultivating family offer new pathways towards improved gender equality (Contzen and Forney, 2017).

Kenya's milk industry plays an important role in economic development and employment. Estimates point to the participation of nearly 1.8 million small-scale farmers. Farmers also account for the bulk (87 percent) of farm-level jobs. Most of these are known to be informal. Despite the role of dairy in job creation, in these small-scale farms, little

attention has been paid to the relationship between farmers as employers and their employees (Forney and Ogola, 2015).

Agriculture farming has a large amount of contribution in the country's economy such as raw material, which gained from the agriculture that is consumed by the industrial purposes. Most of the population directly or indirectly relies upon farming. The participation of agriculture is more than 25 percent of the GDP and records for 50 percent of working labor. Additionally, it is a large source of earning foreign exchange. Livestock is a vital activity that consists of women's contribution to the agribusiness. Pakistan stood 58.55 percent in the livestock activities and 11.6 percent in general GDP 2015-2016 and dairy production is 54,328 thousand tons of our GP (Ishfaq et al., M. 2017).

Women's economic empowerment focalizes on gathering the male and female in the process of decision-making. Access to political structures and decision-making should be given to them in the economic and political domain. Empowerment can be defined by some processes such as getting awareness of power dynamics, developing the KSAs (knowledge, skills, abilities) for gaining control, practicing the control upon the rights of other people, giving support, and empowering others (Chen and Holden, 2017; Meraj and Sadaqat, 2016).

Women have tremendously unequal leadership control regarding pay, and access to training, land, and data sources. In social hindrances this shields the women from getting profitable assets and even family unit choices. Their extra family unit duties, for example, collecting water and difficult sustenance confine their opportunity to take part in profitable exercises or go to preparing (Pingali and Feder, 2017). Women have a high rate of support in broadened exercises identified with harvests, furthermore, livestock production, and their domestic duties. They are exclusively in charge of weeding, seed cleaning, drying, and capacity of crops. They are likewise required in cotton picking and arrangement of handled nourishments. Women from Kalat and Khuzdar districts have rich history and culture of utilizing restorative plants for treating numerous diseases (Evans, 2016). Women work and deliver their duties on the land which is generally possessed by men who appreciate a solid social and financial remaining as restricted to women (Wright and Annes, 2016).

Observational reviews on women in "worker family units" have affirmed that the women in farming have additionally strengthened the approach of predispositions for men. This has driven numerous organizations to adjust some of their approaches trying to guarantee the advantages to women agriculturists. Legislative and non-administrative office staff has frequently invited such activities, considering them to be non-debilitating to existing conditions and control of man on the standard economic system, although including crucial pennies, to the poor family unit economic system. This movement has played a vital role in the economic and social development of all countries because they promote education and gender equality (Barut, 2017).

At times, women could expand their control over the generation, pay, and resources; however much of the time men's salaries expanded as compared to females and the resource gap did not diminish. The majority of women with 89% said that they lack the required knowledge in farming and dairy production (Wright and Annes, 2016). The other intensive issue on abiding women agriculturists likewise expected to advance securing of the human resources required to extend generation (Quisumbing et al., 2015). By empowering women the major problem faced by Pakistan's rural communities is poverty which can be reduced (Khan, 2016). Marja (2016) in her article portrays that the agriculturist's hard work on the dairy development are external problems, technical issues, atmosphere, and animal ailments. Kisaalita et al., (2016) highlight the cultural need and various solutions for the women who have fewer resources.

### Objectives of the Study

The study objectives were:

1. To know the responsibilities of male and female regarding the distribution of dairy activities in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan
2. To expose the gender role in dairy farming activities regarding head of the family in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan
3. To expose the gender role in dairy farming activities regarding power of decision in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan
4. To expose the gender role in dairy farming activities regarding control over income in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan

### Research Questions of the Study

This study had the following research questions.

1. What were the responsibilities of male and female regarding the distribution of dairy activities in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan?
2. What was the gender role in dairy farming activities regarding head of the family in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan?
3. What was the gender role in dairy farming activities regarding power of decision in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan?
4. What was the gender role in dairy farming activities regarding control over income in Tehsil Okara of Punjab, Pakistan?

### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in district Okara from where tehsil Okara was chosen by purposive sampling technique. Locale Okara has three Tehsils (Okara, Depalpur, and Renalakhurd). A total number of respondents were 120 of which 60 were males and 60 were females. A questionnaire was prepared for data collection having two parts. The part A reflected the demographic characteristics of the participants while the Part B had the items relevant to the study objectives e.g., the household characteristics, family members, gender roles, dairy activities. The data were analyzed through Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Observation was also carried out to get some facts. The descriptive statistics i.e., frequencies, percentages, and means were calculated to give portray the descriptive data.

### Results and Discussion

The objective 1 of the study has been depicted by the table 1 below. This table has shown the details of the respondents (husbands and wives) involved in their daily dairy activities in their farms.

**Table 1: Responsibilities of male and female regarding the distribution of dairy activities**

Activities	Husband		Wife		Both	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Foddercutting	28	23.4	6	5.0	86	71.6
Weeding fodder	31	25.8	9	8	79	65.7
Feeding animals	5	4.2	19	15.8	96	80

Watering animals	3	2.5	27	22.5	90	75
Collecting manure	10	8.3	43	35.8	67	55.9
Applying manure	19	15.8	37	30.8	64	53.4
Milking	25	20.8	25	20.8	70	58.4
Cleaning Shed	40	33.3	3	2.5	77	64.2
Spraying cattle	48	40	11	9.2	61	50.8
Bathing animals	3	2.5	1	0.8	116	96.7

The table 1 explained that the fodder cutting with 23.4 percent is done by the male while 5.0 percent by females and the highest percentage of 71.0 percent is done by both husband and wife while the weeding fodder with 25.8 percent is done by the male while 7.5 percent by females and the highest percentage of 65.8 percent is done by both husband and wife. Sukhesh and Rao (2019) explained that in many parts of the world, women assume a focal part in poultry generation. Lawn poultry administration is particularly vital for women, as it can be attempted inside the family grounds and can therefore be completed close by their other different errands. For instance, in Afghanistan, the customary patio framework still commands poultry creation and is totally women's responsibility.

The majority of females are having the responsibility to take care of animals. In the table, watering the animals with 2.5 percent is done by the male while 22.5 percent by females and the highest percentage of 75.0 percent is done by both husband and wife. On one side the collecting manure with 8.3 percent is done by the male while 35.8 percent by females and the highest percentage of 55.8 percent is done by both husband and wife and the applying manure with 15.0 percent is done by the male while 30.8 percent by females and the highest percentage of 53.3 percent is done by both husband and wife.

The table1 explained that the milking with 20.8 percent is done by the male while 20.8 percent by females and the highest percentage of 71.0 percent is done by both husband and wife. Women in these groups are especially helpless and underestimated. Social standards and spouse's confinements imply that they need to remain at home and are not perceived as workers. The table demonstrated that the cleaning shed with 33.3 percent is done by the male while 2.3 percent by female and the highest percentage of 63.3 percent is done by both.

The table1 defines that the spraying with 40.0 percent is done by the male while 9.2 percent by females and the highest percentage of 50.0 percent is done by both husband and wife. Often the daughters are found helping their mother in some dairy activities. The table1 defines that the bathing animals with 2.5 percent is done by the male while 0.8 percent by females and the highest percentage of 98.7 percent is done by both husband and wife. Mostly farming families do not have any separate farms or likewise place to keep animal so they keep them at home. All the responsibility regarding animals is on women and they take care of those animals as a member of family. Patel et al., (2016) examined that activities related to livestock such as taking care of animals, feeding them, watering and taking their health care, etc. are done by females so the capacity of females is needed to be increased as 60 to 70 percent of women are involved in dairy activities.

The objective 2 of the study has been depicted by the table 2 which has shown the responsibilities of male and that they take as head in dairy farming activities.

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents regarding head of household**

Head of Household	Frequency	Percentage
Male	118	98.3
Female	2	1.7
Total	120	100.0

This table 2 showed that the highest percentage of family’s head is given to males with 98.3% and only a few females with 1.7 percent are head of their families where they are widowed or their male kids are not enough mature to take the responsibilities of their families. So, females are only the one who is looking after their family on their own.

The objective 3 of the study has been depicted the table 3 which has shown the power of decision making regarding gender role in dairy farming activities.

**Table 3: Distribution of respondents regarding power of decision making**

Decision making power	Frequency	Percent
Husband	76	63.3
Wife	4	2.5
Both	40	33.3
Total	120	100.0

The table 3 illustrated that regarding the power of decision-making, males have with 63.3 percent whereas wives have 2.5 percent and 33.3 percent both take decisions. In numerous rustic zones, social standards have a tendency to keep women away from basic leadership. Women's lower status and contribution to family gives them confined control and basic leadership control over rustic resources and pay produced from cultivating exercises at the family unit and group level (FAO, 2007).

Objective 4 of the study has been depicted by the table 4 which has shown the control over income regarding gender role in dairy farming activities.

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents regarding the control over the income**

Control of income	Frequency	Percent
Husband	106	88.3
Wife	3	2.5
Both	11	9.2
Total	120	100.0

The table4 described that the control of sale/ purchase of animals and land is in husbands hand with the highest percentage of 88.3 and wives take decisions of 2.5 percent only and both take decisions with 9.2 percent in those families where the females and males are literate.

This results that females are mostly having problems in dairy farming. It is likely that young women, specifically, confront twofold drawbacks because of both their sex and age and the current study is in agreement with previous study results because the current

study results also shows that 60 percent females have to face challenges like these (Patel et al., 2016). Past research has investigated the troubles that females encounter when they enter in company or in administrative positions. The current study addresses this gap by directing a gender investigation that how females neglected in privately-owned companies and how they build their life in those companies. The present study research also showed that working females have to face more problems as compared to men in the field or business (Hyttiet al., 2017). Developing countries of the world are confronting a worldwide severe problem of the gender inequality which creates two major problems i.e., slow economic growth and increasing rate of poverty. According to the present research, due to the issues of gender inequality 60% females are facing problems (Haq and Amin, 2017).

In this study, the gender differences were also confirmed and indicated that the household that were headed by females were more insecure regarding food control. The women control in dairy farming shows that 43.3 % which is less than male (Jung et al., 2017) has shown the negligence of the females which leads to the gender differences, either inside the family unit or within and between societies that were socially built.

The problem that women confronted was the patriarchal framework where basic leadership forces were in the hands of men. In Pakistani background, the conventional social mentalities and status of women in the public eye were set as pervasive and women thought that it's hard to disengage from this culture or to be shunned (Jilani, 2016; Luhrs, 2016). This will have large effect on issues confronting by females.

It is also shown by the past study results that the qualification has more impact which explained that the families having good education have taken decisions together (Green, 2012). Agriculturist's hard work on the dairy farming is seen more ordinary depressed from the external problems, technical issues, atmosphere state and animal ailments. The Intra-family unit bias in nourishment health problems and malnutrition in female youngsters, young childbirths, powerlessness among taking the control over their own physical needs, and unconscious state of mind antagonistically effects women's welfare (Kallioniemi et al., 2016; Barolia and Higginbottom, 2017).

### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

Rural women are giving their all-time to the dairy farming focuses on the authoritative method. Additional income is basic for them to keep up the family unit and solving the economic issues of the home. For this purpose, it is a need of women to get access to the markets. Despite the fact that women are customarily in charge of dairy cultivating and give a large portion of their life to the dairy work but still they are disregarded. Today, rural dairy activities are mostly overseen and controlled by men, mirroring the patriarchal structure of the general public. Women have dependably raised, however are not generally ready to win a solid pay from dairy farming. It is viewed as wrong for women to go to market, so they need to pay extensive transport expenses and charges to agents, or depend on spouses, who may spend the cash on themselves as opposed to the family. According to research three aspects, if considered, including policy recommendations, concentrating gender equity issues and educational opportunities are best solution for the problems raised in the current study.

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