

- PN-ABU-758
94/5/17

ROLE OF RURAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

KANAK VALLEY
BALOCHISTAN



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AERU, QUETTA STAFF PAPER NO. 91-1
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors duly appreciate and acknowledge with thanks the contribution of various scientist who participated at various stages of the study and made it possible to bring it in the present form.

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We also particularly wish to thank Arif Hussain, and Muhammad Ismail of AERU, Quetta for their typing assistance. Finally, we would like to thank the farm families of Kanak valley, Who cooperated in ~~date~~ conducting of field study and provided relevant data on the subject.

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Abbreviations

ARI	:	Agriculture Research Institute
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A.D	:	Assistant Director
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MART:		Management of Agriculture Research & Technology
SSO	:	Senior Scientific Officer
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W.D	:	Women Division.

III

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

General

- o There exist workable shingled and **metalled** road between villages of the target area.
- o The literacy rate is very low among females.
- o Meager health facilities for women are available. Absence of female medical officer and other supporting staff is an obvious health set back for females of the Farm families of the valley.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CROP FARMING

CROP PRODUCTION

- o Women participation in various crop production practices of Kanak Valley, (upland of Balochistan) is upto 44%.
- o Almost one fourth of sampled families (male) and females) were working together in crop production.
- o More than (10%) farmers were found hiring female labour in crop production practices.
- o Overall 44 percent females were working in crop management of different operation.

VEGETABLES GROWING

- o Majority (96 %) of growers were not growing Rabi Vegetables. They were unaware of winter crops such as garlic and peas and broad beans.
- o More than 55 % of the target area families were found engaged in growing Kharif crops. The major

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vegetables grown are Tomatoo, lady finger, Egg plant and cucurbits.

GRAIN STORAGE

- o Female participation in grain storage was also noticed in the target area. Ninety one percent of the farmers stored their wheat in jute bags which was one of activities of household females. Rest of the families were found storing their grains in traditional mud bin and sheep/goat wool bags.
- o Grain losses are considerable and accounts for more than 90 %, which occur due to rodents and insects. Only 2 percent of losses can be attributed to birds.
- o Family members (both male and female) jointly handle the grain storage.
- o Women normally practice drying of some vegetables and get involved in storage of cereals for domestic purposes.
- o Almost all the families are unaware of using appropriate/modern grain storage practices.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN LIVESTOCK FARMING

- o Majority (88 %) of the females were found engaged in livestock management. About 50 % contributed in disposal of their livestock produce to brokers and local merchants.
- o More than 91 % families possess goat. Few families had more than 10 goats. The largest herds of 60 heads were recorded.
- o About 38 % of farm families raised/owned sheep. Per family sheep was average 3 heads, with a range of their one to thirty five.
- o Most families managed goats and sheep jointly,

V.

females are mainly involved in milking, preparing ghee, and using the wool/hide for different purposes.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN POULTRY

- o More than 90 % of families are involved in poultry farming.
- o Poultry birds average 10/family and ranges from two to fifty birds.
- o Egg collection average was 3/day which ranged from one to ten. Only 10% of the families collect more than four eggs/day.
- o Almost 90% of the families consume eggs domestically. Only 7% sold eggs in the local market.
- o 78% families practice hatching biannually. Very few families hatch thrice in a year. While remaining 9 % have shown no interest in hatching, they purchase pullets from neighbours.
- o Ninety three percent families are using traditional feed, such as food leftovers while only 4 % families use feed packs from market.
- o Few families were aware of medical treatment of poultry birds.
- o The mortality rate of poultry birds varies from 10% to 70%
- o Mostly poultry birds are kept in Kudda (small huts). Only few families kept their birds in rooms and baskets.

VI

INTRODUCTION.

Rural women play a vital role in Pakistan's Agriculture. Farming is operated by joint participation of male and female by farm families. However majority of rural women in Pakistan are illiterate, unskilled and tradition only bound. Nevertheless they contribute in agricultural and rural development. Some of the Agricultural activities performed by them are weeding, fodder cutting and chopping, livestock management, pre and post-harvest produce handling. Their productive efficiency in farming is extremely low, due to her low literacy and lack of skill.

The present study on the role of rural women in agriculture has been carried out under FSR with assistance of women component of FSR. The objective was to conduct research and transfer improved technologies to farm families. Study quantify females participation in various farm activities/enterprises identify priority problem in term. their effectiveness in farming and technology transfer. A women FSR program project at Fateh Jung provides an excellent example of such a project, where improve poultry production and poultry husbandry has been adopted by many village women resulting in improvement of the family welfare. The study was one of the diagnostic study through FSR project sponsored by PARC in various provinces to help.

The women's component started their activities under Farming System Research, started from July 1990 in Kanak Valley, Balochistan. The component comprises of lady scientists from Women's Division of Agriculture Extension wing together with the scientists from AERU and Women component advisor from MART project Islamabad, who made joint efforts in the study.

The present study was conducted in Kanak Valley at the FSR target area, with a view to study and understand women's role in the economy, to find out various ways and means through which women's involvement in farming system can be made more

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productive and economical. It was identified that the socio-economic conditions, caste and class system, families structure, male migration are the major aspects which carry greater impact on the women's involvement. The major objectives of the survey were as follow:-

OBJECTIVES:

1. Assessment of women's role, and their confronting problems in agriculture.
2. Identification of acceptable and productive technologies for rural women in agriculture.
3. Suggest training program to increase women productivity in agriculture to up-lift their status.

CHAPTER NO. 1

METHODOLOGY.

INFORMAL SURVEY.

An informal survey was conducted by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of Economists (AERU) and female workers from (Women Division) of Agriculture Department. The team worked in the villages of a pre-selected area. These villages are located near the main road as well as in the interior. Some families were interviewed on a set of questions to get guide-lines for designing and redesigning the questionnaire. A list of guide line questions prepared with the help of secondary data and previous experience were used during the informal survey.

FORMAL SURVEY

In the last week of September 1991 the following nine pre-selected villages were stratified randomly surveyed. The sample size of village depended upon the density of population. The questionnaire which is appended as annexure 1 seems short but is comprehensive to collect information regarding all the women activities in Agriculture, livestock and at home. Their participation in land preparation, sowing, harvesting, threshing and livestock management, In all aspects of farming practices and look after the family & children.

CHAPTER NO. 2

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT.

BIO-PHYSICAL PROFILE

LOCATION OF THE STUDY AREA

The study area is the Kanak Valley of upland Balochistan, located about 30 Kilometers West to Quetta city. It is a sub tahsil of Kalat District in Balochistan. The area is comprised of sub mountainous plains. The total area of the valley is 31362 acres which is only 3 percent of the Kalat district. The altitude of the valley varies from 1750-1800 meter from south to north ward. The Kanak Valley is situated in the desert belt between 25 N and 32 N. Balochistan has an arid and semi-arid climate. Kalat district (29°2 N and 66°32 E) has been classified as continental Semi-arid Mediterranean zone.

CAST

Kanak Valley, the area is situated in Brahvi/Balochi region of upland Balochistan. The spoken languages of the area are Brahvi and Balochi. The Majority of the males of the area can speak and understand Urdu, where women can talk and understand urdu or any other language, nominally.

EDUCATION

The study area had only a few families with better socio-economic status and literacy level. Although a majority of females had religious education, yet regular school education was very uncommon among the women. The surveyed area did not had a single girls school. Thus majority of the women are not aware of the normal education facilities.

HEALTH

Health facilities are virtually unavailable for women. There is no female medical officer nor nurses. Women hesitate to visit health centers which does not carry women staff. Women in Kanak villages endure many problems of health, unhygienic child birth, abortions. The mortality rate is high than normal.

INCOME

Major source of income is agriculture and livestock produce. In male population, a very few numbers of the males are Government Servants in lower scale. The General Stores, and ordinary shops are few in numbers, which are operated by the local people. These shops provide half day service, Because they work as part time job in the shop. The remaining time is spent in field work.

LABOUR

Labour problem is generally solved through a social arrangement called "Hoosier". Famers of village go and work jointly for a farmer who needs their services. Only meal for the day is arranged by the host. This practice goes on turn by turn for all the residents of the village. Secondly the nomads coming from plans during harvesting periods of crop work in the fields and in return they get in kind 4kg/40kg of the harvest and 40 rupees as their wage for the day in this case wheat. Family labour is also engage (Female and children) all together work. The female and children of the nomads is also hired for weeding in potato, onion and vegetables. They are compensated at a rate of rupees 15/day and in addition 5kg of crop produce onion, potato per day per labour is also paid.

RAINFALL

The rainfall varies from 200 to 350 mm. Generally the rain fall occurs in two seasons. Winter (November, December and January) as a result of western disturbances in anticyclonic system extending from Siberia to Iran, and in summer (July to

September/October) is result of monsoon storms originating in Bengal and Arabian sea (Rees et.al 1986).

ROAD

The population is sparsely scattered in small villages which are situated around water resources such as tube wells, streams, karezes and flood water. There exists shingled and metalled roads between the villages which range between 10 to 30 kilometers.

TRANSPORTATION

Some of the larger villages carry mobility facilities such as pickups and buses which carry produce and passengers to and from Quetta and Mustang cities. The ownership of such transport facility is owned by local persons.

TEMPERATURE.

Minimum temperature during winter months are usually below freezing (November to February). The lowest temperature recorded is -15 C. The maximum temperature prevail in the month of June and July which varies from 35 C and 38 C.

CHAPTER NO. 3

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CROP FARMING.

In the rural economy women's role is very contributory and productive. The studies on women in agriculture show that rural women of Pakistan perform an important function in crop production activities. They not only take part in off-farm activities, livestock management and preparing handicrafts. These dual responsibilities at their farm stages and the household level make them productive.

The role of rural women in agriculture activities is important. Participation of Kanak Valley women in agri activities is minimal due to particular social and cultural environment. The women are mainly responsible for household activities from morning till night. They also contribute in family income by preparing handicrafts. Nevertheless these women do assist menfolks in the fields also. These joint efforts are directed to obtain better yields and more income and also to provide opportunities of work for non-agricultural and relatively more tasks. The report has intended to overview the involvement of women such that the men efforts become more productive.

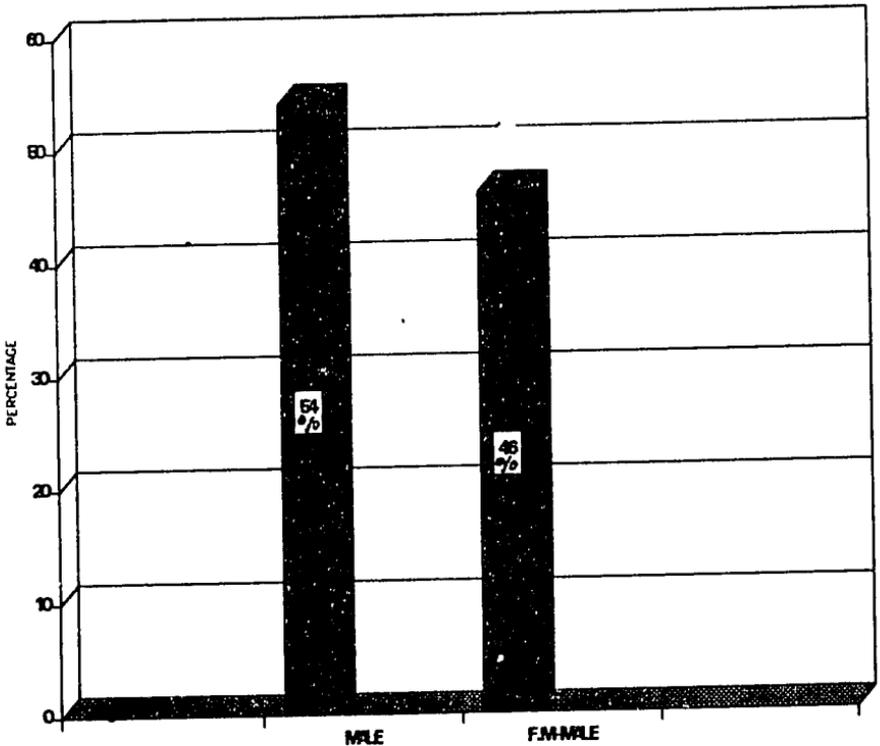
CROPS PRODUCTION

In Kanak Valley, agriculture is operated jointly. Men, women and children are involved in both the preharvest and post-harvest activities. Specific Agricultural activities performed in and around village houses normally engage women. Contribution of women in pre and post harvest operations is less than men (Table No.1). Male and female participate in all types of farm operations i.e. sowing, seed bed preparation, weeding straw forage binding, collection of farm yard manure, spreading fertilizer etc. However the male contribution is prominent as compared to women. Data given in table No. 1 shows that on average more than one fourth of the sampled families are working together in crop production operations.

Table No. 1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN CROP PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN KANAK VALLEY BALOCHISTAN.

S. NO	OPERATIONS	MALE	FEMALE	M. FEMALE	H. MAL	MAL H. MAL	MALE H. MALE	MAL + FEMALE + H. MAL	M + FEMALE H. MAL + H. MAL	FEMALE + H. MAL
1	Seed Bed Preparat	23	-	22	13	22	7	7	4	2
2	Sowing	21	-	22	13	22	11	2	7	2
3	weed plucking	13	-	30	13	20	11	2	7	4
4	collecti- on of FYM	13	-	20	13	20	11	14	7	2
5	Spread- ing Fert:	21	-	22	13	22	16	2	2	2
6	Harvest ing	11	-	30	11	28	16	2	-	2
7	Wheat Binding	16	-	33	11	25	13	2	-	2
8	Thresh- ing	22	-	24	13	24	13	2	-	2
9	Drying	23	-	25	11	22	13	-	4	2
10	Selling production agents	47	2	22	10	11	4	-	-	4
11	Sherbs storage for House fuel	35	-	31	4	16	7	-	-	7
12	Fodder	28	11	34	4	15	4	-	-	4
Av.	%Group Involves	23	1	26	11	20	10	3	3	3

PERCENTAGE OF MALE AND FEMALE WORKING JOINTLY IN CROP PRODUCTION



Women laborers account for 10% of the team work. In post harvest activities including processing and management of crops, Kanak women's contribution remain minimal due to their social set-up. They contribute as helpers on the whole. In aggregate only 46% Females participation exists in crop production and management, which shows that Kanak women's due to lack of literacy and some social constraint, are not contributing much in crop production.

In some usual stations where widows go and work on neighbor farms as whole time labours. In such cases the whole of the family women with children work on the same farm and they contribute,three percent of women folk working under such circumstances.

VEGETABLE GROWING

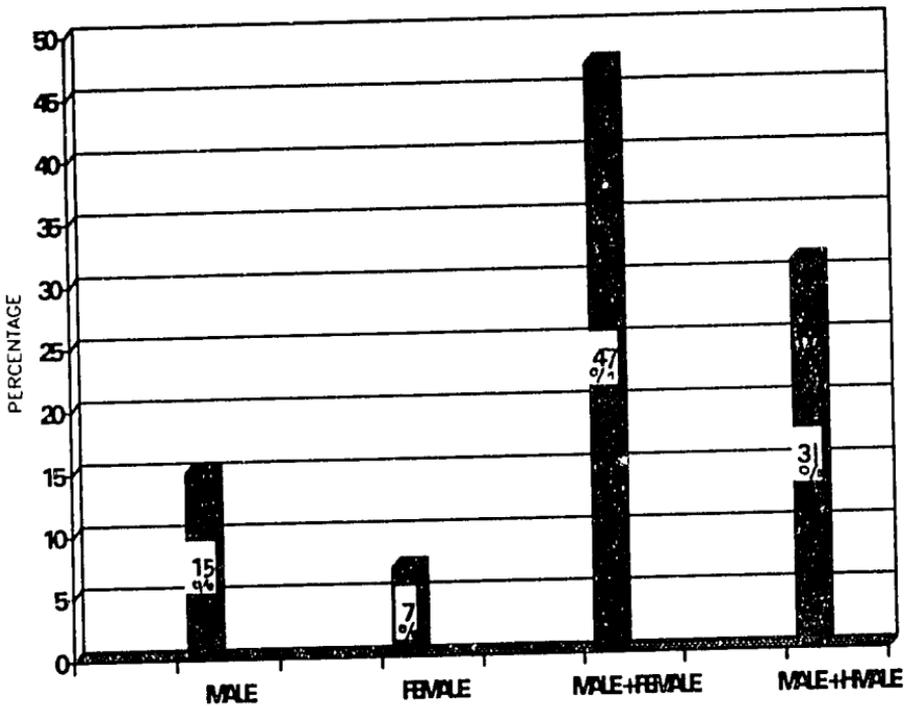
Many families of the Kanak area cultivate vegetables in Kharif season. The household families grow vegetables on the edge of their field. They are self sufficient in vegetable production during Kharif. Major vegetables include Tomato, Lady finger, Egg plant and cucurbits. People consume vegetables during summer due to their availability and low cost. In vegetable farming about 56% of the Kanak women get engaged in different aspects. Women go and pick vegetables from the fields for their daily meals (Table No: 2). Majority of families do not grown vegetables during Rabi season. Kanak men and women were found unaware of winter vegetables such as garlic, peas, carrot, radish, Turnip, and Broad Beans etc.

Table No. 2. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN VEGETABLE FARMING IN KANAK VALLEY, BALOCHISTAN.

S. N O	OPERATIONS	MA L	FE M L	M+F EML	H. MA L	M+ H. MA L	M+ F+H .MA L	M+F EML +H. MAL	F. M L + H. ML	FEMALE +H.M AL
1.	Picking of Potatoes	33	24	27	-	16	-	-	-	-
2.	Picking of Onion	7	3	31	9	31	2	2	4	11
3.	Drying of Watermelon Seed	11	4	31	9	28	2	2	4	9
4.	Collection of Vegetable	10	2	20	4	20	2	2	-	40
5.	Weeding in Vegetables	16	-	29	11	25	11	2	2	^
A V	% Group Involve	15	7	27	7	24	3	2	2	13

FEM L = FEMALE, H = HIRED.

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN VEGETABLE FARMING



land preparation, irrigation, weeding and other cultural practices of vegetables is performed by males. On the other hand in hoeing practices female and male both, work together. The participation of women is limited as helper or assistant. Data indicated (table No. 1) that in all such activities women's participation is considered jointly. This is clear that the women do not contribute much individually for vegetable growing.

GRAIN STORAGE.

Farmers of the Kanak community produce and consume cereals such as wheat and barley. For this purpose they store the cereals for the whole year using different type of storage structures. The women keep the prime responsibility for grain storage. The grain storage is practical in traditional Mud-bins, Jute bags, sheep or goat wool knitted bags. Survey data signify that about 91% of the families store their wheat grains in jute bags. Only 9% use mud-bins or wool bags.

Stored grain is generally get pest infestation due to poor storage practices. The storage area is seldom cleaned. Families are not familiar with the use of insecticides and other storage pest management methods. Indeed considerable losses occur due rodents and insects, both. About 91% of the total damage is caused by such pests. Only two percent loss can be attributed by birds. Illiteracy and ignorance preclude proper management of grain. For rodent control most families rely on various traps of a traditional design.

Besides wheat, and other grains some vegetables are also dried in sunlight by Kanak Valley women and store them for winter consumption. The women of the area also sun dry some fruits. Though drying and storage methods are old and defective.



FSR TEAM SURVEYING IN THE FIELD



LOCAL WOMENS WORKING AT FORMS

CHAPTER NO. 4

WOMEN'S LIVESTOCK FARMING

Livestock production has great importance in the rural set up of Pakistan. However, most villages are not aware of modern livestock production technology. Proper livestock management is not carried out. Govt Department officials attempt to educate herdsman about vaccination schedules. Improved exotic breeds of cow and goats have been imported to improve milk and meat production. Veterinary dispensaries at village level provide free vaccination service. Mobile veterinary camps visit far flung areas and try to educate and improve livestock productivity.

Dispensary facilities are available in FSR target area of Kanak Valley. But due to scattered population all of the herders are not benefitted of such facilities of health care.

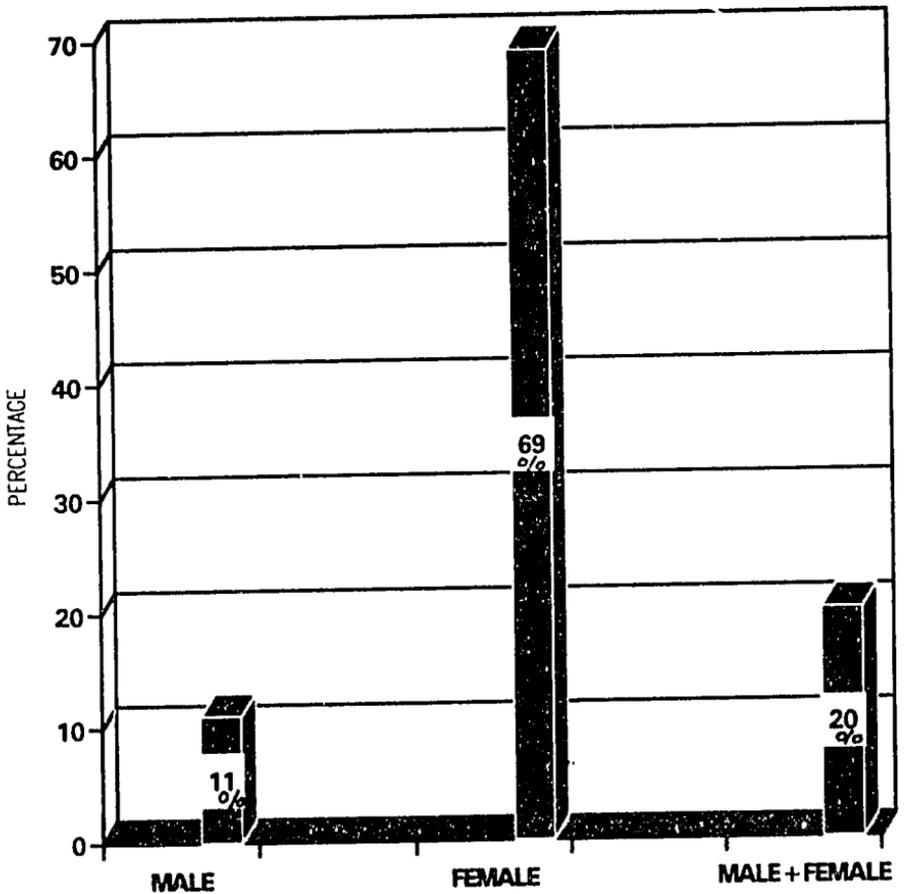
Results of this survey revealed that about 89% of Kanak Valley women are engaged in livestock management. (Table No. 3) The majority of livestock is comprised of the small ruminant (sheep and goats). Indeed most of the caring of livestock is carried out by women. For example, watering, milking, milk processing, preparing ghee and feeding etc are considered women's responsibilities (table No. 4). The males take the herds to the pastures and carry them back home. Alfalfa is grown in the target area as major source of feed for animals. Initial few cuttings are fed green to the animals. The later 3 to 5 cuttings are dried and are converted into hay as winter feed. Wheat and barley grown in September and October is grazed during November and December. Hay making is normally done by women folk.

Table No. 3. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN
LIVESTOCK FARMING KANAK VALLEY,
BALOCHISTAN.

S. NO	OPERATIONS	MAL E	FEM ALE	MALE +FEM ALE	FEMAL E+ MAL E+H.M L	MAL E+H.I RED MAL E	
1.	Cleaning Sheds	11	66	13	4	2	4
2.	Cleaning Animals	2	80	9	2	-	7
3.	Egg Collection	-	93	-	-	-	7
4.	Manure Collection	-	96	-	2	-	2
5.	Care of Pregnant Animals	-	96	2	-	-	2
6.	Care of Sick Animals	7	80	9	2	-	2
7.	Livestock produce disposal to Agents	36	29	7	8	-	20
8.	Livestock produce disposal to Village	28	16	7	6	7	36
AV.	% GROUP INVOLVED	11	69	6	3	1	10

ML=MALE, FEML=FEMALE, H=HIRED

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK FARMING



More than ninety one percent of families own goats, because the goat yields more milk as compared to sheep. The milk is pasteurized, butter is separated and converted into ghee. The thirty eight percent of families carry sheep. The women collect animal manure and dump it for further use as Farm Yard Manure and partly as fuel for cooking meal.

During winter farm families normally face feed shortage. Weakening of animals makes them susceptible to diseases. Mortality and abortions become more frequent during winter mainly due to feed shortage. In addition to these problems farmers rear poor quality breeds. Animals have a high calving interval. Lack of veterinary support and limited knowledge of good husbandry by families results low livestock production. In Kanak Valley in very few cases women handle the buying and selling of animals and their by-products. They also use the hide for drinking water bags while the wool is used for carpet making, rugs, ropes, and bags rope etc. (table No. 4).

TABLE No.4 WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LIVESTOCK BY-PRODUCT USING.

S.No	OPERATIONS	FEMALE	MALE+FEMALE	FEMALE+HIRED MALE
1	HIDE BAG	25	70	5
2	MILKING	98	-	2
3	PREPARING GHEE	95	2	3
4	WOOL WEAVING	99	-	1
AV.	% GROUP INVOLVED	79.25	18	3

POULTRY

Women's involvement in poultry husbandry in Pakistan is usually high. Poultry farming is wide spread in rural areas and women play a vital role in poultry farming at household level. According to an estimate of 1990, over 91% of the families in the villages keep on an average 12 birds, get chicks hatched under brood hens. The data indicates that Kanak women are engaged more in poultry farming at domestic level as compared to men. This suggests that they are self sufficient in nutritional requirements of their families, with eggs and poultry meat. Women are responsible for poultry farming. Although, they are not using modern management techniques such as vaccination and improved feed. Their poultry enterprise is comparatively good. This study shows that on an average ten birds are kept per family. Number ranges from two to fifty poultry birds in the area. It becomes evident that the Kanak women seems to be more involved in poultry farming. Therefore there is need of modern technology of poultry husbandry. The families of the target area get more eggs per bird. The average egg production is 3/day which changes from one to ten in number. Out of sampled women, only 10% of the women are getting more than four eggs/day. Further investigations revealed that most of the eggs 87% are consumed at home for lunch or dinner meals. Very few eggs are marketed. Only 7% women are exchange the eggs in nearest shops for some consumable house hold items. Due to lack of proper marketing none are sold outside the village. For poultry production, hatching of eggs is prevalent among rural women. Hatching is practiced two to three times a year especially during spring and fall. According to data collected (Table No. 5) 91% of sampled women follow brooding at their home. Only 9% were not found engaged in this activity. They fulfil their need by getting pullets on payment from neighbors. As far as management is concerned, 93% of the women's use traditional feed, such as kitchen wastes and also wheat barley grains. While only 4% are using feed packs. (et-al AERU 1990) They get the feed from cities occasionally.

Kanak women's are unaware of poultry management skills (table 5). Majority are unaware of health management of poultry.

Due to this unawareness mortality rate of chicks range from 10% to 70%, (Table No. 6) it shows that high mortality rate is due to lack of technical knowledge.

Table No. 5 ANNUALLY NO. OF BROODING IN POULTRY HUSBANDRY, KANAK VALLEY, BALOCHISTAN.

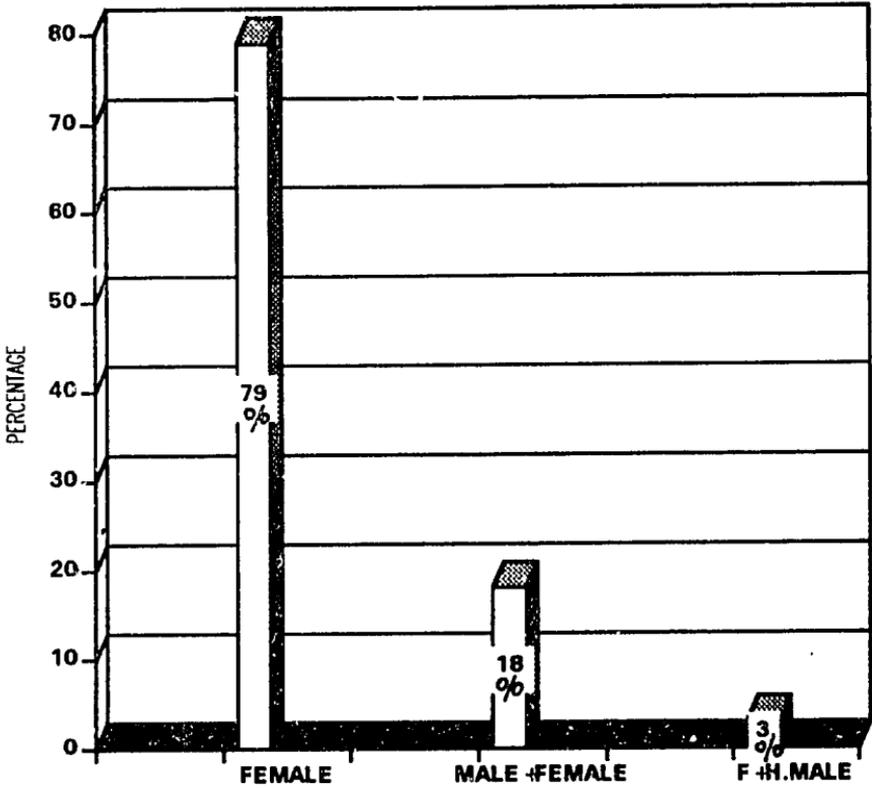
S.NO	NO OF BROODING/YEAR	PERCENT FAMILIES
1	0	9
2	1	9
3	2	78
4	3	4

Mostly women manage the poultry birds in Khuda, only few keep them in living rooms under baskets. Proper housing for poultry is an important factor in production. On the whole complaints about ticks and birds mortality are reported from khuda dwelling. We can conclude that Kanak women's are more involved in poultry farming, and can make it a productive enterprise if breeding, feeding and housing are improved.

Table NO. 6 MORTALITY RATE IN POULTRY HUSBANDRY KANAK VALLEY, BALOCHISTAN.

S. NO	% POULTRY HUSBANDRY	MORTALITY RATE
1	14	0
2	4	10-20
3	44	21-40
4	38	41-70

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN BY PRODUCT OF LIVESTOCK



CHAPTER NO. 5

HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES.

Rural women have more or less the same kind of activities in daily life as else where in Pakistan or else where in the third world. She performs duties such as house cleaning in the morning, dish washing, fetching drinking water and laundry, preparing food for family, care of children, tailoring and also mending clothes. Some jobs she starts early in the morning (5 a.m. in Summer and 6.30 a.m. in winter) up to noon. She manage her activities at different times during the day as a routine practice.

Table No. 7. MORNING ACTIVITIES PERCENT TIME OF WOMEN KANAK VALLEY, BALOCHISTAN.

S NO.	ACTIVITIES	PERCENT TIME
1	House Cleaning	2
2	Stitching. Guest Attendance	2
3	Preparing Food. Dish Washing, Fetching dromlong water	96

Data indicates (Table No. 7) that Kanak women seems to spend 96% of morning hours in activities like, dish washing fetching drinking water, preparing food for family, while other 4% of the time is spent for house keeping, stitching, guest attendance and other activities. They must have their own source of water at home. Hired male may fetch water.

Table No. 8. AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES PERCENT TIME OF WOMEN KANAK VALLEY BALOCHISTAN.

S. NO.	ACTIVITIES	PERCENT TIME
1	Look-after Children	13
2	Mending Clothes	7
3	Dish Washing	14
4	Tailoring	58
5	Rest	8

In the after-noon the data shows (Table No. 8) only 58% time is busy in tailoring, 13 % just look after their children, 7% perform the activity of mending clothes and 14% time is spent to dish washing. Very like to rest.

Table NO. 9 .EVENING ACTIVITIES PERCENT TIME OF WOMEN KANAK VALLEY, BALOCHISTAN.

S. NO.	ACTIVITIES	PERCENT TIME
1	Preparing food, H. Cleaning Utensils	60
2	Fetching water	14
3	Care of Animals. Cleaning Sheds.	26

The data shows that in the evening 60% are involved in preparing food for family, house cleaning, Utensil: Cleaning data also indicates in (Table No. 9) that 14% time perform the activity of fetching water, 26% do cleaning sheds, and looking after the animals. So we can say that women contribute a lot for house and farm.

RECOMMENDATION

- o Introduction of improved goat species such as Teddy goat is recommended due to its high rate of production.
- o There is an urgent need of range management with introduction of perennial grasses for feed improvement of small ruminants.
- o Establishment of series of demonstrations of small ruminant and poultry husbandry is recommended which carry improved management practices and health care.
- o Arrangements for training of trainers of in-service women of Agriculture Depatt for livestock and poultry management and disease control methods is to be made for FSR area women.
- o There is great potential for introducing fruit preservation and processing for the income generation of rural women.
- o Training is required in the area of grain storage technologies.
- o There is a need for promotion of social organizations of women, which may help up-grading the social status of women and improvement of income generation resources.
- o There is need to establish some cottage industry of handi-crafts which may supplement the income of females.

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