

IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ON RURAL WOMEN IN ASWAN GOVERNORATE

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Abstract

Data utilized in this study were obtained from interview scheduled from a sample of 225 female beneficiaries of one developmental project distributed between 3 villages in Aswan Governorate revealed Data analysis the following results regarding the socioeconomic environmental issues:

Almost one half of the beneficiaries are young women less than 35 years. The data shows that almost one half of the respondents are educated.

The results also indicated that the major cause of poverty in the selected villages was unemployment resulting from illiteracy.

Data indicated that relatively old age and higher level of as positively related with the opportunities of good judging proper and decision making.

Rural women participating in income generating and develop activities increased their income and as well as agri-industry activities.

The study shows that farmer women encounter barriers and constrains as far as access to credit and to new and improved technology and other productive assets is concerned. This related to the fact that women do not have equal access to agricultural extension and training as well as also to credit. It follows that technologies and loans are not equally accessible as distributed to them.

These findings provides evidence that the degree of satisfaction with present income generating activities and the awareness of bank services provided by the project, are important factors for the services of integrating rural women in development.

One of the constraints that farmer women face in having access to the project activities is the time duration from the time of application until the activity starts. Another constraint is that no sound announcement of activities in the villages. In addition, much more attention is needed for agricultural extension and training in order to raise up the skill of women in production. Rural women need a growing awareness that environmental issues are major problems that threaten their family health as well as the sustainability of agricultural development. Finally rural women prefer the following types of projects in the village: poultry and sheep raising, agri-industry, jobs for the youth, training centers for raising female capabilities, larger and more loans, and a factory for palm trees products.

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METHODOLOGY

Data was obtained from 225 selected randomly from three villages i.e. Habary, Basaly and Ogaibab in Aswan Governorate. The main criteria for the selection of the respondent was that each one should investigated had an access to one of the current projects in this Governorate, was 255.

Questionnaires were designed to assess the impact of the project activities on their socio-economic environmental status. The survey was carried fieldwork team supervised by two regional officers at the villages' levels. The fieldwork team had an intensive training on know how to use the questionnaire by the staff members of Policy and Coordination Unit for Women in Agriculture (PCUWA).

The survey was conducted between October 1998 and January 1999. The questionnaire scheduled comprised five sections.

The first section, included data regarding socio-economic and personal information of respondents.

The second section, focused on problems and constraints of pre-and post-participation in the project, and what collaterals are required for obtaining loans, and what access for training and extension is available.

Third section, concerned with preferred types of development projects of problems related and income generating activities.

Fourth section, dealt with environmental awareness to sold waste, pesticides, water waste and agricultural by-products.

Finally, the fifth section concern with need and assessment for better environment and appropriate livelihood.

INTRODUCTION

The government directs many projects to rural women in the hope that they raise the standards of their families and enhance their contribution to national economy.

It is customary to set a number of primary objectives for development projects, as it is also customary to take a number of measures to evaluate these projects to detect how far the objectives are accomplished.

In general projects for development of rural women endeavor to narrow the gender gap in several aspects such as the access to production resources, loans, extension services, training, new technologies and natural resources.

These projects also should help rural women to overcome their need for economic power etc. through economic independence and control of their income.

Projects also facilitate the possibility of rural women obtaining social services such as education, health and medical care etc.

These objectives are in accordance with the state's policy which gives great importance to women's needs and makes all necessary measures to get rid of and overcome constraints and problems facing them and affect their activities and limit their contribution to the development of their families and their communities.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study are to :

1. Determine socio - economic and some of personal characteristics of selected in the study area rural women.
2. Identify problems that faced the project as perceived by the beneficiaries.
3. Determine the relationship between degree of family sharing in decision making and socio-economic and personal characteristics.
4. Explore the extent of rural women's awareness of environmental problems.
5. Identify rural women's awareness of some social problems.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Age

Data in table 1 shows that about half of the sample (47.5%) are less than 35 years, 38.8% are between the age 35-45 years and 13.7% are over 45 years.

Table1. Age Groups

Age Group	Number	%
Less than 35 years	121	47.5
From 35-45 years	99	38.8
More than 45 years	35	13.7
Total	255	100

2. Marital Status :

Table 2 shows that 76% of the sample are married, 18.4% are single, 5.5% are widows and 9% are divorcees and support their families.

Table 2. *Marital Status*

Age Group	Number	%
Married	121	47.5
Single	99	38.8
Widows	35	13.7
Divorced	255	100
Total		

3. Educational Status :

Table 3 shows that 30.2% can read and write, 21.2% are illiterate and 48.6% are educated.

Table 3. *Educational Status*

Status	Number	%
Illiterate	54	21.2%
Read & Write	77	30.2
Educated	124	48.6
Total	255	100

4. Work Status :

Data in table 4 show that 58% of the rural women in the sample do not work or are outside the work market while 42% have a job and do work.

Table 4. *Work Status*

Status	Number	%
Work	107	42
Do not work	148	58
Total	255	100

Problems facing rural women before participating in a project :

The study shows that 58% of the sample were unemployed and 42% suffered from low income, 48.6% were worried about the future because they do not take part in the running of their homes. Women of the sample mentioned that after the project they have no problems. Table 5 summarizes these results:

Table 5. *Problems before the project*

Problems	Number	%
No Work	148	58
Low income	107	42
Worried about the future	124	48.6

Constraints facing rural women of access to productive activities:

The investigation showed that: 36.9% of the women mentioned that there were no adequate announcement of the project activities, 11% stated that they did not know how beneficiaries were chosen, 3.1% found complications in obtaining the documents needed, 18% found difficulty in obtaining collateral, 47.5% mentioned that the time from submitting application until the activity was obtained was too long, 2.7% thought that interest on deposits were questionable from the point of view of religion. While, the remaining 12.1% had no problems.

Table 6. *Problems in obtaining productive activities*

Problems	%
No problems	12
No enough announcement of activities	36.9
Did not know how beneficiaries were chosen	11.0
Complications in getting required papers	3.1
Difficulty in getting collateral	18.0
Period too long	47.5
Interests religiously questionable	2.7

Collaterals required for obtaining loans:

Table 7 shows that 79.2% of the women in the sample mentioned that there are difficulties in getting collateral of two government officials to get a loan, 9.4% thought that the 1. D.s of the wife and husband alone are sufficient to get a loan. 6.7% men-

tioned that land ownership and the personal I.D. suffice, only 4.7% stated that 2 government officials + personal I.D. are needed. These variations may be due to the subjective judgement of the person responsible for giving the loans.

Table 7. Collateral's required for obtaining loans

Collateral's	%
2 government officials + signing checks	79.2
Husband's I.D. + wife's I.D	9.4
Land ownership + I.D.	6.7
2 government officials + I.D.	4.7

Attending training courses and seminars :

Data in table 8 shows that 39.6% of the rural women attended family planning training courses. 29.4% attended illiteracy eradication courses. Courses in religion were attended by 22.7% while food industry courses were attracted by 18.8% of the women. 5.1% attended various awareness courses 0.8% attended courses in rabbit breeding. Courses in agricultural extension were attended by 1.2% while 8.6% did not attend any courses organized by the project.

Table 8. Attendance of training courses & seminars

Courses	%
Family planning	36.6
Illiteracy eradication	29.4
Religion	22.7
Food industries	18.8
Awareness seminars	5.1
Agriculture extension	1.2
Sewing	1.2
Rabbit breeding	0.8
Did not attend any courses	8.6

The productive projects in which rural women took part :

An attempt was made to identify the productive projects in which rural women studied took part to increase their income. Results given in table 9 show that: 25.5% of the women were engaged in goats and sheep raising, sewing 18.4%, poultry breeding 13.7%, live stock breeding 12.2%, grocer shop 10.2%, selling grain 7%, ready

made clothes 4.7%, selling vegetables 4.3%, small restaurants 2%, 1.2% nursery for ornamental plants, butcher's and poultry shop 0.4%, and straw products 0.4%.

These results show that rural women who were studied concentrate on development project in which they have experience and which are in accord with the available local resources.

Table 9. *Activities in which women took part*

Courses	%
Raising goats& sheep	25.5
Sewing	18.4
Poultry raising	13.7
Live stock breeding	12.2
Grocer's shop	10.2
Selling grains	7
Ready made clothes	4.7
Selling vegetables	4.3
Small restaurants	2
Nursery for ornamental plants	1.2
Butcher's shop	0.4
Straw products	0.4

Problems that faced women after running the productive activities:

Results shown in table 10 indicate that after the group of rural women studied started their productive activities some faced problems and others did not face any problem. The main problems mentioned were insufficient training affected the quality of the production and may even expose the activity to failure (15.7%). 7% stated that income from the small enterprise is very little while 5.5% complained from the difficulty of paying the installments. Marketing was considered the main problem by 13.7% of the studied rural women.

Table 10. *Problems facing rural women after receiving their productive activities*

Problem	%
No problems	63.5
Low skill & insufficient training	15.7
Marketing	13.7
Returns not rewarding	7.0
Difficulty in paying installment	5.5

How do rural women spend the income of their productive activities :

The data presented in table 11 show that 84.7% of the women improve the standard of their families, 24.7% enlarge their business, 16.5% think about starting another activity for one of their families members, while 1.1% buy gold and 8.2% save the money, 1.6% give the money to their husbands. This shows the economic independence is reflected on women's ability to take decisions in directing their income.

Table 11. *Aspects of spending income*

Aspect	%
Better standards of the families & lives	84.7
Enlarge their business	24.7
Start new project for a family member	16.5
Save their income	8.2
Give income to husband	1.6
Buy gold	1.1

Environmental awareness :

Results show that 51.8% collect garbage and burn it, 33% throw the garbage far away from their homes, 17.3% put garbage in the collecting carts and 2.7% bury garbage in the ground.

This shows that rural women still follow wrong practices in getting rid of the garbage. Extension work is needed to teach rural women the right ways to dispose of the garbage to protect the environment.

Table 12. How rural women dispose of their garbage

Method	%
Collect and burn	51.8
Throw away from home	33.0
Put in garbage bins	17.3
Bury in ground	2.7

Methods of getting rid of dead poultry etc

Table 13 shows that 53.3% throw them far away from their homes, 34.9% burn them, 13.3% bury them in ground and 1.2% put them in garbage bins.

Table 13. Methods of disposing of dead poultry

Method	%
Collect and burn	34.9
Throw away from home	53.3
Bury in ground	13.3
Put in garbage bins	1.2

What rural women do with empty pesticides containers?

Interviews showed that 77.3% of rural women throw empty pesticides containers away, while 22.7% wash them and use them. This is given in table 14.

Table 14. What rural women do with empty pesticides containers ?

Method	%
Throw away	77.3
Wash and use	22.7

How do rural women control insects?

Table 15 shows that 56.5% of rural women who were interviewed fix fine wire nets to windows to keep flies and mosquitoes from getting into the house, 42.5% use insecticides, 11% mentioned that keeping the house clean is the best way to control house insects.

Table 15. Methods of controlling house insects

Method	%
Put nets on windows	56.5
Use insecticides	42.5
Keeping the house clean	11.0

Methods of disposing washing water:

Rural women studied dispose of washing water in the following ways (table 16) 84.7% throw the water in streets, 3.1% throw it in canals and 12.2% have drainage systems in their homes.

Table 16. Methods of disposing of washing water

Method	%
Throw in street	84.7
Throw in canals	3.1
Use drainage system in their homes	12.2

What do rural women do with straw & dried cotton stems :

Results in table 17 show that 25.7% of the rural women store straw and dried cotton stems on the roofs of their houses, 68.7% have storage areas separated from the houses, 2% store them near the stove and 3.6% put them on the tops of the fields. These results indicate low environmental awareness and call for awareness programs.

Table 17. Methods of storing straw

Method	%
On roof tops	25
Separate storage areas	68.7
In house near stove	2.0
On top of field	3.6

Village problems as seen by rural women :

Results illustrated in table 18 demonstrate the most important problems of the village are roads and sanitary drainage as well as unemployment. 65.1% mentioned that there were no work opportunities, 46.7% talked about infra-structure. 32.5% mentioned insufficient services such as schools, clubs, post offices, family planning centers. Percentage of female illiteracy was 29.8%, 23.1% talked about the chances of getting loans and of their small amounts, lastly 5.1% mentioned pollution of streets and canals.

Table 18. *Village problems*

Courses	%
Unemployment	65.1
Deficiency in infrastructure	46.7
Deficiency in public services	32.5
Illiteracy particularly among females	29.8
Limited chances for loans	23.1
pollution of streets and canls	5.1

Causes of poverty:

Rural women were asked about the causes of poverty and low standard of living. Their answers are given in table 19 below. 85% thought that the tempted opportunity of work the main cause of poverty; Illiteracy was ranked second 72.5% followed by its effects on individuals, 69% the large number of family members, 60.4% thought that high prices were the cause, 38% stated that low health care was behind poverty, after this came small agriculture land and large consumption (18.8% and 12.5% respectively).

Table 19. *Causes of poverty*

Courses	%
Few work chances	85
Illiteracy	72.5
Large family	69
High prices	60.4
Low health care	38
Small agriculture land	18.8
High consumption	12.5

Projects preferred by rural women:

Table 20 shows rural women rank the most suitable projects according to their importance as follows: raising poultry and sheep 43.9%, agricultural industries and food processing 40.1%, learning to read and write 32.9%, hand craft 30.1%, learning the arts of buying and selling 26.7%, sewing, trico and needle work 26.7%, Finally, only 1.6% expressed their desire to learn computer language. It worth notice that 75% of

the rural women questioned said they have time to learn new skills.

Table 20. *Projects in which rural women expressed their desire to take part in*

Type of project	%
Poultry and sheep raising	43.9
Agricultural and food industries	40.1
Hondcraft	30.1
Learning to read & write	32.9
Sewing, trico & needle work	26.7
Learning to buy & sell	26.7
Learning computer	1.6

Projects that women wished they were present in the village :

When rural women were asked about the projects they wish to see in the village they answered that projects thae provide work for the youth came in the first place followed successively by centers for developing women's skills, projects that lead to larger and more loans, then poultry and sheep raising project, small factory for palm trees products, projects for recycling garbage and finally a market for the village to provide family needs. These results and percentages are given in table 21.

Table 21. *Projects rural women wished to see in the village*

Project	%
Work for the yputh	43.9
Centeres for developing women's skills	38.4
Larger and more loans	32.5
Poultry and sheep raising	27.0
Factory for palm trees products	25.1
Garbage recycling	14.5
Village market	9.4

Rural women and decision making:

Results given in table 22 show that the degree share with husbands wives in decisions about matters concerning the family.

Table 22. *Projects rural women wished to see in the village*

Project	Women's%		
	Always	Sometimes	Rarely
Selling & buying land	12.2	85.9	2
Crop to be planted	5.5	89.8	4.7
Quantity of crop to be sold	3.9	82.0	14.1
Girl's education	46.3	52.2	---
Boy's education	47.8	52.2	---
Girl's marriage	45.5	54.5	---
Boy's marriage	47.5	52.6	---
Buying children's needs	47.1	52.6	0.4
Alternation in house	38.8	60.0	1.2

Relationships between some personal characteristics and women's contribution in decision-making:

The present study showed that there was significant correlation at the 0.05 level between the degree of rural women in share decision making and the following variables: age, number of children, educational level of the children.

The relationship was significant at the 0.01 with educational level of the rural women.

Results given in table 23 indicate that as women advance in age and their educational level increase they become more able to make judgement and participate in decisions related to their families. Also, according to custom and tradition the presence of children gives the woman high value and makes her have a positive role in decision making particularly if the children are educated. The results also show that the work of the woman gives her experience and power and makes her more able to take right decisions not only for herself but also for her family.

By calculating the stepwise correlation for the variables that proved to have significant relationship with rural women sharing in decision making for family affairs, the results in table 24 show that four variables explain together variability in women's decision making.

These variables are : number of children (12%), level of family head (6%), level of respondent education (5%) and finally age of respondent contributes (2%). These four variables together account for 25% of the total variation in decision making.

Table 23. Correlation values of relationship between Decision making and some characteristics

Characteristics	Correlation coefficient
Age	0.1343*
Education level of woman	0.2971**
Work of children	0.1532*
Education level of head of family	0.0166
Education level of children	0.1713*

* Significant at 0.01 level

** Significant at 0.05 level

Table 24. Stepwise correlation between some variable and women's decision making

Characteristics				
Age	0.3538	0.1251	0.12	23.46*
Education level of woman	0.4283	0.1834	0.06	18.31*
Work of children	0.4804	0.2308	0.05	16.20*
Education level of head of family	0.5055	0.2556	0.02	13.82*
Education level of children				

* Significant at 0.01 level

DISCUSSION

The policy and Coordination unit for women in Agriculture at MOALR in Egypt has surveyed the activities of various projects in a number of Governorates (unpublished data 1998). This current study aimed to investigate the impact of one of these projects in Aswan Governorate on the socio-economic environmental status of rural women.

The results pointed out that this project offered the access to loans for appropriate activities and gave facilities to obtain these loans. In Egypt, up to few years ago farmer women lack access to bank loans or project facilities, now as it is documented in this study, and similar reports, women small holders have access to loans for small enterprises (FAO 1995, Kheder 1997 and El-Sanabary *et al* 1999). However Egypt still lacks a systematic economic analysis of the impact of projects on household welfare of micro-credit interventions of micro-enterprises (FAO 1997).

Data pointed out that rural women have control on poultry and sheep raising, and also women's participation in agricultural decision making is influenced by advanced age and higher level of education. These conclusions are in agreement with reports of FAO 1994 as it have been stated that rural women make decision on poultry and contribute to decisions on agriculture projects and vaccination of livestock.

The survey also indicated that very low attention was given to training and providing agricultural extension for female farmers. Several articles reefer to this gap (ILO 1992, Mansour 1994, and Fong, Monica *et al* 1996). The respondent confirms that environmental awareness is strongly needed and the same conclusion was also found from another study in a number of Governorates in Egypt (El-Shenawy 1998). For rural women preference in agricultural projects, it was noted that women's interests tend to ethnic and village lives, which are strongly tied to their interest in nutritional and agricultural activities that can be implemented in-home and near-home. The same tatement was concluded by the African Development Bank in 1995.

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تأثير المشروعات التنموية علي المرأة الريفية في محافظة أسوان

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إستهدفت الدراسة التعرف علي بعض الخصائص الشخصية للمبحوثات الريفيات اللآتي حصلن علي مشروعات إنتاجية والتعرف علي بعض المشكلات التي واجهت مشروعاتهن سواء قبل حصولهن علي هذه المشروعات الإنتاجية أو بعد ذلك ، وذلك من وجهة نظرهن. وكذلك التعرف أيضاً علي مدي مشاركة المبحوثات الريفيات في إتخاذ بعض القرارات الأسرية وعلاقة ذلك ببعض الخصائص الشخصية لهن، ومحاولة التعرف علي مدي وعي المبحوثات الريفيات تجاه بعض المشكلات البيئية وكذلك وعيهن ببعض المشكلات المجتمعية.

وتم جمع بيانات هذه الدراسة خلال الفترة من أكتوبر ١٩٩٨ حتي يناير ١٩٩٩ من ٢٥٥ مستفيدة من مشروعات إنتاجية وذلك كعينة عشوائية من ثلاث قري بمحافظة أسوان. وتم تصميم إستمارة إستبيان بالمقابلة الشخصية وعولجت البيانات كميأً وإستخدم لتحليلها إحصائياً معامل الارتباط البسيط، ونموذج التحليل الإرتباطي والإندجاري المتعدد المتدرج الصاعد، والمتوسط الحسابي، كما تم إستخدام العرض الجدولي بالتكرار والنسب المئوية لعرض بيانات هذه الدراسة.

وقد أسفرت النتائج علي أن:

أوضحت الدراسة أن المرأة الريفية في عينة الدراسة تواجه مشكلات عند الحصول علي أنشطة إنتاجية، وذكرت ٤٧,٥٪ منهن أن طول الفترة الزمنية بين تقديم الطلبات والحصول علي القرض الخاص بالمشروع، أما ٣٦,٩٪ منهن ذكرن أنه لا توجد إعلان كافي عن هذه الأنشطة الإنتاجية، وحوالي ١٨٪ منهن يعانين من صعوبة توفير الضمانات، ١١٪ منهن لم يعرفن كيف يتم إختيار المستفيدات - أما بعد تنفيذ المشروع فنسبة ٦٣,٥٪ من المستفيدات أوضحت أنه لا توجد لديهن مشاكل، ولكن ١٥,٧٪ منهن ذكرن أنهن يعانين من قلة التدريب وإنخفاض مهارتهن، أما ١٣,٧٪ منهن يعانين من مشكلات في التسويق - أما عن طريق إستخدام العائد من المشروعات الإنتاجية تبين أن ٨٤,٧٪ من المبحوثات ينفقن الدخل الناتج من المشروعات الإنتاجية علي تحسين نوعية الحياة عند أسرهن، أما ٢٤,٧٪ منهن يستخدموا العائد من المشروع في تكبير حجمة، وهناك ١٦,٥٪ منهن يبدأن مشروع جديد لأحد أفراد الأسرة.

ومن نتائج البحث أيضاً أوضحت المبحوثات عند سؤالهن عن أسباب الفقر أن قلة فرص العمل هي أولي أسباب الفقر وكانت نسبة الإستجابة ٨٥٪، أما ٧٢,٥٪ منهن أوضحت أن الأمية هي سبب رئيسي من أسباب الفقر، وأن ٦٩٪ منهن ذكرن أن حجم الأسرة الكبير هو السبب، يليها في الترتيب وبنسبة ٦٠,٤٪ ذكرن أن السبب إرتفاع أسعار السلع.