

THE ROLE OF SMALL INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES IN RURAL WOMEN EMPLOYMENT: FARMIHAN RURAL DISTRICT – TAFRESH SMALL PROVINCE, IRAN

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One of the most important rural issues is the employment of villagers. Women represent half the rural population, so they should not be neglected. They work inside and outside the house to improve the economic conditions of their own family and also to prevent them from migrating to other places. Establishing small industrial enterprises in the close proximity of villages is really helpful in reducing unemployment. Rural women have become independent financially by working in these small industrial units and therefore they can improve their families' economic conditions and prevent them from migrating to other places. As women's abilities and capabilities are flourishing is another advantage resulting from women employment in such small industrial units that will, in turn, lead to rural development. In this research, the role of small industrial enterprises in the employment of the women of Farmihan rural district has been studied. The analytical-descriptive (case-study) methodology is used in this essay and the analysis of questionnaires-based data by the test of independence made by Chi- Square Distribution (X²). Based on this analysis, the small industrial units are shown to have a great impact on rural women employment, which has the greatest impact on reducing the extent of immigration.

1. INTRODUCTION

Rural industries are important as economically productive elements. The ever-increasing growth of population in rural areas, the obvious difference in income and welfare level between rural and urban areas, as well as more and better occupation opportunities have resulted in greater emigration. Basically, the employment issues in rural societies are very complicated and different from those in cities. And when it comes to women, it is even more complicated as they are strongly influenced by the economic, social, cultural and ecological situations. Today, the development of industries in rural areas has been taken into consideration as a productive procedure to complement and support agriculture and rural employee income and a potent alternative for employing the surplus labour force of the agriculture sector. As a result, it seems that the development of the small industrial enterprises, especially when it comes to rural women, can be a way of using women's ability, particularly of the young and educated ones.

Having an important role in the family economy, rural women represent an important part of human resources in the village. Women are the symbol of endeavour, resistance, and power in the home and family. Moreover, they play a significant part in the process of development and wealth creation in the world. Rural women have a basic role in the stability of economic systems in developing countries. Beside doing the house hold chores, women have always been the basic element in maintaining the dynamics of the family economy and of all productive systems (Yaghoubi, 2010).

2. GEOGRAPHICAL RESEARCH AREA

This research was conducted Farmihan rural district located in the small Tafresh province. Farmihan is situated at 49 degree, 41 minutes longitude, and 34 degree, 30 minutes latitude and at is 1,800 m above sea level. This rural district is located at 45 km north of Arak. Today, Farmihan is

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divided into two zones, old and new, which give it the aspect of a rural town. The biggest Middle East spinning and weaving factory, KabirRis Tehran Industrial Park, was set up in Farmihan in 1877. Currently, the factory has 650 women employees from the surrounding towns and villages. All in all, 3,000 men and women work in its different sections.

3. RESEARCH GOALS

The industrialization of villages with emphasis on developing rural industries in order to offer occupation opportunities in rural societies and expand economic activities in this region is very important for the economic and social development of villages. Higher incomes and occupation opportunities, is one of the factors maintaining the village population in place. And women's employment has a remarkable effect on it. So, the goals of the research are the following:

The general goal of this study is to get familiar with the role of small industrial enterprises in rural women's employment.

Subsidiary goals:

1. Identifying rural women's role in the family economy after being employed in small industrial units;
2. Assessing the effect of rural women's employment in small industrial units on improving the economic conditions of their families;
3. Examining the impact of rural women's employment on emigration and on maintaining the rural population in place;
4. Evaluate rural women's employment when the small industrial enterprises were established;
5. Identifying the role of small industrial enterprises in stimulating rural women's talent and creativity.

The importance of research. Women represent fifty percent of the society and play a noticeable role in today's societies. Rural women have been neglected in spite of their exceptional co-operation in economic development. They participate in various productive activities in the Third World. Their indoor activities are mostly productive and have a significant impact on increasing the rural families' income. Besides, worth considering the role of employed women also in agricultural activities, animal husbandry, etc. (Emamifar Z., 2009).

Hypothesis

1. There is a meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and in improving the economic conditions of their families.
2. There is a meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small industrial units and the fall in emigration.
3. There is a meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and the possibility for their talent and capabilities to flourishing.

4. METHODOLOGY

Choosing the research method has a close connection with the aim and nature of the subject and its practical applicability. The method can be determined just when its nature, field, and goals are specified (Asayesh, Hosein. 2010). The analytical-descriptive (case-study) method has been applied in this research, which deals with the impact of small industrial enterprises on rural women's

employment. In analytical-descriptive researches, the researcher proceeds with the description and clarification of the rationale and aspects of the issue in addition to illustrating the current situation (Asayesh, Hosein. 2010). Statistically speaking, rural women from Farmihan's society, considering the number of employed women – 650 – which by Cochran formula, the requires minimum sample volume is of 60 (see calculation below).

The statistical method used in this research is the independent test of characteristic features using Chi- Square distribution. Brief description of the method:

H0: Characteristic features are independent.

H1: Characteristic are not independent.

$$A=0/05$$

$$\chi^2 = \sum^s \sum^t \frac{(m_{ij} - m'_{ij})^2}{m'_{ij}}$$

$$W(\chi^2)_{1-\alpha} - \chi^2_{(s-1)(t-1)}$$

5. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

According to the definite variables, 4 questions were raised in the questionnaire about the meaningful relation between employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families.

THE FIRST HYPOTHESIS

1) H0: There is not a meaningful relation between the employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families.

2) H1: There is a meaningful relation between the employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families.

The H0 promise will fail and the other one will be accepted because the test criterion is in a critical interval. It means that there is a meaningful relation between the employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families.

THE SECOND HYPOTHESIS

According to the definite variables, 4 questions were raised in the questionnaire about the meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small industrial units and a fall in emigration rate.

1) H0: There is not a meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small industrial units and a fall in emigration rate.

2) H1: There is a meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small industrial units and a fall in emigration rate.

THE THIRD HYPOTHESIS

H0: There is not a meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and having their talent and capabilities flourish.

H1: There is a meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and having their talent and capabilities flourishing.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND CALCULATION OF CHO PROP CORRELATION COEFFICIENT

The tests and calculation of Cho prop correlation coefficient have indicated that the relation between employing rural women in small industrial enterprises and a fall in emigration rate is a top

priority. Improving the families' economic conditions and having women's talent and capabilities flourish comes second and third, respectively. Rural women's share in rural industries is no less than their share in the agricultural sector. Iranian rural women were involved in developing rural industries. They have combined art and industry for a long time now in produce great masterpieces. They usually help their families economically because men cannot meet all the expenses. Sometimes rural women earn even more than their husbands do. Considering the failure of the agriculture sector to employ surplus labour, women's participation in rural industries prevents the family to hire labour.

Table 1

Hypothesis Testing Results

No	Hypothesis	Test criterion	X2	Choprop Correlation Coefficient	Result
1	1) H0: There is no meaningful relation between the employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families. 2) H1: There is a meaningful relation between the employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families.	27/82	12/6	0/94	There is a meaningful relation between the employment of rural women in small industrial units and the improvement of the economic conditions of their families. It is the second important factor.
2	1) H0: There is no meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small factories and a fall in immigration rate. 2) H1: There is a meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small industrial units and a fall in emigration rate.	46/47	16/9	0/96	There is a meaningful relation between rural women's employment in small industrial units and a fall in emigration rate. It is the third important factor.
3	H0: There is no meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and having their talent and capabilities flourish. H1: There is a meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and having their talent and capabilities flourish.	28/6	16/9	0/77	There is a meaningful relation between employing rural women in small industrial units and having their talent and capabilities flourish. It is the most important factor.

6. CONCLUSION

In today's world, the fast growth of industries in quality and quantity requires the organization of industries in different aspects. For various kinds of industrial planning, industry location and concentration of the productive system in a proper place is the most important element.

Women, fifty percent of society, play a remarkable role in the social, cultural, economic, and scientific development of the country; consequently, investing in rural women and having them co-operate in developing the country can be considered as one of the basic elements guaranteeing achievement. By creating many job opportunities, the mentioned industrial park has great impact on the fall of emigration. Not establishing the small industrial enterprises in the proximity of villages will cause problems such as unemployment and suburbanization.

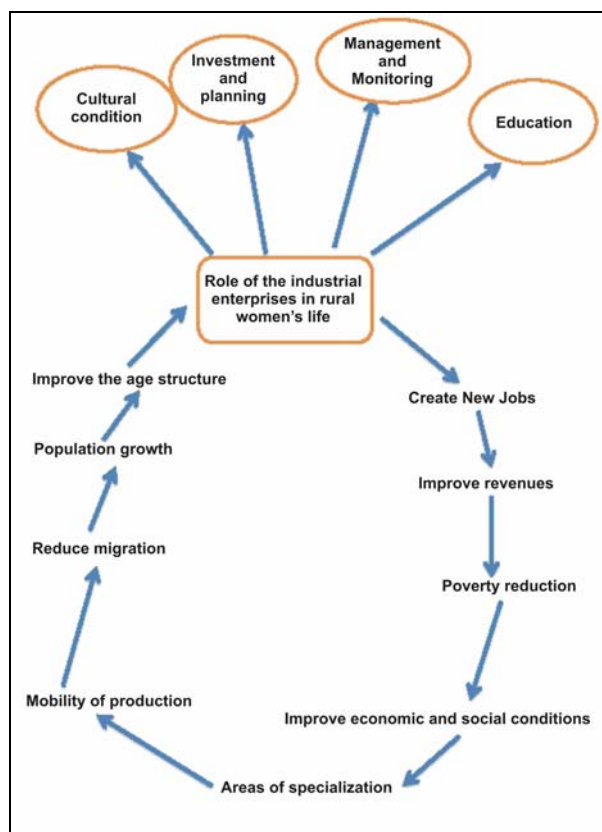


Fig. 1 – The researcher's proposed model.

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