The economic role of working women in

Rural Industries

The rural woman is considered a great labour power in Egypt. Rural women constituted 27.7% of the total population of Egypt in 1978. They take part in all espects of rural life. Rural women play an important role in farm and non-farm production, Rural small scale industries are most important fields where the rural women play a notable part, as such industries are based on raw materials mostly found locally, They need only simple captial tools and low skill requirements. These industries are also compatible with the rural values habits, Customs and desires of the rural women, these industries spring fro them and their circumstances, and from their economic and social needs. The rural industries have been there for a long time contributing to the process of economic development. The rural industries employ a great size of rural labour. This alleviate unemployment and migration of those seeking better incomes in crowded cities. Migration causes increase in

demand on consumer goods in cities and scarsity of agriculture labour in rural area. The rural industries are suitable for Egypt in the present time as they utilize the cheep local resources in production that satisfyes the local needs. In addition they contribute to the decentralization in production and the increase of the value of the rural and agricultural resources, work in small scale industries helps women to spend their leisure time in a production work that increases the income of rural families. The rural industries have a pasitive rale in facing the steadily increase of population in rural areas as they satisfy the demand for rural goods, their work in these industries and increases their feelings in the positive participation in life. This research analizes the economic value of the investment of rural women effort in these industries.

This research aims at the studying of the following:-

1. Identifying the kinds of production of women in the rural industries.

2. Figure out the ability of the rural women in work production in the rural industries.

3. Estimation of income generated in the productive processes in these industries.

4. Figuring the number of working hours in these industries.

5. Studying the convenience of these industries to the country woman.

6. Investigation of the importance of production in satisfying the need of consumption.

7. The problems of production and marketing the products of the rural industries and figure out the rural women point of few in future of those industries.

8. The study of some social and economic factors which infleunce the economic role of women in rural industries.

The research has depended on the following procedu

The selection of the area of the research on basis of

presence and variety of small scale rural industries

for women labour. Kerdasa in Giza governorate and Emi

Village in Kalubia Governorate were chosen for this r

search. The choice was made after several exploration

visit and the inquaring of (officials) in the two gove

norates.

A random sample of women and girls above 15 years

old the working in small rural industries was drawn fc

research. The number of women and girls is not less

than 6 in every industry.

The most important rural industries for women

were:-

Sewing, Embriodery, sweint on the heads on scarv

the tricot and local clothes, shawls, palm

leaves products, palm-leaf stalk products, palm fibre

products and Dairy Products.

The size of the research sample was 78 working wo-
men in Kerdasa and 37 women in Emiay village, so the
total number amounts to 115 working woman. This re-
search estimates the economic value of women labour in
rural industree whenever she gets the oppartunity to
work and Participate in production and where the deman
for her production is abundant.

The discriptive and statistical methods were used
in the analysis of this research. Measure of the Pro-
ductive efficiency for the labourer woman, and product
vity of the investements in these industries. Some
functional relationships between economic variables we
also measured.

The most important results of the research are:-
I :

The most important social characteristes of wome
labourers in the rural industries in the research sam
were:-

1. 68% of the labourers were in the age from 21 - 4
    years.

2. 61% of the labourers were illiterate.

3. About 66% were married, 21% were widows or

    divorced and 13 not married yet.

II:

The most important aspects of labour training,

working place, hours of work and income or wages were

as follows:-

1. It was found that the primary source of learning

    the know-how of industry in the rural area is

    learning from parents. This source constitutes

    42% of industry learning. Other sources of lear

    ning are relatives and neighbours.

2. Most of these indsutries are based on manual

    work, 73% of them are based on simple imple-

    ments such as the needle and thread, and some

    sharp-edged tools. About 27% of workers use

    semi-automatic tools such as sewing machines.

3. It has been found from this research that the

    working-hours in these industries are between

    20.7 - 38 hours weekly. Sewing requires more

hours than other industries, embroidery took up
20.7 working hours, as it depends on good sight
and light.

4. 86% of the rural industries of the research
    sample was carried on in the house, which in-
    dicates the importance of the home as working
    place. This is convenient to the working-woman,
    who has several other responsibilities as a
    wife and mother, and it insures industry-stabil-
    ity.

5. Average training period for rural industres was
    found to be less than a month. This was true fo:
    all industries, with the exception of sewing,
    which required more than 6 months of training.

6. It has been found in this research that about
    61% of labour women receive the returns on pro-
    duction weekly, and in cash, as, for example in
    the case of dairy products, the hat and scarf
    industry and the palm tree produce industry.
    The remaining 39% of labour-women receive their
    income on an irregular basis.

7. Ninety per cent of labour women in rural industry agree that the prospects for industry is good, because of its encouraging returns that has improved their standard of living. They encourage their daughters to take up this line.

III :

The most important Economic Factors Associated with Capital:-

1. 67% of labour-women obtain the inputs of production from local sources, while the rest have different other sources. 80% of women workers own the tools for work. The rest are either hired or get the tools from their employers.

2. Most labour women obtain raw materials and sometimes a part of the price in advance from the employer or the consumer.

3. 91% of the working women do not buy on credit, they buy on cash basis.

4. The production and the productive process contir in these industries all the year round except f(the dairy products industry which is seasonal.

5. 28% of the research sample complaned from lack of

the raw materials necessities of production as

fodder or electkc power failure.

IV :

Rural industries were classified in this research

into three groups:-

For economic   analysis.   .

The first group which includes sewing, Emb ro ider

Scarves, Local clothes, finishing Tricot, Loom product

industry and making shawls.

1. Sewing industry:

The average of the weekly production is

estimated at 25 pieces.

The price of the piece sewing varied from

LE. 0.50 to L.E. 10.

2. Embroidery:

The weekly production is estimated at 22

pieces. The minimum prices per piece varied

from L.E. 0.75 to L.E. 30.

3. The finishing of the clothes tricot and local

   clothes: the average of the production is es- .

   timated 40 pieces.

   The net rarurns per piece ranged from

   L.E.0.5 to L.E. 1.5.

4. Loom products industry produce 6 shawels weekly

   price per piece Was L.E.1.20.

   The second groub:

   Palm trees products industry (Palm leaves

   Stalk-Palm leaves - fibres) are done for all the

   members of the family in a collective nature.

1. Palm leaves products: The/weekly production is

   estimated 15 pieces. The products of the Bundle (

   the palm leaves that weights from 1-1.5 kilogram:

   is sald for ten piasteres.

2. Palm leaves stalk products: the weekly productioi

   average is 26 baskels and the production is

   diverse.

3. Palm fibres products: this industry is rough wom

   work in it with their hasbands or fathers and th

   production is varied and diversified.

The third group:

The Dairy products industry (Butter and Chees

The average family weekly production amounts to

5.19 kilogram of Butter and 5.54 kilogram of

cheese.

Costs and marketing:-

Costs and inputes of production were generall ver.

low.

The first group:-

1. Sewing: the weekly total costs are estimated at

L.E. 2.75.

2. The land Embroidery: the warking/in this industry

obtain all her input resources from the consumers

or middlemen.

3. Scarves and sewing on the beads: Ascarf costs 45

Piastres while cost of heads for a dress costs

60 Piastres.

4. The Tricot and Local clothes: the employer pays

all the costs.

5. Shawls industry: the price of the thread Budle

which weight ½ Killo gram is L.E. 2.00 to L.E.

2.50.

The Second group:

1. Palm - Leaves stalks products: the average weekly costs amounts L.E. 2.2. The price of the bundle of the Palm-Leaf stalk is 10 Piastres which weigh 1-1.5 Kilo gram.

2. Palm-Leaves products: the weekly costs of the pal leaves is L.E. 6.08.

3. Palm fibres products: the average of the bundle of the fibreis L.E. 7 according to the size. The average weekly cost is about L.E. 5.6

The third group:

Dairy products industry (Butter-cheese)

The average weekly costs of dairy animals Per Family L.E. 11.27.

The marketing of the rural industries Production:-

1. Most of the rural industries production is marketed locally. Some products are marketed on the level of the Republic. A small part of them is exported as in the embroidred clothes.

2. Markting is carried out all the year round except

Dairy products industry which is less in summer.

3. The marketing is carried on their own account the

account of the merchant or the cons umer.

V :

The net returns of the rural industries. The fir

group of industries:-

1. Sewing: the average weekly returns is L.E. 47.64.

2. Embroidery: the net returnes is L.E. 16.5 weekly.

3. Scarves and sewing on the beads: the average net

returns were L.E. 20 weekly.

4. The tricot and local clothes: the average of the

weekly net returns is L.E. 26 net returns.

5. Shawals: the average of the weekly returns is

L.E. 21.8.

The group of the second industries:

1. Palm-leaves products: the average of the weekly

returns is L.E. 18.6.

2. Palm-Leaf stalk products: the average of the

weekly returns was L.E. 20.56.

3. Palm fibres products: the average of returns is

    L.E. 29.4.

    The third group of industries:

    Dairy products: the average of the returns in the

    seasons of production is L.E. 10.64 weekly.

    Some others indicators are defined

1. 93% of the working women spend part of their in-

    come on food, clothing, education and house hold

    appliances.

2. Most working women find that the financial posi-

    tion of the family is positively affected

    by their income.

3. 61% of labourers claim that they do not save par

    of their income While 39% State that they do sa'

    from the returns of their products in different

    ways. Such as:storing the money in the house or

    buying gold, buying durable commodities, invest-

    ing in breeding domestic animals and birds, or i

    buying a refrigerator to Sell Cold drinks.

4.   56% of the rural families consumed some of their

industry-products to a limited degree, 28% do not

consume any their products at all, and 16% consume

the products to a great extent, as in the case of

dairy products.Hence the importance of the econo-

mic role of labour women in rural industries is

clear.They contributes to increasing the family

income and raising the economical and living

standard of the country families. They help in

realising the success of the plans and programmes

of social and economic development.

THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF WORKING

WOMEN IN RURAL INDUSTRIES

BY

FERIAL MAHMOUD KHALIL EL BANNA

B.Sc., (Agriculture (General),High Institute of

Agriculture Moshtohor

1966

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the

Requirements for the DegreeOf Master Of Science in

Agricultural Economics, Departement of Agriculture

Moshtohor, Zagazig University - Banha Branch

1985

Approved By:

1. Dr. MOHAMED YOUSEF EL SARKI, Professor of Economics

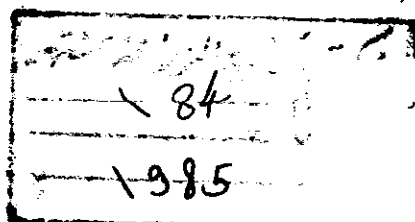   Faculty of Business Assut University

2. Dr. ABDEL MAWLA MOHMED BESHIER, Director

   of Agricultural Economics and Production

   Ministry of Agriculture

   A..M. Basheer...

3. Dr. MAHMAUD MAHMAUD BADR, Professor and Head

   of Department of Agricultural Economics,

   Faculty of Agriculture, Zagazig University,

   Banha Branch . (Advisor)

   Date 31/ 10/ 1985