

# The Investigation of the Effect Women Employment on Rural Household Economic Decisions (A Case Study in Hendimini Rural District)

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## Abstract

The current study has been conducted with the aim of viewing the impact of out of house rural women employment on rural household economic. In this experimental done research, two group of women; employed ones as the experimental and the unemployed ones as the control group in a limited era were investigated to identify the influence of employment on the amount of participation and their own decision making power in rural household economics issues. In the present study 95 percent of the household women (employed or unemployed) participated in which 25 percent of the women were employed and the rest were unemployed. The results of the study reveal that there is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in meeting the needs of household as well as in the field of rural household enterprise method, but there is no meaningful relationship between employment and marketing of rural household production. Also, the comparative studies of the hypothesis related to the employed and unemployed women and their own power of decision making in meeting rural basic needs, marketing and enterprise there was no significant difference between employed and un employed women.

**Key words:** women employment, economic decision, employed women, unemployed women, rural household.

## I. Introduction

The role of employment in human life dynamism is undeniable and it can be regarded as human social and communication focus. With regard to this dynamic phenomenon, women as half of the population have undoubtedly a direct influence on society development (Sedighi, 1381: 30; Aghajani et al, 1387:112).

In a society which the participation of women in economic activities is higher, social welfare will be higher, too (Taghizadeh, 1381: 169). Presently, women in our country are among the trained with high university degrees (Hashemi, 1390: 376). A large number of women have decided to work willingly to get to a personal achievement (Giddens, 1388: 563). Though in our society which the responsible is on men shoulder, the role of women employing is low, but women are active in agriculture, industry and service parts. It should be mentioned that in rural areas the agriculture development would be impossible without women activity and participation (Azizi et al, 1389).

***A. Statement of the problem:***

Without women consideration achieving to the real development won't be simple and realistic and equality in participation in a patriarchal society will not be reachable easily, therefore; more participation of women in society is a need (Mahdavian, 1387: 271). The important role of women in development and growth of programs are among the issues which have been the focus of concern for many industrial countries researchers (Amini et al, 1379: 71).

To notice the importance of power in participation, some consider the participation without power among the characteristics of the low income classes while the participation with power or without it, is considered as the characteristic of the rich class (Kupperm, 1989: 612).

According to Vernaldkaim, the nature of participation depends on power system (Colin, 1986: 60). Today, in Iran with women educational increase and employment situation shift, the women household participation has changed remarkably. So, one of the effective remedies which provides appropriate bed for personality growth and causes active participation in household economic development is participating women in household economic decisions (Qafari et al, 1386: 67).

***B. The significance of the research:***

Women employment issue is considered as an important factor in countries development evaluation, a factor which shows the country development regarding human resources (kiani, 1387: 9). The studies in Iran have shown that women in rural areas have a key role in production, particularly in social and economic production (Rusta et al, 1389: 83).). If women are disregarded in household decisions, the family system will be in permanent danger, as a result, employed women will be less effective in working conditions and this issue is itself a witness on the importance of taking this issue into consideration. Therefore, in the current study, the official employment role of rural women in household economic decisions in selected villages in Hendimini rural district in Darrehshahr city in Ilam province and their comparison with unemployed women and their participation in their own household economic decisions will be dealt with.

***C. Research purposes:***

1. The investigation of rural women employment out of house and its effect in rural household economic decision.
2. The study and evaluation of rural employed women decision making in family economic affairs.
3. Recognition of the women employment relationship with their own decision making power in buying family basic needs.
4. The investigation of women employment relationship with their own decision making power in family enterprise.

***D. Research hypotheses:***

1. There is a meaningful relationship between rural women employment and family economic decisions.

2. There is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their own decision making power in meeting family basic needs.
3. There is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in the field of family enterprise.
4. There is a meaningful relationship between produced production marketing point of view of the family and women employment and their decision making power.

***E. Research variables:***

1. Independent variable: The role of women employment which involves two independent and separate employed and unemployed women.
2. Dependent variable: Includes rural household economic which is based on agricultural activities, animal husbandry, gardening, handicrafts, production sale etc.

***F. Definition of terms and concepts:***

Employed and unemployed women: In this study employed women encompass those who are employed in one of the private or state organizations and unemployed women consist of those who work with their husbands but have no independent activity and in fact are regarded as the unemployed women.

Women participation in family decisions: This is related to the role and intervention of women in all family decision making processes (Kiani, 1387: 7).

Household: A household is consisted almost of many individuals who live together, and spend together and usually eat together (Iran Census Center, 1385).

Rural household economic: This involves all the activities which are done in rural environment in agriculture or nonagricultural parts with the purpose of providing livelihood of the household. Put another way, rural economic includes agricultural or industrial activities (Rusta et al, 1389: 97).

***G. Literature review:***

It should be noted that numerous studies have been done with regard to women employment which are as follows:

1. According to Englehart, official educational variables, economic-social position, information and technical level, job experiences, organizational networks, gender differences reduction have affected women participation increase (Kiani, 1387: 6).
2. Gleit in his studies came to the conclusion that those women with high decision making power in household have benefited from medical biology services more during pregnancy period (Gleit et al, 2003: 2447-2463).
3. Also, the result of an investigation in China show that among the five husband participation variables in house work, children health and hygiene, economic decisions, women traveling and their independence, women had only the decision power in household and children health care (Li, 2004: 695-708).

1. Studies on decision making in family life by Edgell show that the men are more authorized and powerful about family economic resources (Edgell, 1980: 36).

2. The studies done by Zahed Zahedani et al showed that in families which women are employed, decision making is almost done by both man and women cooperatively (Zahedani et al, 1371: 45).

**H. Research theoretical framework:**

Weber believes that class position is due to marketing position, i.e., the groups which are equal in marketing business are in the same status will constitute a unit class. In this theory, it is supposed that since men in marketing works follow businesses and compete to each other it is a man like class rather a woman like one and women have no position in it (Abot et al, 1380: 17-18). From point of view, the kind and the efficiency of participation have been clarified and shown in table 1(Qafari et al, 1386: 24).

**Table 1:** Whiteclassifycontributionofview

Working	Interests of participants	Interest of authorities	Type of partnership
Dramatic	Check- in engagement process	Legitimizing	Nominal
Tool	Obtain financial gain	Increase efficiency and reduce costs	Tool
Existence	Influence	stability	Dramatic
Tool-the ultimate	Empowerment	Empowerment	evolutionary

Economists know the women working base as economical motivation and have emphasized women employment in family and society (Sadeghi et al, 1383: 10).

According to theoretical base and experimental studies, the presence of women in marketing work, viewing environmental, economic, social, cultural and political conditions of each country depends on various factors as follows: income distribution and family expense, unemployment rate, government policies, the number of children in a family and the amount of fecundity, family environmental conditions and social-cultural and knowledge factors.

**II. Methods**

This is an experimental study in which two groups of employed women (experimental group) and unemployed women (control group) have been investigated. Data collection procedure has been done via library and free methods which have been done via questionnaire with contents verified by scientists and validated by Kronbach Alfa. The independent test has been conducted by K2 distribution. The comparison of the averages in independent society was done via t-test.

**A. Statistical population:**

The population and subjects in this study include two groups of employed an unemployed women in Darrehshahr city Hendimini rural districts 967 families live in 19 villages in this rural district.

### III. Results and Analysis

In the current study totally 95 subjects participated in which 24 were employed women and 71 subjects were unemployed women. The largest number was 7 employed women from Zarangoosh village and the largest number of unemployed women were also from the same village (33 subjects). As well, the least number of employed women from Ahangaran village and unemployed women from Zeid village were 3 and 4 respectively.

#### *A. Employed women test:*

##### *First hypothesis:*

$H_0$ = There is no meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in providing household basic needs.

$H_1$ = There is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in providing household basic needs.

Since the numerical amount of test is in critical area, we suppose  $H_0$  as the acceptable hypothesis unless its contrary is proved (Table 2).

##### *Second hypothesis:*

$H_0$ = There is no meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in household enterprise (capital).

$H_1$ = There is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in household enterprise (capital).

Since the amount of numerical factor of the test is in critical area,  $H_0$  is rejected and the opposite hypothesis is accepted. Put another way, there is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in the household enterprise area (see table 2).

##### *Third hypothesis:*

$H_0$ = There is no meaningful relationship in the way of products marketing between women employment and their decision making power.

$H_1$ = There is a meaningful relationship in the way of products marketing between women employment and their decision making power.

Since the numerical amount of test is not in critical area we suppose  $H_0$  as the accepted one till its contrary is not proved. In other words, there is no meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in the way of household productive production marketing (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Results of testing employed women's hypothesis

Hypotheses	Numerical amount of test criterion	X <sup>2</sup>	Rejecting or Accepting
1	3.66248	9.4888	There is a meaningful relationship (accepted)
2	28.87284	7.815	There is a meaningful relationship (accepted)
3	11.88851	12.592	There is no meaningful relationship (rejected)

***B. The comparison test of employed and unemployed women:***

***First hypothesis:***

$H_0 = \mu_1 = \mu_2$  = Decision makingpower for meeting and providing household basic needs for employed and unemployed women is not equal.

$H_1 = \mu_1 > \mu_2$  =Decision makingpower for meeting and providing household basic needs for employed and unemployed women is the same and equal.

Since the numerical value of the test factor is not in critical area, we accept  $H_0$  as the acceptable one unless its contrary proved to be right. That is, there is no meaningful relationship in providing the household basic needs between women employment and their decision making power (Table 3).

***Second hypothesis:***

$H_0 = \mu_1 = \mu_2$  = There is no meaningful relationship in the way of household enterprise between employed and unemployed women.

$H_1 = \mu_1 > \mu_2$  =household enterprise method of employment women is higher than those of unemployed ones.

Since the numerical value of test factor is not in critical area we suppose  $H_0$  as the acceptable one unless its contrary proves to be wrong. That is, in the way of household enterprise, there is no meaningful relationship between employed and unemployed women (Table 3).

***Third hypothesis:***

$H_0 = \mu_1 = \mu_2$  =in productive production marketing method there is no difference between employed and unemployed women.

$H_1 = \mu_1 > \mu_2$  =in productive production marketing method there is difference between employed and unemployed women.

Since the numerical value of test factor is not in critical area, we accept  $H_0$  as the acceptable one unless its contrary is not proved. That is, there is no difference between employed and unemployed women in productive production marketing method (Table 3).

**Table 3:** Results of testing hypothesis and comparison of employed & unemployed women

Hypotheses	Numerical amount of test criterion	$\chi^2$	Rejecting or Accepting
1	- 0/00516	1.721	There is no difference (reject)
2	-0/59503	1.721	There is no difference (reject)
3	0/00601	1.721	There is no difference (reject)

#### IV. Conclusions

The current study has been conducted in Hendimini rural district located in the west part of Ilam province in the pathway road from Ilam to Darreshahr city. The basic purpose behind the research is investigation of women employment out of house and its effect on rural household economic decisions. The results of the hypotheses reveal that there is a meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in providing household essential needs and the manner of household enterprise. That is, the decision making power of women goes up in household expense provision, house tools buying, food material, etc affairs, but there is no meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision making power in the fields produce production materials. Therefore, in agricultural fields, the sale of capitalized materials in household and in handicrafts industries marketing has no decisive and determined role in decisions. Also, the hypotheses comparison of results between employed and unemployed women show that there is no meaningful relationship between women employment and their decision power in providing household basic need and enterprise manner and household produced production. There we come to the conclusion that in the under study rural district the unemployed women play as equal as those employed women a crucial role in the field of various household economic decisions. And the decision making is not much affected by being employed or not which show Hendimini social-economic development.

##### A. Suggestions:

- Providing a proper cultural, social and economic environment for the presence of women;
- Generating household cooperation's;
- Increasing knowledge awareness of women with regard to their own status in society and family;
- Training rural girls and women for the aim of increasing their information level and self-belief for the purpose of cooperation increase in various social and economic eras and holding local and national exhibitions;

- Scrutinizing the exact evaluation of the kind of rural women economic corporation in all parts of Iran with various custom and evaluating the economic, social, cultural, and political barriers for women self-reliance;
- The evaluation of rural women awareness especially with regard to their own legal right and its effect on household economic corporations;
- Viewing the statistical sample study which are almost academic ones, the government should think of employing these individual in the field appropriate with their educational level in rural areas;
- Loan facilitation by government;
- Not getting tax from technician and those job creators from private sectors in rural areas for the purpose of motivating them for more activities.

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