

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MALE AND FEMALE WORK IN MEWAT DISTRICT OF HARYANA

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### ABSTRACT

*Women, bear the burden of unpaid work in their homes and the community at large much more than men, but still no change in this situation even when women are in full- employment. Women do lots of work for children and relatives as well as assist children with homework. They are still expected to look after their families after a full day of work. This study attempted to understand the source of livelihood of the family, type of work mostly done by men and women, the time use of women, the income generating activities that they are busy in, the perception about the income generated from their work and earning and their interest in training and earning more for a better life. Additionally, shows the impact of SHGs and NGOs in the area.*

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**Keywords:** Agriculture, Women, Livelihood.

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### Introduction

Jobs in government and private offices are the main sources of livelihood but Agriculture is the mainstay in mewat and animal husbandry seems to be the secondary source as only 1.3 per cent mentioned it as their main source of livelihood. Both men and women are mainly engaged in agriculture. They also look after the livestock or dairy farm in their house. While a few men work as unskilled labour and drivers, women also keep themselves busy with food processing and handicraft or stitching. More than 75 per cent reported that they are not satisfied with the current income and identified avenues of added income. They also mentioned that for enhancing their income, they need training and have to have job opportunities in their vicinity. The time use pattern of women highlighted that while they are busy for the entire day in both household chores and income generating activities, their contribution is not seen as 'income generating'. Those, who work in salaried jobs (health workers), however, said that their money is majorly used up in household expenses. The working status of women does not necessarily enhance the status of women in the household. The society still does not appreciate or approve of women working with men for generating income.

The job identified by the respondents that suits women (wife, daughter, sister and self) was stereotypical. The women themselves could not dream anything better than 'stitching' as an occupation for themselves. Only one fourth of the respondents reported knowing about NGOs/SHGs working in their vicinity. Among them, only one fourth named the Sehgal Foundation.

### Objective of the Study

- To study the role of women and men workers in agriculture sector.
- To study the impact of SHGs/NGOs in Mewat

### Research Methodology

Data is collected from secondary and primary sources. First and Second objective is based on the secondary data collected from various Census reports, Analytical of Haryana, article papers and various journals.

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### Review of Literature

There are many studies in India and abroad on workers in agricultural sector and problems faced by them. The review of literature aims to show the need for the study economics empowerment of agricultural women workers.

**Dr. Roshan Lal and Dr. Ashok Khurana (2011)** conducted a study on gender issues: the role of women in agriculture sector. Paper was based on secondary data collected from research papers, articles and government published documents. Hurdle faced by women in agricultural sector was main objectives of the paper. Paper revealed that agri. sector created many jobs for women workers. Women performed activities like grass cutting, separation of seeds from fibre, weeding etc. paper point out obstacles in women growth in agri. sector like unknown to their legal rights, wage discrimination. Women had no decision-making power related to agriculture task. This paper suggested that women must have the right of participation in decision making process.

**Khema Sharma (2012)** conducted a study on role of women in informal sector in India. This study was based on secondary data collected by NSSO for 2004-2005, 2009-2010 and research papers. The objective of study was to investigate the role of informal sector in income and focus on the role of women in agriculture and non-agriculture in informal sector. The study shows that 94 per cent of the total women workers worked in the informal sector in India. They have faced many problems like gender discrimination, low wages etc. their contribution in terms of income generation was less than male workers. This study suggested that women worker need economical and political support from government. New government measures are needed to the development of unorganized sector.

**MunMun Ghosh\*** in his research paper highlights the trend of female participation in agriculture across various Indian states. He has used secondary data collated for the research to study the growth trend of the agricultural worker from 1961-2001. Analysis is done by categorizing the data based on the states and on their identical behaviour of participation in agriculture. Measurements like coefficient of variation, compound growth rate and work participation rate have been used in the article to prove the trends.

### Role of Men and Women in Agriculture and Allied

We know that jobs in government and private offices are the main sources of livelihood. While 40 percent in Firozpur Jhirkha mentioned agriculture as their mainstay, animal husbandry seems to be the secondary source as only 1.3 per cent mentioned it as their main source of livelihood<sup>1</sup>. The study probed about the type of work that men mostly do in their community. Majority said that the men are mainly engaged in agriculture and work as unskilled labour. About 59 per cent reported that men also look after the dairy farm. Young men working as drivers were also found in Mewat. This is supported by the data. Around 9 per cent reported that men are also engaged in MNREGA work that takes place in their locality.

Women majorly work in the agriculture field, and look after the animal husbandry or dairy farm in their house. Around 11 per cent reported that women are engaged in food processing and handicraft or stitching. A few also reported that women are engaged in MNREGA and domestic work.

**Table 1: Work of Men**

N=900	FJ	NAGINA	NUH	Total
Agriculture	96.8	93.8	86.1	91.4
Unskilled labour	54.3	80.4	75.3	70.1
Animal husbandry/dairy	83.9	58.3	40.5	58.8
Driver	27.5	23.3	8.4	18.3
Stitching	1.4	13.3	19.2	12.1
Employed in MNREGA	0.4	20.0	8.9	9.2
Private service	7.5		3.7	3.9
Govt. Service	3.2	0.8	4.2	3.0
Shop owner	5.0	0.8	1.8	2.6
Mason	0.7		2.1	1.1
Domestic help		0.4	1.3	0.7
Carpenter	0.7	0.8		0.4
Vehicle mechanic	0.7		0.3	0.3
Poultry farm		0.8		0.2
Break kiln		0.4	0.3	0.2

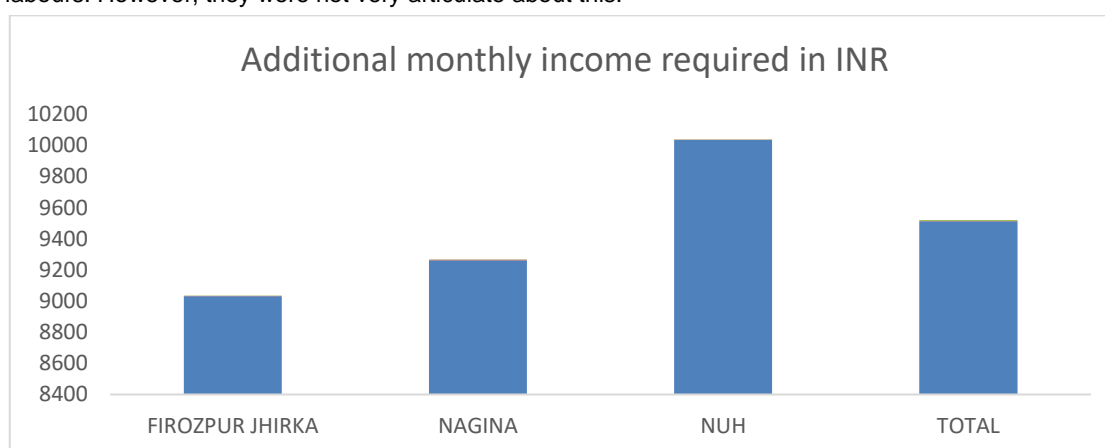
Source: baseline report mewat

**Table 2: Work of Women**

N=900	FJ	NAGINA	NUH	total
Agriculture	88.9	97.1	80.0	87.3
Animal husbandry/dairy	88.2	70.4	53.9	69.0
Food processing	6.1	7.1	18.4	11.6
Handicraft/stitching	1.4	13.8	15.5	10.7
Labour	2.1	2.5	12.4	6.6
Employed in MNREGA		10.4	3.4	4.2
Domestic help	5.4		6.1	4.2
Private job	0.4		1.3	0.7
Govt. job			0.8	0.3
Shop		0.4	0.3	0.2

Source: baseline report survey

The current household income is sufficient for them, 76.3 per cent answered in negative. Most of them to do some work to earn additional income, like animal husbandry, work as skilled or unskilled labours. However, they were not very articulate about this.



Source: baseline survey

The average household size of Mewat is 6.8. Mewat rural records an average household size as 6.9 as per 2011 Census Data). Total Population is 1089263, and number of households is 160280 (Census of India 2011).

- In order to meet the monthly expense, the respondents reported that they need an average of Rs. 9512 more. On an average, women reportedly required more money than men.
- About 85 per cent also showed their willingness to increase their income. And they also had some plans to enhance their income

### SHG and Impact

Knowing about SHG/NGOs in the area

Around 26 per cent of the respondents reported about having SHG/Mahila Mandals/NGO etc. in the vicinity. Among them (N= 237) while 57 per cent of them did not know the name of the SHG present in their surroundings, 25 per cent took the name of Sehgal Foundation. Those who identified some organizations, among them majority reported that the ones they know are Self Help Groups (76.8%) and NGOs (20.3%). They also reported that the SHG, NGO, Mahila Mandal talk about women empowerment (36.3%), provide loan (12.7%) and create awareness (11%). 24 per cent said that the women in their HH have joined the SHG/NGO (N=33). Among 33 women, who reported joining SHG/NGO, also reported that majority do not have any restriction on mobility in attending NGO/SHG. The main sources of information about such SHG/NGO/Mahila Mandal were the neighbours, AWC and friends. Women aware about the benefits of joining an NGO/SHG. The opportunities to contribute to family income, to become aware about issues, getting to network with women in the community and having control over the money are a few benefits that they reported.

As recorded in the below Table, about 88.2 per cent reported that at least some women in their community work and earn money.

**Table 3: Perceived Prevalence**

<b>N=900</b>	<b>All (100%)</b>	<b>Most (75%)</b>	<b>Half (50%)</b>	<b>Some (25%)</b>	<b>None (0%)</b>
Proportion of women doing a job and earn money	0.2	10.0	21.6	56.6	11.7

Source: baseline in mewat 2014

As can be noted, while the respondents themselves approved of women working along with men, the proportion saying so decreased when it came to family and community members.

### Conclusion

Jobs in government and private offices are the main sources of livelihood. Agriculture is mainstay in Firozpur Jhirka and animal husbandry seems to be the secondary source, as only 1.3 per cent mentioned it as their main source of livelihood. Both men and women are mainly engaged in agriculture. They also look after the livestock or dairy farm in their house. While a few men work as unskilled labours and drivers, women also keep themselves busy with food processing and handicraft or stitching. More than 75 per cent reported that they are not satisfied with the current income and identified avenues of added income. They also mentioned that for enhancing their income, they need training and have to have job opportunities in their vicinity. The time use pattern of women highlighted that though they are busy for the entire day in both household chores and income generating activities, their contribution is not seen as 'income generating'. Those, who work in salaried jobs (health workers), however, said that their money is majorly used up in household expenses. The working status of women does not necessarily enhance their status in the household. The job identified by the respondents that suits women (wife, daughter, sister and self) was stereotypical. The women themselves could not dream anything better than 'stitching' as an occupation for themselves. Only one fourth of the respondents reported knowing about NGOs/SHGs working in their vicinity. Among them, only one fourth named the Sehgal Foundation. Respondents, however, were aware about the benefits of joining an NGO/SHG. The opportunities to contribute to family income, to become aware about issues, getting to network with women in the community and having control over their money are a few advantages that they reported. The society still does not appreciate or approve of women working with men for generating income.

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