



The Gender Analysis of the Saffron Production Process in Rural Areas (Case Study: Torbat-e-Jam and Bakherz Counties)

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Abstract

Purpose- Gender analysis is a sort of methodology offering a comprehensive image of the contribution and role of women and men in the economy of a community. In this exploration, it has been endeavored to investigate the role and contribution of women in producing and profiting from the financial benefits of saffron as an essential and exportable economic product.

Design/methodology/approach- For this purpose, 253 saffron producers in 9 villages of the cities of Torbat-e-Jam and Bakherz were studied as a statistical sample using descriptive-analytic research method, including a questionnaire and a semi-organized interview. Data were analyzed by T-test, MANOVA, Duncan and Fisher test using SPSS software and Rural Participatory Appraisal (PRA) research.

Finding- The outcomes of the study exhibited that there is a significant difference between the participation of family members in the studied area during different phases of production (planting, harvesting, cropping, marketing, and sales). Moreover, the inferential findings revealed that although the men's participation ratio of only 24% is significantly higher than women's participation in the production of saffron, the benefit rate of the gained saffron production profit for the men (i.e. 74/16%,) is significantly higher than the benefit rate for women (i.e. 25/84%). The Rural Participatory Appraisal method also revealed that there is a significant difference between the physical participation and saffron income between males and females. In other words, men possess almost all the financial benefits of saffron production; in fact, women are deprived of the sources that can help them be empowered in economic and social areas. Of course, rural women in the study area did not express dissatisfaction with this issue, and they believed that this income would be well spent for the whole family.

Keywords: Gender approach, Saffron (production), Rural women, Torbat-e-Jam and Bakherz Counties.

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1. Introduction

Separating the women's tasks from the men's task and their participation rate in doing each everyday life activities displays that gender is considered as an essential variable in the analysis and investigation of role, responsibility, limitation, opportunity, income, cost, and the benefits of agriculture (Khani, 2006). The survey of the economic situation of societies suggests that in societies where women have more active participation in the national and rural economy, the development process has emerged and increased more quickly. Indeed, nowadays considering the role of women as half of the human resources in societies is not only one goal of social and economic development in each country, it is also a useful instrument in the realization of other goals of development. In other words, women have a grave and determinant responsibility for accelerating the process of sustainable development and the change of a society. For this reason, countries that are on the path to effective development must pay particular attention to this issue (Alizadeh, 2010).

A look at the literature shows that since the early 1970s, "the role of women in agricultural and rural development had been investigated by many organizations and planners of development affairs across the world and the developing countries". However, there are not any accurate statistics concerning this. As it has repeatedly been observed, women's activities are abandoned from the statistics of labor force and national income are not included in the national income of countries on a regular basis due to various reasons of methodology, work performance related problems, economic activities' problems, and the neglect of women's work in statistical information collection methods (Barghi, Ghanbari, Hajjarian, & Mohammadi, 2011). However, according to the UN statistics, the value of home affairs done without pay is between 10% and 35% of the gross domestic product worldwide (Azizi & Azar Kamand, 2010).

According to the available information, about 43 percent of the agricultural labor force are women across the world and in the developing countries. Of course, this is different among countries and inside them, depending on the age and social class of women. For example, the share of women's labor force in the agricultural sector ranges from

about 20 percent in Latin America to more than 50 percent in East and Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. The fact is that if women's activities have not taken into account in economic affairs, living expenses will be increased dramatically (Sojasi Qeidari & Ismaili, 2014).

In Iran, the participation level of rural women in various economic, social and cultural activities in different regions of the country is also different due to the cultural characteristics of the regions, the type of land use system, composition, the household size, activity type, the natural characteristics of the region, and the economic, social, and cultural factors (Ghadiri Masoum, Baghebani, & Ghanian, 2012). Studies reveal that the central and western regions of Iran have the lowest female participation rate in the workforce, while the northern areas of the country, which their livelihood mainly depends on agriculture, have the highest rate of female participation in such a manner that women's employment rate in the agricultural sector in Gilan Province and Mazandaran Province are 29/7% and 15/5%, respectively (Dadvar Khani, 1996). Of course, the quality of job opportunities is low in most rural areas, and wherever the skills and abilities level of women are lower, they also receive weak position jobs with lower wages (Resolution Council 2010).

However, the role and contribution of women in economic activities in general and in agricultural activities in particular, has continued to be a natural and constant phenomenon in all countries of the world, including Iran. What is the origin idea of paying attention to this role and the emphasis on determining the role and place of women in this economic development process? Studies show that this issue is rooted in feministic thoughts. Feminism is "the partiality of the political and social equality of women and men and is referred to as advocates of women's rights in the West" (Karami & Mahboubi, 2013). The leaders of this movement believe in the inequality between men and women, and it consider the root of despotic ruling women in their moral and economic dependence on men. In this group's view, economic independence is a factor in the self-sufficiency of women. Also, a group of feminists point out maternal skills as a limitation of the women chance for economic independence and equality with men in the public domain and believe that unpaid work at home and maternal

duty has led to their social inequality (Zafranchi, 2005).

Regarding this issue, this paper has attempted to examine the role of women in producing and benefiting from the financial benefits of saffron as an essential and export economic product. Further, it has been attempted to investigate the extent of the injustice and inequality feeling of this group of women and the necessity of the specific planning to develop equality in the share-taking of the financial benefits of saffron by quantitative and qualitative research methodology. The study area of this research is the villages of Torbat Jam and Bakherz; these two cities are among the crucial areas of saffron cultivation in Khorasan Razavi Province. With this in mind, this research investigates the role of women in various stages of saffron production, including planting, harvesting, processing, and selling of saffron, as well as the extent to which they are benefited from the financial benefits of sales.

2. Research Theoretical Literature

The term gender is a social concept that includes behaviors, social thoughts, and roles that the dominant culture of every society is entrusted the two sexes of men and women with. Attention to gender, specifically about women, began with the work of Esther Bezorph (1980). He noted the differences in characteristics of biological, roles as well as the different experiences of men and women in development planning. The United Nations also called the decade of the 1970s the Women and Development and called on all countries to pay attention to the role and place of women in development-related planning (Alirezanejad & Banihashem, 2012).

Thus, the concept of gender developed into developmental content five decades ago, followed by different approaches to achieving gender balance in the world.

Table 1. Approaches to Promoting Women's Situation from the 1970s onwards

(Source: Compilation of the author, 2017.)

| approach | decade | view | goal |
|---|--------|---|---|
| Women in Development (Separate but equal) | 1970 | Emphasize on the role of women's reproduction | Women apart from men |
| Gender and development | 1980 | Women's as a collection of human resources of a country | Analysis of Women's Participation and Their work classification |
| The institutionalized approach | 1990 | The value-belief –based view on gender | The introduction of the gender topic into the core of all institutions. |
| Women's empowerment | 1995 | Fair control of Sources | enhancing the ability of self-reliance |

Since the early 1970s, the first attempts to promote the status of women began with a separate but equal approach known as Women in Development. This approach emphasizes the role of women reproduction, and the purpose of this view is to separate women from men (Women's Studies Center of the University of Tehran, 2002). From the late 1980s, following the critiques concerning the attitude of women in development, gender and development view was recognized globally (Fakourian, 2000), according to which the subjugation of the women's status and the discrimination against them become meaningful by their lack of participation in development programs (Varzgar, 2002).

In this perspective, women are realized in the human resources set of the country, and in order to improve their situation, integrant and gender-sensitive plans and programs are considered regarding the relationship between women and men.

Another viewpoint that has evolved over the gender and development perspective is the institutionalist view. This viewpoint considers the views, values, beliefs, methods, and pillars of government organizations of the society as continuous institutions and wants to introduce the issue of gender in the heart of all the institutions and thought and value systems of the community (Women Studies Center of University of Tehran, 2002).

Women's empowerment approach which has been suggested since around 1995 does not regard women not just as a human factor in economic growth but instead, has the goal to promote self-reliance skill and reasonable control of resources (Shadi Talab, 1995). Empowering women means expanding the control of poor women on all economic processes, and not just doing some productive affairs. This view calls for growing inequality in the five dimensions of welfare, access, awareness, participation, and control (Women's Research Center of Al-Zahra University, 2002). The empowerment theory emphasizes the empowerment of women through the redistribution of power in the family and different communities. Hence, the development regards the empowerment as a method to improve social conditions and achieve gender equality (Khani, 2007).

Gender analysis is a methodology that illustrates the overall picture of the role and part of women and men in a society in question. In this method, information is collected based on gender segregation of individuals as an analysis unit. The primary assumption of the attitude to gender analysis is that necessarily all family members do

not partake in all the resources obtained by the whole family (Varzgar, 2002).

Gender analysis addresses questions such as who does what; who owns what; who decides; who benefits from the result of the decisions, and who is a loser. Gender analysis addresses the division way of power, responsibility, and right (Norwegian Development Cooperation Representative, 1999).



Figure 1. Gender Analysis Pyramid
(Source: Research findings, 2017)

The background of domestic and foreign research on the role of women in the rural economy (Table 2) shows that many studies have been done in this area, some of which has been presented in this section.

Table 2. The background of domestic and foreign research on the role of women in the rural economy
(Source: Research findings using available resources, 2017.)

| author | Article topic | result |
|---|---|--|
| Lahsayi Zadeh (1996) | The Role of Women in the Rural Economy | The part of women in the agricultural sector's labor force is very high, but since their work is mostly unpaid in the framework of family, agricultural added value by them is not properly calculated. |
| Lahsayi Zadeh, Jahangiri, Touri (2003) | Investigation of the Economic Participation of Rural Women in Fars Province | There is a relationship between the rural women participation and their employment with the level of education and age |
| Dadvar khani (2006) | Rural Development and Challenges of Women's Employment, coastal area of Gilan Province | Among the factors affecting women's employment, family income, social class, literacy and geographical isolation, has had the highest effect. |
| Fatemeh Paseban, 2006 | Economic and Social Factors Affecting the Employment of Rural Women in Iran | There is a direct relationship between rural women's employment, development and the share of government expenditures of GDP and the negative relationship between the early stages of development, the ratio of marriage to divorce, the number of born children and household expenses. |
| Bouzar Jamhari, Shayan Sadeghi (2010) | .explanation of the rural women participation in Agricultural Activities of East Azerbaijan | Women have high participation in cultivation and harvest |
| Peyman Pourrajab, Mohammadi, Tajik (2011) | Personality traits and motivations of self-employment women in Kandovan village | Risk factors, central control center, the need for success, creativity and challenge taking of the women are higher than the average. Further, the most important reasons for these people to start a business, have been to help unemployment elimination of the society, promote social status promotion and getting rid of personal unemployment. |

Table 2.

| author | Article topic | result |
|---|--|--|
| Ghadiri Masoum, Baghiani, Ghanian (2012) | Comparative Study of Barriers to Women's Participation in Samaleh and Saleyeh villages in Khuzestan Province | Barriers to women's participation in the two villages in question (Arabic and Lori speaking) have been mostly social and cultural. |
| Ghanbari, Hajjarian, Ansari and Kayani (2012) | Investigating the Factors Affecting the Participation and Employment of Rural Women | As education increases, rural women's employment is likely to increase, and the most critical obstacles to women's participation, have been marital status, male intimidation, and lack of professional training. |
| Mirlatifi, Bandani, Shahraky (2013) | Investigating the role of women's hidden work in the welfare level of rural household in Hamoun | The average monetary value of women's hidden work, in this city, has been estimated at 740 thousand tomans a month. |
| Roshannia-Khademi-Kordi-Solhi Fam-Asl (2015) | Investigating the Role of Rural Women in their Development, Obstacles, and Limits. | In our country, cultural problems are rooted in stereotyped thoughts and low economic power of rural women, and the government and NGOs should adopt policies that, in addition to paying attention to the role of women in the crops production, increase their access to resources, financial resources, Technology, product marketing and promotion |
| Azahari (2008) | Indonesian Women: The Role of Women in the Agricultural Development | The results of this study indicate that women's role in rural development has been ignored, and if women are provided the situation of access to production factors, they can play a role as one of the critical partners in the development process. |

The World Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has done most activities of all concerning the gender analysis of rural affairs, has, in some rural areas, gathered gender-sensitive statistics in the agriculture area. This data is not only useful for quantitative and qualitative analysis of gender relations but also results in the empowerment of rural women and better support of development programs. In general, since 1990, women's presence in the agriculture sector has been highlighted in many rural studies. In this research, scholars have outlined the presence of women in the agricultural sector as follows:

Alston believes that despite the processes of rebuilding the agricultural and rural sector, gender relations in the fields still has remained due to adherence to the patriarchal heritage and manly role in the agricultural profession.

In Little and Panelli's research, rural women have been identified as farmers, not housewives and spouses (Little & Panelli, 2003).

With the socio-economic rehabilitation of rural areas in the Clark and Meerburg research, connecting to extra income through diversifying domestic and external productions of the farm, an arena was provided for women's activities in the agricultural sector and, subsequently, many entrepreneurial initiatives were introduced to the rural economy (Clark, 2009).

Anthopoulou showed that, following the socio-economic changes of rural areas in which farmer's households have turned to diversification and multiplicity of their income source, rural women had created a business in their domestic farms and a small-scale consisted mainly of food producing activities, traditional and local (Tegegne, 2012).

Mark Antoni has pointed out that the diversification and multi-activity of the agricultural household economy structure do not just end in the women work on the farm, and it may be about out-of-field activities, and in particular at home (Mark Antoni, 2012). In line with this study, Selfa and his colleagues in 2015 showed that in such a situation, it would be more critical to meet what is acceptable as a social and cultural affair, hardworking and accompanying a man, rather than improving the household income level (Selfa, Lario & Burnham, 2015).

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Geographical Scope of the Research

The study area in this enquiry is the villages of two cities of Torbat-e-Jam and Bakherz in southeastern Khorasan Razavi province, where is one of the crucial areas of saffron cultivation in this province. According to the public population and housing census of 2016, the population of Torbat e Jam, in this year, amounted to 267671

people, out of which 49/4 percent have resided in urban areas and 50/6 percent in villages. The population of the city of Bakhrez was 54615 in 2016, of which 16/6% have resided in urban and 83/4% in rural areas (Iran Statistics center webpage, 2017). Accordingly, the city can be considered an entirely rural area. Regarding the research topic, the statistical population of this study has been all saffron farmers, living in the villages of Torbat-e-Jam and Bakherz. According to field surveys, many farmers in the region are involved with cultivating saffron and are increasing every year, but unfortunately, accurate statistics are not available about this.

According to the Cochran formula, the number of sample individuals in this study is about 252 at a 7% error level. The total number of 9 villages in the region has been randomly selected, and the research questionnaires were completed for them.

3. 2. Methodology

To carry out this research, a quantitative and qualitative research method was used simultaneously to discover more realities. For this purpose, a descriptive and library research method was used to gain the initial information. Further, a questionnaire was prepared for households of the saffron farmer to help identify the part of different gender and age groups at different stages of the production and sale of saffron. However, since statistics, numbers, and averages may not cover many of the realities of the community, the qualitative technique, the Participatory rural appraisal (PRA), was also used to complete the statistical results of the research questionnaires. For this purpose, an interview with a group of about 15 women from saffron farmers, from the village of Jaghoutin, one of the villages in the city of Torbat e Jam, whose people are involved with saffron farming, was conducted, using a semi-organized interview technique, an interview with key people, and gender analysis, to examine in depth the contribution of different age and gender groups in the process of cultivating saffron and also their benefit's rate from the financial benefits of the process. The results of the implementation of these techniques have been presented in the paper's content analysis section.

It is worth noting that the approach employed in the preparation of the questionnaire and the conduct of the qualitative research manner has been the gender analysis approach. Gender analysis is a methodology that illustrates the full

image of the part and role of women and men in the society in question. The primary assumption of the approach to gender analysis is that necessarily all family members do not partake in all the resources obtained by the whole family (Varzgar, 2002, 89). Gender analysis addresses questions such as who does what; who owns what; who decides; who benefits from the result of the decisions, and who is a loser. In fact, gender analysis addresses the division method of power, responsibility and right.

The SPSS software and T-test, MANOVA and Duncan's ranking have been employed for statistical analysis of the results of the questionnaires.

4. Research Findings

4. 1. Descriptive Findings:

Of the 252 surveyed sample people, 95% had been married, 45% of households, have less than four members, and 35% of the sample participants, saffron farmers, have 6 and more members. Regarding education, 16% were illiterate, 52% had primary and secondary education, and the remainder had a diploma or higher education. Regarding age, 83% of the research sample individuals were at the age group of fewer than 59 years old.

According to the interviews, saffron cultivation in Torbat e Jam and Bakherz has been started in the region since 2007, about ten years ago, and is expanding every year. The common cultivar of sample saffron farmers participated in the research, is about 0/75 hectares. The dispersion of area under cultivation of saffron is high among the subjects and is more than one hectare. Based on this, the minimum cultivated area of saffron has been 2 square meters and the maximum area of about 6 hectares. 84 percent of the sample people are the owner of lands dedicated to saffron cultivation, and 71 percent owns consumed water. The share of income from saffron cultivation in the total income of the participants in the research is about 52% on average. Of course, the standard deviation of this variable (42) is relatively high, which is justifiable considering the difference in lands under saffron cultivation.

Of the total number of saffron farmers involved in the investigation, 17% of them sell saffron as a flower, and 81% of those sell their products in kilograms after drying, 2% did not answer this question.; But according to interviews, none of

these people pack their product. Also, due to the financial problems of saffron farmers, about 45% of them sell their product in the first month after harvesting. It is worth noting that, on average, 28/3 percent of the revenue from saffron is spent on required expenditures (comprising fertilizer, poison, worker wages, etc.).

4.1.1. Participation of different groups in the process of producing saffron by gender dissociation

One of the objectives of this study was to determine the participation rate of women and men in the process of saffron production in the study area. For this purpose, the process of saffron production, through an investigation, was classified into five stages: cultivation, producing process, harvest, processing, marketing and sales, and based on this, the questionnaires were prepared. Then, each saffron farmer, the participants in the study, were asked to identify the number of participants of the family or workers in each activity by gender dissociation. The derived results from this review have been presented in this section.

The first stage in the saffron production is the cultivation stage, which generally includes: Leveling, bridging and plowing the land, planting saffron corm and irrigation. At this stage, the labor force participation of women in planting saffron corm has generally been recorded at 36%, but in other activities, women's participation is insufficient. In total, the average female participation at the cultivation stage has been assessed at 21%, and the male participation is 79%.

It is worth noting that today many of the phases of the saffron corm cultivation are carried out by the

tractor, and thus the participation of women has decreased significantly in this field.

The second stage of saffron production is producing process. This stage, as observed in [table 3](#), includes irrigation, Charshakh zani, weed picking, Fertilizing the land. Based on the results, most of the activities in this stage, including irrigation, feeding and fertilizing the earth, are carried out by men, and only in the weeding step which is done by hand, women have contributed about 32%. The average participation of women in the stage of producing process was about 11%, and the male participation rate was 89%.

The third step is the harvesting stage, which includes: picking a saffron flower, wiping flowers, and distributing flowers to clean. Women's participation rate at this stage in picking flowers was 51/5%, in clearing 62/2%, and in distributing flowers to clean 23/9%. Based on this, the average female participation in the harvesting stage was 55 percent, and the male participation rate was 45 percent.

The fourth phase is the saffron processing. The processing of this product is carried out only in the form of drying, and no further work is done on it. Family members generally do this activity and so daily-paid workers do not have a role to play. The participation of women and men in saffron drying has been 49% and 51%, respectively.

The last step is the packaging, marketing, and selling an of saffron, which may be sold as flowers or in dried form. This is done more by men of the family, and primarily by the head of the household. The participation rate for women and men at this stage has been 24% and 76%, respectively.

Table 3. Participation in the stage of production of saffron by gender disunion
(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| Stage | Activities | Man of family | Woman of family | Daughter of family | Son of family | Male worker | Female worker | Participation rate | |
|---------------------|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | | | women | Men |
| Planting | Leveling, bridging and plowing the land | 32.4 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 23 | 39.1 | 0.6 | 21 | 79 |
| | Planting saffron corn | 22.2 | 10.9 | 7 | 17.7 | 24.1 | 17.9 | | |
| Production process | Land Irrigation | 53.8 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 27.1 | 15.6 | 0.5 | 11 | 89 |
| | Charshakhzani | 33.3 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 25.5 | 39.1 | 0.8 | | |
| | weed gathering | 26.3 | 13.6 | 6.0 | 19.0 | 22.5 | 12.6 | | |
| | Fertilizing the land | 41.3 | 2.1 | 1.3 | 28.3 | 25.7 | 1.3 | | |
| harvest | Flowers picking | 19.9 | 19.3 | 12.4 | 15.2 | 13.4 | 19.8 | 55 | 45 |
| | Clearing the flowers | 13.5 | 23.4 | 14.3 | 14.5 | 9.8 | 24.5 | | |
| | Distribute flowers to be cleaned | 49.6 | 14.6 | 4.5 | 23.6 | 2.9 | 4.8 | | |
| processing | Drying saffron | 35.1 | 42.9 | 14.8 | 6.7 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 58 | 42 |
| Marketing & Selling | Packaging saffron | 30.9 | 28.7 | 17.0 | 12.8 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 24 | 76 |
| | Sell ing Flowers to Buyers | 69.5 | 6.0 | 2.0 | 21.5 | 1.0 | 0.0 | | |
| | Selling dried Saffron | 71.0 | 9.8 | 3.5 | 12.9 | 0.2 | 0.8 | | |

Up to this stage, the rate of participation of each gender group in different stages of saffron cultivation has been presented based on the quantitative method and the results of the questionnaires analysis. However, in general, the part of each family and working group in the

production of saffron has been presented in [table 4](#). Based on this, the man of the family (head) and male workers in total with 57% and daughters and the woman of the family with a total of 14 % have had the highest and lowest participation in saffron production, respectively.

Table 4. The participation rate of family members and assisting staffs in the process of saffron Production
(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| participation rate | average | Standard deviation |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|
| man of the family | 0.29 | 0.16 |
| woman of the family | 0.10 | 0.07 |
| Daughters of the family | 0.04 | 0.05 |
| Sons of the family | 0.15 | 0.14 |
| Female workers | 0.28 | 0.16 |
| male workers | 0.14 | 0.08 |

4.1.2. The benefits rate of saffron profits distinguished by gender

Another objective in gender analysis is to examine the position of two genders access to the interests associated with saffron. Based on the findings of

the study, which is displayed in table 5, on average, 74/16 percent of the revenue from the production and sale of saffron is assigned to the man of the family.

Table 5. Family members' interests in saffron production

(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| Member of family | Number | Minimum score | Maximum rating | Average | Standard deviation |
|------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|
| man | 225 | 10 | 100 | 74.16 | 24.45 |
| woman | 100 | 10 | 90 | 26.55 | 18.35 |
| Daughters | 51 | 5 | 30 | 14.84 | 6.50 |
| boys | 62 | 5 | 50 | 19.08 | 11.43 |

4. 2. Inferential Findings:

One of the issues that are always important in gender analysis is the assumption that the participation rate of different sex groups (male and female) is different in the production process. To test this hypothesis, a T-test was employed to compare the mean of two independent samples. The results of this test in table 6 indicate that according to the amount of obtained t and P-value,

there is a significant difference between the participation rate of men (man of family, sons and male worker) and women (spouse, daughters and female workers), because the value of the obtained P-value (0/000) is less than 0/05. Accordingly, the men participation rate (0/24) has been significantly higher than women participation (0/094) in saffron production.

Table 6. Comparison of the Participation Rate of Men and Women in Saffron Production Process

(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| Sexutal | Descriptive statistics | | | Test result | | |
|---------|------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| | Number | Average | Standard deviation | Test Statistic | Freedom degree | P-value |
| Famale | 756 | 0.24 | 0.17 | 21.82 | 1094.82 | 0.000 |
| Male | 756 | 0.094 | 0.08 | | | |

In the preceding section, the participation rate of women and men in saffron production was tested in general. One-way ANOVA (variance analysis) test was used to determine if the participation rate of these people in different stages of saffron production is also varied. The results of this test have been offered in table 7. Accordingly,

regarding the statistics of Fisher's (357.428) and P-value (0.0000), at 95% probability level, there is a significant difference between the participation rate of women and men in different phases of saffron production (planting, harvesting, processing, marketing, and sales).

Table 7. Comparison of men and women participation in saffron production by production stages' separation

(Source: The Research findings, 2017.)

| Steps to produce saffron | Descriptive statistics | | | Test result | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|---------|-------------|----------|---------|
| | Number | Average | St.d | DF | Amount f | P-value |
| had | 252 | 0.1260 | 0.06142 | 1115.4 | 375.428 | 0.000 |
| harvesting | 249 | 0.1177 | 0.06756 | | | |
| planting | 248 | 0.1223 | 0.06024 | | | |
| marketing | 221 | 0.2488 | 0.01012 | | | |
| processing | 150 | 0.2455 | 0.01953 | | | |

In addition to reviewing the significance of the difference in the participation rate of individuals in saffron production process in general and by the production stage separation, at this phase, the difference in the participation rate of different groups involved in the saffron production (including: man of family, spouse, girls and boys of the family and male and female workers) have

been tested using one-way ANOVA. The outcomes of this test in table 8 indicate that according to Fisher's (178/590) and P-value (0.000), there is a significant difference between the participation rate of the different groups involved in the saffron production process with 95% probability.

Table 8. Comparison of the participation percentage of different working groups in the process of saffron production

(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| Groups | Descriptive statistics | | | Test result | | |
|--------------|------------------------|---------|------|-------------|----------|---------|
| | Number | Average | St.d | DF | Amount f | P-value |
| man | 252 | 0.29 | 0.16 | 1506.5 | 178.590 | 0.000 |
| woman | 252 | 0.10 | 0.07 | | | |
| girls | 252 | 0.04 | 0.05 | | | |
| boys | 252 | 0.15 | 0.14 | | | |
| Male workers | 252 | 0.28 | 0.16 | | | |

Duncan's ranking test has been applied to determine the rank of each of the participating groups in saffron production. The results of this test in table 9 mark that man of family (father) and male workers have the most significant part in

saffron production, after them the boys of family and female workers in one group, followed by the spouses and the daughters of the family have the lowest participation rate in the saffron production process.

Table 9. Ranking of Participation Rate in Saffron Production Process with Duncan Test

(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| Group | Number | Subset for alpha = 0.05 | | | |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| daughters | 252 | 0.04155 | | | |
| spouse | 252 | | 0.09551 | | |
| female workers | 252 | | | 0.14363 | |
| boys | 252 | | | 0.14906 | |
| Male workers | 252 | | | | 0.27685 |
| Man of family | 252 | | | | 0.29340 |

Descriptive findings specify that there is a difference between the benefit level of women and men of the family from the financial profits of saffron. In this section, the significance of this difference has been examined by t-test to compare the two independent samples statistically. The results have been presented in table 10. Accordingly, regarding the statistics amount of t

(17/238) and P-value (0.000), there is a significant difference between the financial benefit of men (father and sons of the family) and women (wife and daughters) from the profits of saffron production. Thus, according to the computing means the men's share is more than women's share of the saffron' financial benefits.

Table 10. Comparison of male and female benefits rate of the product

(Source: The Research findings, 2017)

| Gender | Descriptive statistics | | | Test result | | |
|--------|------------------------|---------|-------|-------------|----------|---------|
| | Number | Average | St.d | DF | Amount f | P-value |
| Man | 287 | 62.26 | 31.80 | 17.238 | 435.815 | 0.000 |
| Woman | 151 | 22.60 | 16.35 | | | |

4.3. Content analysis:

As outlined in the research methodology, this research has been carried out through the quantitative and qualitative research method. In the previous sections, the results of the statistical analysis of the research questionnaire were presented. In this section, the results of the qualitative research method, obtained by some of the methods of the Rural Participatory Appraisal (PRA) including interviewing techniques with informed individuals, semi-Organized interview and gender analysis, have been presented and an attempt has been made to identify the contribution of different age and sex groups in the process of producing saffron (planting, harvesting, and processing) more precisely by elaborate study. For this purpose, it was holding a meeting with about 15 women from the village of Yaghoutin in Torbat-e-Jam, and, in a semi-organized interview, they were asked to identify the part of each different age and gender groups as a percentage

(comprising girls, women, boys, and men of the family) in the process of producing saffron (including planting, processing, harvesting, and selling) by a marker on the circle type shapes that had already been arranged.

By means of this technique, firstly, result in that the shares be visually visible and comparable for everyone, including literate and illiterate, and, secondly, the possibility of concluding was more likely to be achieved faster. Finally, to ensure the obtained results of the women's group, the figures drawn up by this group were reviewed by another group of men saffron farmers in the village. Wherever men did not agree with the women group's views, new figures were drawn up, and the shares were determined in percentage terms. The results of this study are offered below.

According to participating analysts in the research, the planting stage includes: furrowing the land, setting up an entrance to control the amount of water entering the land, buying corm and planting it. Accordingly, if the cultivation of saffron corms is carried out by a tractor, one hectare of land will require a day and about five workforces. One is a tractor driver and the rest, most of whom are boys, are set up behind the tractor, and when the tractor digs lands, they direct the saffron corm into the ground, and the device covers it again. However, if the planting stage of saffron corm is traditionally done with hands, for planting a hectare of land, about ten

people will be required to work for eight days. After cultivating saffron corms, the land yields up to 7 years of production and does not require re-cultivation. It is worth noting that, in recent years, the planting of saffron corm is mostly done by the tractor unless the land is small.

The force used during the planting stage is mostly male (50% of men and 30% of boys), women and girls usually help men in the stage of saffron corm washing and its manual planting. The part of women at this stage is about 15%, and girls' 5% have been announced. There was no difference between the views of the group of men and women in this regard.

According to the interviews, the processing stage includes irrigation of land in two stages, charshakh zani of land, fertilization and weed picking. According to both men and women' view, all activities, 100%, at this stage, are done by men. The activities of this phase should be repeated every year. The time required for these tasks is usually about one day per hectare performed by two men.

The harvesting step comprises: picking flowers, distributing flowers to be cleaned, wiping the flower of the saffron and drying it. This stage is one of the longest stages in the production process of saffron, which is nearly all family members participate in it. According to interviews with the key informed people, the time required to pick flowers per hectare is different, depending on how many years the land is cultivated. Accordingly, in the first and second years of land cultivation, about five workforces are needed for eight workdays; in the third to fifth year, which is the peak of land productivity, about 20 workforces are required for 12 to 15 work days. In the sixth and seventh year, the amount of land productivity is reduced again. At this time, about 8 to 10 people will be needed for ten work days to pick flowers.

The results of interviews with women and men about the part of different age and sex groups at the saffron harvesting stage were investigated in two steps of flower picking and wiping and drying distinctly. The results of flower picking show that the women's group believes that the share of women and girls in this stage is about 83% and the share of men and boys is 17%. However, for men participating in the study, the male participation rate at the saffron flower picking stage is 8% higher than that of women. Therefore,

women's participation rate at this stage is 75%, and men's share is about 25%. Based on this, the views of these two groups are slightly different from each other, and each of them has claimed a more significant share in the stage of picking up the flower of saffron for themselves.

The next step is to remove the flower of the saffron and get ride of their stigma and finally drying. The results of the interview with the two groups indicate that the views of both groups on the sharing rate of different age and sex groups are the same at this stage so that the share of women's participation in the removal and drying of saffron has been announced 70% and men's share 30%. Of course, their view of the share of girls, women, men, and boys was precisely the opposite of each other, but the original matter and the overall share have not had any difference.

Lastly, the partakers in the research were asked to state the share of different groups in the whole process of producing saffron, counting planting, processing, and harvesting. According to the interview, in the total production process of saffron, which lasts about 20 to 25 days, based on both groups, the share of women is 40%, girls 20%, men 30 % and boys 10%. In other words, the part of women in the saffron production has stated 60%, and men 40%, and both groups have consensus on this.

Thus, overall, according to interviews with the qualitative method, men have a leading role in saffron planting and growing; of course, these steps are concise and usually take about two days. Women have the most significant share in the harvesting of saffron, which is the longest stage in the saffron production. This step, as stated, lasts for about 8 to 15 days and varies according to the year of saffron cultivation.

Taken together, according to the duration of each activity, the proportion of women in saffron production seems to be much higher than that of men. However, the results of the interview only show a 60% share of participation for women. Possibly this is because the two groups give more importance to the two steps of cultivating and processing, in which the participation rate of men is higher at this stage.

However, the most critical matter is to determine the part of each age and gender groups from the financial benefits of saffron production. Interviews conducted with women, in particular, indicated that men generally make sales of

saffron, and usually in kilogram after flowers are dried. However, women were not upset about this, and they believed that revenues gained from saffron production by men are spent on family needs, and so women did not ask for a specific share.

5. Discussion and conclusion

- Comparison of the outcomes gained by quantitative method, through completing the questionnaires and the results' analysis using the SPSS software, with the findings of the qualitative method, through semi-structured interview on the participation rate of women in different phases of the saffron production process (table 10) indicates that in the qualitative method, only the difference between the views of the men and women was of participation rate and the stage of flower picking. The provided percentages by the groups differed by 8%. On this basis, it can be detailed that the views of the two groups of women and men participating in the semi-organized interview in the analysis of the participation rate of different age and gender groups in the saffron production process are almost the same, and the disagreement is very low in this regard.

- Nevertheless, the comparison of the results from the quantitative and qualitative method indicates that the results obtained at the planting stage are approximately the same, but differ in other stages, in particular at the harvesting stage, with each other. Field observations and interviews with the key people specify that the results from the qualitative study are closer to reality. Consequently, between 70% and 80% of the work in the harvesting stage (picking, cleaning and drying the flowers), which takes the longest time in the process of producing saffron, is done by women (women and girls).

- The results of the statistical analysis of the research questionnaires as well as the outcomes of semi-organized interviews of women designate that men have the most role in selling the saffron product and gaining its financial paybacks. Interviews indicate that women and girls are not dissatisfied with this situation and believe that the father of the family spend this income to meet the needs and expenses of the family, and ultimately they advantage from that. Consequently, women and girls feel no need to define their financial share in saffron production.

- The results of this study indicate that the existence of morale of generosity and self-sacrifice among rural women, their constant aid and assistance in agricultural activities in general and the production of saffron in particular, are characteristic of women in the rural areas under study. Hence, this morale has led them not to have any financial claim about their services, of course, according to interviews, they believe that men for the family spend these returns. Based on this, it can be stated that the results of this study confirm the results of the research by [Selfa et al. in 2015](#), which had specified that for women, the social and cultural effects of their efforts, in terms of hardworking and accompanying men has been more important than improving their income level ([Selfa et al., 2015, 63](#)).

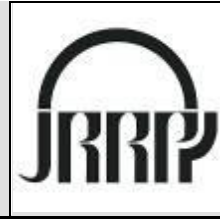
It is worth noting that part of rural women and girls active in the agricultural sector are confronted with problems such as men's polygamy, divorce, death or illness of a spouse, and so are the head of the household and suffer from many problems regarding their lives. Therefore, it is recommended that researchers who in the future want to analyze gender in the production of agricultural products, pay attention to this particular group of women.

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تحلیل فرآیند تولید محصول زعفران در نواحی روستایی با رویکرد جنسیتی (مطالعه موردی: شهرستان‌های تربت جام و باخرز)

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چکیده مبسوط

۱. مقدمه

بی عدالتی جنسیتی در طراحی و اجرای برنامه‌های توسعه‌ی نواحی روستایی باعث شد تا توجه به بحث مهم تحلیل جنسیتی جلب شود. در این راستا پژوهش حاضر ارزیابی وضعیت نظام‌های زعفران کاری شهرستان‌های تربت جام و باخرز را به لحاظ تحلیل جنسیتی و نقش زنان روستایی در تولید این محصول و منافع حاصل از آن، مورد بررسی قرار داده است.

واژه جنسیت یک مفهوم اجتماعی است که شامل رفتارها، نقش‌های اجتماعی و اندیشه‌های اجتماعی است که فرهنگ حاکم بر هر جامعه به عهده دو جنس زن و مرد می‌گذارد. در این پژوهش، تحلیل جنسیتی شامل تحلیل کلیه‌ی فعالیت‌ها و نقش‌های زنان و مردان در فرآیند تولید (کاشت، داشت و برداشت) زعفران و نیز تحلیل وضعیت زنان و مردان از نظر منافع مرتبط با این فعالیت است.

۲. مبانی نظری تحقیق

مفهوم جنسیت، پنج دهه پیش به محتوای توسعه‌ی راه یافت و به دنبال آن رویکردهای متفاوت برای دستیابی به توازن جنسیتی در جهان مطرح گردید. تحلیل جنسیتی نوعی روش‌شناسی است که تصویر جامعی از سهم و نقش زنان و مردان را در جامعه مورد نظر به نمایش می‌گذارد. در این اطلاعات مبتنی بر تفکیک جنسیت افراد به عنوان واحد تحلیل گردآوری می‌شوند. فرض اصلی رهیافت تحلیل جنسیتی این است که لزوماً "همه‌ی اعضای خانواده به صورت برابری در کلیه منابع به دست آمده توسط کل خانواده سهم نیستند. تحلیل جنسیتی به سوال‌هایی مانند چه کسی چه کار می‌کند؛ چه

کسی مالک چیست؛ چه کسی تصمیم می‌گیرد، چه کسی از نتیجه تصمیم‌ها بهره‌مند می‌شود، و چه کسی بازنده است پاسخ می‌گوید. تحلیل جنسیتی به شیوه تقسیم قدرت، مسئولیت و حق می‌پردازد.

۳. روش تحقیق

جامعه آماری این پژوهش روستاهای شهرستان‌های تربت جام و باخرز می‌باشند. این شهرستان‌ها در جنوب شرقی استان خراسان رضوی واقع شده‌اند و از مناطق مهم کشت زعفران در این استان هستند. برای انجام این تحقیق به طور هم‌زمان از روش تحقیق کمی و کیفی بهره‌گرفته شد تا بتوانیم واقعیت‌های بیشتری را کشف نماییم. بدین منظور، برای کسب اطلاعات اولیه از روش تحقیق توصیفی و کتابخانه‌ای استفاده گردید، هم‌چنین پرسشنامه‌ای برای خانوارهای زعفران کار تهیه و حدود ۲۵۲ پرسشنامه از زعفران کاران در جامعه نمونه تکمیل گردید. تا به کمک آن سهم گروه‌های مختلف جنسی و سنی در مراحل مختلف تولید و فروش زعفران مشخص شود. داده‌ها با آزمون‌های T-TEST، MANOVA و دانکن با نرم افزار SPSS مورد آنالیز قرار گرفت. جهت تعیین سهم و نقش زنان و مردان از متغیرهای مشارکت فیزیکی اعضای خانواده بهره‌بردار و کارگران و متغیر میزان بهره‌مندی از منافع حاصله از تولید، استفاده شد.

۴. یافته‌های تحقیق

یکی از اهداف این پژوهش تعیین میزان مشارکت فیزیکی زنان و مردان در فرآیند تولید زعفران (شامل کاشت، داشت، برداشت، فرآوری و بازاریابی) می‌باشد.

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معنی‌داری از میزان مشارکت زنان در تولید زعفران (۰/۰۹۴) بیشتر بوده است. بین میزان بهره‌مندی مردان و زنان تفاوت معنی‌داری وجود دارد. یافته‌های استنباطی نشان گر وجود اختلاف معنادار بین مشارکت و درآمد حاصل از زعفران در بین دو جنس است. علاوه بر این میزان دسترسی مردان به منابع خارج بسیار بیش تر از زنان روستایی می باشد. نتیجه تحلیل جنسیتی محصول زعفران این دو شهرستان نیز نشان داد که هرم قدرت تصمیم‌گیری از سرپرست خانواده یعنی مردان و پسران شروع و به زن و دختران خانواده ختم می شود، یعنی مردان بیش ترین حق تصمیم‌گیری را دارند. بعد از آنان، پسران خانواده و در پایان زنان (مادر) و دختران خانواده قرار دارند. در جامعه مورد پژوهش مشاهده گردید که هنوز زنان روستایی با اندک معلومات کسب شده از خانواده و محیط محدود و بسته ی زندگی خود، به کشاورزی با شیوه ی سنتی اشتغال دارند، در حالی که با حجم کشاورزی در شهرستان های تربت جام و باخرز حکم می کند که خود از آموزش های حرفه ای اولیه و تکمیلی برخوردار باشند.

کلیدواژه‌ها: رویکرد جنسیتی، محصول زعفران، زنان روستایی، شهرستان‌های تربت جام و باخرز.

تشکر و قدرانی

پژوهش حاضر خروجی طرح پژوهشی با عنوان "تحلیل جنسیتی فرآیند تولید زعفران (مطالعه ی موردی: روستاهای شهرستان‌های تربت جام و باخرز)" و بدین وسیله از دانشگاه پیام نور که هزینه اجرای این طرح پژوهشی را تأمین کرد، قدرانی می‌کنیم.

یافته‌ها نشان می‌دهد میانگین مشارکت زنان در امور کاشت امتیاز ۰/۱۶ از ۱ را به خود اختصاص داده در حالی که این رقم برای مردان ۰/۸۴ است. در مرحله داشت سهم زنان در جمع آوری علف های هرز ۳۲/۲ درصد می باشد. میانگین مشارکت زنان در امور داشت امتیاز ۰/۱۲ از ۱ را به خود اختصاص داده در حالی که این رقم برای مردان ۰/۸۸ است. میانگین مشارکت زنان در امور برداشت امتیاز ۰/۵۵ از ۱ می باشد که این رقم برای مردان ۰/۴۵ است. میانگین مشارکت زنان در امور فرآوری ۰/۴۹ از ۱ و در بازاریابی ۰/۱۵ می باشد که این رقم برای مردان به ترتیب ۰/۵۱ و ۰/۸۵ بوده است. به‌طور متوسط میزان مشارکت زنان موجود در نمونه در فرایند تولید زعفران ۰/۲۸ از سقف یک امتیاز است که بیشترین میزان مشارکت برحسب معیار فوق در مرحله برداشت با ۰/۵۵ و فرآوری با ۰/۴۹ مشاهده شده است. در مرحله داشت و بازاریابی مشاهده شده که زنان به ترتیب با ۰/۱۲ و ۰/۱۵ درصد کمترین مشارکت را دارا بوده اند. در وجین کردن و هرس گیاهان، زنان از نیروهای اصلی به حساب می آیند و بالاخره در مرحله برداشت، تقریباً می توان گفت نقش زنان در چیدن گل زعفران تعیین کننده است. هدف دیگر پژوهش، بررسی وضعیت دسترسی دو جنس به منافع مرتبط با زعفران است. بر اساس یافته‌های پژوهش مشاهده می‌گردد به طور متوسط مرد خانواده ۷۴/۱۶ درصد درآمد حاصل از تولید و فروش زعفران را به خود اختصاص می‌دهد.

۵. بحث و نتیجه گیری

بین میزان مشارکت مردان (مرد خانواده، پسران خانواده و کارگران مرد) و زنان (همسر، دختران خانواده و کارگران زن) تفاوت معنی‌داری وجود دارد. میزان مشارکت مردان (۰/۲۴) به طور

ارجاع: اکبراقلی، ف. و نوری، م. (۱۳۹۷). تحلیل فرآیند تولید محصول زعفران در نواحی روستایی با رویکرد جنسیتی (مطالعه موردی:

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