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## **“Female’s Economic Empowerment: The Role of NGOs in Balochistan”**

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### **KEY WORDS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study in the hand focused on the role of NGOs in the Economic Empowerment of Women in Balochistan. For the purpose, research was conducted in three divisions of Balochistan. Mix method of research was applied, and multistage sampling technique was adopted for the selection of sample. A sample of 450 respondents was selected from the selected population. The data was gathered through questionnaire and interview schedule and was analyzed using SPSS. ANOVA (DMRT) tests was applied to pairwise comparisons based on ( $p < 0.05$ ). Results depict that (60.4%) of the respondents belonged to 36 to 45 age categories. More than half (53.3%) of the respondents were illiterate. Significant variations were found during the hypotheses testing. It was found that the role of NGOs in women empowerment is going well somehow, they face many changes in this regard. Based on the finding. It is suggested that NGOs such as BRSP, WESS and SPO management should be delivering the more reliable educational, social, community development and health amenities for females in three zones of the province to improve the socio-economic conditions of the rural masses and make the rural women more self-reliant.*

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## **Overview**

Women Empowerment has appeared as a very significant subject of modern era (Ahmed, T. et al, 2015). Empowering Women, in societies, is an immense and powerful tool for sustainable expansion in qualitative feature (Klasen, 1999). In this regard, the women empowerment is an essential ingredient for the advancement of a community as it helps to change a shiftless community into a self-sustainable community (Kumari & Prasad, 2019). On the other hand, women empowerment (WE) works as the channel or social action for strengthening the female economic sphere, social activities, political status and enables them to contribute in decision-making process (Kabeer .N, 2005; Sarah, 2005; and Aminur, 2013). In a more comprehensive manner, Women's Empowerment (WE) is considered as the sovereignty of female and the enhancement of their political directions, access to resources, social capital, educational dimensions, economic dynamics, and healthcare facilities to achieve the sustainable development goals (Aminur, 2013).

Women empowerment not only elevates the social status of female through educational sphere but also strengthens them in decision-making process. It enables the females to handle or to settle the various issues within society. Empowerment is the basic procedural concern that pinpoints the female rights and development (Endalcachew, 2016).

The female empowerment targets can be achieved through the gender equality and sustainable development. However, various research studies have confirmed reservations about gender equality on sustainable bases. In this connection, women empowerment is not possible without gender equality (Shah, 2008; and Endalcachew, 2016).

Without gender equality, the targets of sustainable development goals would not be achieved. It is also believed that, the full contribution of both genders is indispensable for development process. While, only male contribution will not be valuable for the sustainable enlargement, i.e either qualitative aspects or the quantitative dynamics of group living. Women empowerment has been considered as the preliminary obligation for developmental procedure (Rekha, 1997).

However, due to the lack of gender equality the central theme of female empowerment and social change targets could not be achieved so far. Therefore, keeping in the view significance of women empowerment the various researchers argue that the female empowerment plays an imperative role and has a significant contribution in developmental process.

To enhance the female socio-economic accelerations and improve female income generation process, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2009, the Government of Balochistan established the distinct and solely independent Women/Female Development Department.

At present, the department is pinpointing female related issues at the grass root level to boost up the women societal role. At provincial level, various National, International Organizations and NGOs are involved to increase the speed of Women Empowerment. The Women Department is not only responsible to control all forms of indiscrimination against female but is also responsible for the implementation of "National Plan of Action" for female. The Department seeks the contribution of different NGOs as well.

## **Justification/ Statement of the Problem**

Females' contribution, for development, has been considered a very vital component in developed and

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developing countries. Their participation in the process of sustainable development has been equally acknowledged by many societies of the world. But unfortunately, Women have been reflected as the marginalized segment of our society. At provincial level, the foremost important witness of this marginalization are lack of female vocational institutes, concrete policies and solid initiatives concerning with gender empowerment at all (Sultana, 2002).

Present research is justified on a diverse number of solid grounds regarding the gender empowerment, such as access to education for female, employment opportunities, reproductive health, social rights, maternal fitness, gender-based ferocity, clean water & sanitation issues, gender equality, anti-women practices, sexual harassment and the wage gap.

The female population is almost equal to the male population in Balochistan. This portion of the population cannot be left untrained and unnoticed. This piece of society needs special attention with regard to empowerment and authorization. At provincial level different NGOs are working on the projects to increase the socio-economic condition and status of the female at different scales. These NGOs are working shoulder to shoulder with Government Agencies to achieve the goals of provincial development through process of women empowerment and uplift but their contribution did not cover the bulk size of female population due to the local patriarchal culture and powerfully male-dominant culture. Therefore, there is a need to assess the role of these NGOs which they are performing for the development and empowerment of women in Balochistan. Present research will be developed in order to determine the contemporary challenges of women empowerment and the role of

various NGOs with reference of Balochistan province.

### **Objectives**

The following objectives were taken in consideration during the study:

- To develop comprehensive demographic information about the socio-economic status of people who have been benefited from the Empowerment programs of NGOs.
- To know the opinion of respondents about the financial arrangements made the NGOs in the Process of Empowerment.
- To analyse the respondents' perceptions regarding the women empowerment dimensions disseminated by NGOs.

### **Hypothesis of study:**

The following hypotheses were constructed and tested in the study:

- There is no major variance in the observation of respondents about financial services as perceived by respondents.
- There is no major variance in the observation of respondents about female empowerment dimension as disseminated by the NGOs staff as perceived by respondents

### **Literature Review**

Basu and Basu (2000) reported to concentrate on various executions of monetary advancement packages for the betterment and strengthen the female socio-economic condition in India. In this examination, to accomplish the target, they chose to take help from a related investigation dependent on this subject. In this regard, the role of various Government Organizations (GO's) and NGO's working for the female empowerment/socio-economic improvement in the West-Bengal

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portion of India, was studied. Seventy female respondents who had been beneficiaries and receivers of the packages were interviewed and it was found that these female respondents were independently employed in business for last four years and the NGO's had given them miniaturized scale credit or cash to improve the female financial development and to maintain their businesses. It was discovered in this study that small scale credit schemes, strengthened the financial conditions of females and improved their empowerment. Nonetheless, it was surprising to realize that general increment in the financial strengthening of female were increased through the NGO's interventions.

Various NGO's strengthen the female socio-economic condition through the loan schemes. This positive part of these NGO's lies in the systems which are utilized in formative programs (R Nagar and S. Raju, 2003).

Karmarker (2015) examined the optimistic relationship between female empowerment and accessibility of financial loan. Researcher further, reported that the small scale credit created likelihood for female through the small scale loan. Further, author points out few imperatives and activities that might increase the female empowerment.

Salma, (2002) analyzed a contextual investigation of female empowerment in the twin towns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa such as the Tarnab Kalay and Lala Kalay. The results reveal that large portion of females' livelihood options were based on handiworks, stitching, embroidery, rearing livestock and domesticated animals, quilt creation, jams, pickles, egg production and so forth. Further the results show that both towns' respondents were effectively partaking and contributing to increase their empowerment through the self-business and enhance their family unit's income. It was

additionally discovered that these females were effectively associated with the creation of income as well as promoting the home-made items. Recommendation was made to give an entrance to the market for the clearance of their items and the accessibility of smaller scale credit money should be made simple for them with the goal that the portion of commitment of these ladies could be brought up.

Himayat Ullah and Yasmeen, (2003) assess the impact of project namely (SRSP) on the gender expansion in KPK. In this regard, the information was collected from the sixty-five female respondents in the ten 10 various female associations. In addition, these female associations began different formative projects for the female empowerment development, arrangement of credit for female and wellbeing of female with regard, for better water supply schemes. Further, for the upgradation of revenue distinctive capacity building programs were organized for these women in the field of agribusiness, livestock, agriculture, poultry raising and so forth to help females to increase their empowerment and improve the intensity of female basic leadership

Hussain et al. (2018) reported the relationship between job network of female and role of community association. For this, researchers choose Pakistan Rural Support Program network. In addition, the authors inspected the method of plans about loan schemes of the Sarhad (Now Khyber Pakhtun khuwa) Rural Support Program towards female empowerment. It was found in the investigation that the majority of the female respondents borrowed from Sarhad Rural Support Program in light of their acquiescent, clear method of advancing, no selling prerequisites alongside simple reimbursing offers. Results indicated that the normal salary of those ladies who were encouraged with the Sarhad Rural Support

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Program credit programs were high when contrasted with those ladies who were not encouraged. So, it was deduced in the study that there is a huge effect of credit projects of Sarhad Rural Support Program on the females who had a place with a lower classification (poor class). Recommendation was given in the light of these discoveries that if appropriate and simple methods and conditions of advances are made accessible to the poor class females; their profit could be raised by starting their business actions.

[Kawapong, \(2005\)](#) examined that strengthening of female empowerment programs would be enhanced through the useful educational proficiency. [Kwapong \(2005\)](#) exhibited the consequence of his research which indicated the strengthening of female empowerment programs should be increased through the solid planning. In this regard two thousand female respondents were selected. It was found that females who had high level of education had a sound decision-making power and basic leadership capacities either in home or the outside of the home. It was recommended to upgrade the female financial resources at a similar level like men and improve the female basic leadership capacity and allow them in entrance of advanced education so as to improve the female empowerment in conceivable ways.

### **Research Methodology**

In this regard, convergence *triangulation* or *mix* research approaches (quantitative & qualitative) will be used (QUAL and QUAN approaches. The triangulation design (QUAL and QUAN) is a well-known approach and method which is widely used in behavioral and social sciences frequently. It was exploratory research which tried to dig out the nature of the NGOs programs carried out to empower women of Balochistan. The research would explore the programs of NGOs and their

importance which are designed in the wake of uplifting the plight of women of the province. Present research was based on simple survey and face to face communication at field level. The research was done in three divisions of Balochistan including Kalat Division, Nasirabad Division and Zhob Division, The target sample consisted 450 respondents.

Multistage random sampling technique was used in the present research due to its advantages. Multistage random sampling technique is simpler and easier as compared to other sampling methods. A sample size of 450 respondent's was decided on root of statistical formula based population size through the "Sample Size Calculator"

<https://www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm>. Both population will be determined by using the table "simple size from given population" as used by [Wunsch, \(1987\)](#); [Krejcie and Morgan \(1970\)](#) and [Fitzgibbon et al. \(1987\)](#), at 0.05 error rate. A detailed questionnaire was designed keeping in view the objectives of the study. Research questionnaire carried both closed and open-ended queries. All the information related to those respondents was entered in SPSS to measure the reliability coefficient by using the Cronbach Alpha Program. The research was designed to evaluate the women's empowerment challenges and the role of NGOs in context of Balochistan province. The units of analysis for the current research was 450 respondents. In the present research both the descriptive and inferential statistics were applied. The information tabulated in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version-22. To test the Null hypotheses, the Analysis of Variance ANOVA (DMRT) test was run.

### **Demographic information of respondents: Table No: 01**

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## Demographic information about age (N=450)

Demo: info	Statements	Frequency	%age
Age	Respondents below 20	23	5.1
	Respondents above 21 and below 35	54	12.0
	Respondents above 36 and below 45	272	60.4
	Respondents above 46 and below 55	64	14.2
	Respondents Above 55	37	8.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The above table (01) shows the age wise distribution of respondents. The major bulk of the respondents comprised of age 36 to 45 years. Which is considered an age of maturity and we can expect a more reliable and valid data from such age group

## Table No 2: Demographic information about educational status (N=450)

Demo: info	Statements	Frequency	%age
Educational status	Illiterate respondents	240	53.3
	From standard 01 to matriculation	84	18.7
	Intermediate	19	4.2
	Islamic education	48	10.7
	Technical education	19	4.2
	Graduation (14 year education)	14	3.1
	Masters (16 year education)	10	2.2
Other (please specify)	16	3.6	
<b>Total</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>100.0</b>

This information in table 02 reveals that most of the respondents, in three divisions, were illiterate/uneducated. Whereas 10.7 % had received Islamic education. Very few (4.2) of the respondents were technically educated.

## Table no 3: Distribution of respondents as per access to financial services (N=450)

Statements	Divisions			F-value	Sig*
	KALAT	NASIRABAD	ZHOB		

	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
Agricultural purposes	3.60 <sup>b</sup>	1.310	3.51 <sup>a</sup>	1.213	3.82 <sup>c</sup>	.865	2.958	.053 <sup>NS</sup>
General use and consumption	3.68 <sup>a</sup>	1.004	3.62 <sup>a</sup>	.973	3.70 <sup>a</sup>	1.114	.244	.784 <sup>NS</sup>
Livestock management	2.88 <sup>a</sup>	1.486	4.18 <sup>b</sup>	.390	3.48 <sup>c</sup>	1.072	54.23	.000 <sup>**</sup>
Small business purpose	3.66 <sup>b</sup>	.850	4.02 <sup>c</sup>	.161	3.40 <sup>a</sup>	1.187	20.250	.000 <sup>**</sup>
Water and sanitation purpose	3.80 <sup>a</sup>	.827	3.65 <sup>a</sup>	.904	3.81 <sup>a</sup>	.869	1.569	.209 <sup>NS</sup>

\*, \*\*: Significant at 0.05 and 0.01, respectively, NS: Non significant

The findings show, Females who possessed or controlled their resources had a better economic position as compared to those females who did not have access or control over their resources. In this regard the null hypothesis was tested.

## Null hypothesis 1:

“There is no major variance in the observation of respondents about financial services as perceived by respondents.” To test the first null hypothesis, the alpha level was set on 0.05 level. Significance differences were observed regarding financial services. For that reason, the H<sup>0</sup>1 was rejected in two out of five statements.

## Table No.4: Distribution of respondents regarding female empowerment dimensions disseminated by the NGOs (N=450)

Statements	Divisions						F-value	Sig*
	KALAT		NASIRABAD		ZHOB			
	M	SD	M	SD	M	SD		
Gender equality	3.72 <sup>b</sup>	1.017	3.22 <sup>a</sup>	1.414	3.32 <sup>a</sup>	1.382	6.247	.002*
Female rights and privileges	3.65 <sup>b</sup>	1.231	3.13 <sup>a</sup>	1.324	3.40 <sup>b</sup>	1.247	6.303	.002*
Household decision of female	3.47 <sup>b</sup>	1.246	3.04 <sup>a</sup>	1.294	3.45 <sup>b</sup>	1.108	6.039	.003*
Removal of anti-women practices	3.86 <sup>b</sup>	1.121	3.25 <sup>a</sup>	1.410	3.49 <sup>a</sup>	.833	10.908	.000 <sup>**</sup>
Removal of sexual abuse	3.59 <sup>b</sup>	1.135	3.34 <sup>a</sup>	1.284	3.64 <sup>b</sup>	1.069	2.823	.061 <sup>NS</sup>
Any other (please specify)	3.09 <sup>b</sup>	1.172	3.14 <sup>b</sup>	1.166	2.80 <sup>a</sup>	1.115	3.782	.024*

\*, \*\*: Significant at 0.05 and 0.01, respectively, NS: Non significant

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The female empowerment dimensions as disseminated by NGOs were assessed (tabl-04). In this regard the data was collected at field and further was analyzed by using ANOVA to check the comparison of the respondent's actualities.

### **Null hypothesis 2:**

"There is no major variance in the observation of respondents about female empowerment dimension as disseminated by the NGOs staff as perceived by respondents."

To test the 2<sup>nd</sup> null hypothesis, the alpha level was set on 0.05 level. Significance differences were observed regarding the female empowerment dynamics as disseminated by NGOs. As a result, the H<sup>0</sup>2 was rejected in five out of six statement

### **Conclusion and recommendations**

Females have a very significant and imperative role in the social development and economic standing of any society. But in our society, this category of masses has been neglected in the process of development. Most of females face challenges of low educational status, miserable health conditions, hostile attitudes, low social development, and economic dependence. If this marginalized class of the society is empowered, it would bring positive changes to the society.

NGOs are making efforts to empower women in these regions of the province. The success of these empowerment projects, disseminated by NGOs, is affected by different factors such as the traditional thinking of masses regarding women, the male dominance, marginalization of women, the matter of honor linked to women affairs, and the patriarchal approach towards tackling the problems of everyday life matters.

Considering the above mentioned findings, it is recommended that NGOS such as BRSP, WESS and SPO management should bring more reliable educational, social, community development and health services for women in these zones of the province so as to improve the socio-economic conditions of the rural masses in general and to make the rural women more self-reliant in particular.

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