

“Managing Rural Economic Development through Advancement of Rural Women Participation and Leadership”

Dr. Ajay Singh, Assistant Professor

*Department of AMIS, College of Computer Science & Engineering
University of Hail, Hail - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

Abstract

Women round the world are dynamic leaders and powerful advocates of development and change. However area for his or her leadership and broader social and political participation remains affected. By mid-2011, solely twenty eight countries may claim that women's parliamentary illustration had reached a vital mass of 30% or additional. Solely nineteen women were leading their countries as electoral heads of state or government. Female support countries have to extend women's political leadership, as well as constitutional reforms and special temporary measures to lift the amount of women's presence in political positions. Wherever women have equal right to access economic assets, good livelihoods and leadership opportunities, the building blocks of economic authorization, economic well-being will increase. The global Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report found that in 134 countries with offered information, larger gender equality correlates with a better gross national product. However way too usually, gender discrimination continues to undercut women's choices. Women advocates for economic authorization as women are right, and as a colossal profit for societies and economies. It supports countries in enacting laws and policies that increase women's access to economic resources, and to ascertain services that support property livelihoods. This paper examined advancement of rural women because the foundation for the accomplishment of the twenty first century development goals in Asian nation. The paper highlighted on the authorization of rural women, as well as in reference to access to education and coaching, management over resources, participation in decision-making, changes in unit structures, migration and knowledge and communication technologies and descriptions activities administrated by the organizations of the Indian system to enhance the case of rural women and makes recommendations.

Key Words: advancement, rural women, leadership, rural development, rural migration, Article 14, trifkling.

I. Introduction

According to 2011 Census, women constitute 48.5% of the India's total population. By recognizing women as an important human resource of the country, the Constitution of India has accorded equality to women and also adopts measures of positive discrimination to them. Government of India has been constantly endeavoring to ensure overall development and empowerment of women. The Ministry has been striving for the real empowerment of women by reviewing the laws to remove gender bias, bringing new legal measures for the justice of gender and implementing programmes to find out social and economic advancement of women.²

The improvement of the situation of rural women depends on different aspects of the empowerment including the impact of macroeconomic policy frameworks on their situation. Fourth World Conference on Women, emphasis on improving the situation of rural women through equal access to productive resources, especially land, capital and technology, as well as to gainful employment, decision-making, education and health services. The Platform for action focuses the need for successful strategies to empower women living in rural areas. In the context of the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action being carried out in 2005, the Governments of 134 Member States and one Observer State provided information on the situation of women in rural areas.

The UN Millennium Declaration committed Governments to promoting gender equality and therefore the direction of women as effective ways in which to combat poorness, hunger and illness and to stimulate development that's really sustainable. The Millennium Development Goals embody a goal that entails empowering women and promoting gender equality. The implementation ways have acknowledged that 2/3 of the world's poor belongs to rural areas which the necessity for progress on education, gender equality, maternal and kid mortality, HIV/AIDS destruction and property development seems notably acute in rural regions of most developing countries.⁴

The United Nations Millennium Declaration committed Governments to promoting gender equality and the authorization of females as an effective ways in which to combat economic condition, hunger and malady and to stimulate development which is actually sustainable. The Millennium Development Goals embrace a goal that requires empowering girls and promoting gender equality. Future projected implementation methods have acknowledged that two thirds of the world's poor

sleep in rural areas and that the necessity for progress on education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS eradication, maternal and child mortality and sustainable development appears significantly acute in rural regions of most developing countries.⁴

The Monterrey consensus have made at the International Conference on funding for Development in which it is noted that investments in basic economic and social infrastructure, social services and social protection, as well as education, health, nutrition, shelter and social insurance programmes, that were gender sensitive and fully comprehensive of the agricultural sector, were very important for enabling people to adapt to and have the benefit of ever-changing economic conditions and opportunities. The Monterrey consensus have made to strengthening the effectiveness of the world economic system's support for development, inspired transportation gender perspectives into the mainstream of development policies in any respect levels and all told sectors. It further demanded microfinance and credit for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as in rural areas, significantly for girls, moreover as for social and gender budget policies.

The General Assembly has consistently given attention to the situation of rural women. In his report to the Secretary-General noted the importance of creating an enabling policy environment for improving the level of rural women including the design and implementation of a gender-sensitive macroeconomic policy framework and social support systems to accommodate women's productive and reproductive roles and encourage a more equal gender division of labour in the household. The present report focuses on empowerment of rural women, including in relation to access to education and training, resources, in particular land and income, and decision-making processes; changes in household structure; and the effect of HIV/AIDS, migration and information and communication technologies. The report outlines activities undertaken by United Nations entities to upgrade the level of rural women.

On International Day of the Rural Women*, United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki -Moon highlighted the following "As we approach the 2015 deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals**, it is time to invest more in rural women, protect their rights and improve their status.

The Millennium Development³ Goals are:

1. Eradicate extreme impoverishment and hunger.
2. Target universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/Aids malaria and alternative diseases.
7. Sustainability of environment.
8. Global partnership for development.

This statement acknowledges implicitly that lots should be done to enhance the standing of rural women. In fact, all the most players; specifically, United Nations agencies, governmental institutions, non-governmental entities, self facilitate groups, corporative, should recognize the challenge they face and contribute actively in breakdown their issues with the aim of sanction native them to enjoy fully their human rights. The convention on the elimination of all styles of discrimination against women is that the first medium to recognize expressly rural-urban distinction. It does thus by enumerating specific rights for rural women in its Article 14, and additionally by mentioning their needs in reference to education in Article ten. By naming rural women as a distinct on urban populations that characterizes a great deal of contemporary law making. The concept of a commentary dedicated to rural women arose relatively late in the method of drafting our convention⁵.

Table 1: Poverty Head Count Ratios in Rural and Urban Areas over the years

Head	Poverty Head Count Ratio		
	Rural	Urban	Total
1993-94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004-05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2009-10	33.8	20.9	29.8
Annual poverty rate of reduction (%) (1993-94- 2004-05)	0.8	0.6	0.7
Annual poverty rate of reduction (%) (2004-05 -2009-10)	1.6	1.0	1.5

Source: SAARC Social Charter India Country Report 2012.

***Lisa R. Pruitt, "Deconstructing CEDAW's Article 14: Naming and Explaining Rural Difference", University of Baltimore, Law Review, Volume 17, winter 2011.*

**New York, 15 October 2012.*

The concept came in 1976, when a representative from UN agency (Food and Agriculture Organization) introduced the discussion of rural women and therefore the challenges they face. A representative from Republic of India organized an off-the-cuff working party that created the draft article. Seven countries sponsored the proposal that became Article one hundred forty five. In presenting the draft article, its sponsors noted "two-thirds of female in the world lived in rural areas, which for women in the developing world meant isolation from political, social, cultural and economic activities." They additionally noted the importance of community and extension services that would empower women to assist themselves. The proposal to include this regarding rural women found immediate support from all delegates.

This way CEDAW proved to be not only concerned that women gain equality with men, but also seeking to some extent rural women's equality with urban women. Indeed Article 14 is one of the lengthiest articles of the Convention, comparable in its details only to Article 10 on education, Article 11 on employment, Article 16 on marriage and the family which requires states to remove discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure that they participate in and equally benefit from rural development planning at all levels also could acquire health care facilities, benefit from social security programs, getting all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, participate in all communities activities, organize cooperatives, have access to credit, marketing facilities and enjoy adequate living conditions.

The Committee adopted a general statement on Rural Women stressing that "despite efforts undertaken to encourage overall empowerment of rural women, on the other side there are still many issues that need to be focus as women particularly rural women who face discrimination in all over her life (50th session of CEDAW). In this the Committee decided to establish a working group on rural women for the purpose of preparing a general recommendation on Article 14. It would also give rural women and their rights greater visibility and priority among state parties, civil society, NGOs and the wider United Nations human rights system.

II. Rural women and challenges

If we take under consideration of the key productive resources, there is only between 10% -20% of all land holders are women and property ownership rights and inheritance rights are de facto not recognized in many countries. Generally, lands are registered only in male names as well as compensation payments.

III. Women Social Rights

- ✓ In some part of the globe, sociopolitical and economic constraints limit female and access to female education. These embody restrictions in mobility, advantageous schooling of boys Vs girls.
- ✓ Rural women exist primarily outside official statistics about GDP and employment and have very often been unnoticed in development planning.
- ✓ Maternal mortality rate is continually going be high in rural areas, mostly owing to the absence of skillful birth attendants and medical personnel, deficiency disease is prevailing as well as poor health services, the woman child is usually neglected thanks to traditional rural setting.
- ✓ Malnutrition as well as food insecurity have an effect on livelihoods, lack of beverage and long distance to gather water for daily family desires.
- ✓ Particular constraints are to access to money services as well on their access to trendy and new technologies.

IV. Political Participation

Due to inadequate expression in relevant community organizations and legal decision making bodies through which reinforcing politically and in law that rural women already experience through physical geography that separates them from centers of power. Most of the women who stand to benefit from Article 14 are likely not aware of these rights. Rural women in particular have comparatively lesser opportunities than their urban counterparts to enforce their rights. This is due to relative absence of law in rural places.

The additional data to be enclosed in State reports underneath Article fourteen associated with new challenges and issues, specifically, measures taken on:

- ✓ Enabling necessary institutional set-up originated and legal policy framework
- ✓ Impacts of micro-economic economy policy measures on rural women
- ✓ Opportunities to access better rural employment and livelihood
- ✓ Impact of natural disasters and temperature change on rural women
- ✓ Land acquisitions and changes in land use laws.

- ✓ Disadvantaged relating to disabled women, older girls, native ones.

India has witnessed 15 General Elections to the Lok Sabha (Lower House) of National Parliament so far. As on November 2011, the Lok Sabha has only 60 women representatives out of 544 members while there are 26 female Members of Parliament in the 241 member Rajya Sabha (Upper House).

Table 2: Proportion of seats held by women in National parliament

Year	Lok Sabha Seats (Lower House)			Rajya Sabha Seats (Upper House)			Total		
	Total Seats	Seats held by women	Share (%)	Total Seats	Seats held by women	Share (%)	Total Seats	Seats held by women	Share (%)
2004	544	45	8.3	250	28	11.2	794	73	9.2
2007	544	47	8.6	250	25	10.0	794	72	9.1
2009	545	59	10.8	234	21	9.0	779	80	10.3
2011	544	60	11.0	241	26	10.8	785	86	11.0

Source: SAARC Social Charter India Country Report 2012.

V. Rural Women and Global Advancement

Major aspects of globalization that relate to rural development include the commercialization of agriculture and expansion of agro-industries, the liberalization of international trade and markets for food and other agricultural products, the intensification of international and internal labour migration, the increasing privatization of resources and services and the extended use of information and communication technologies. The sign of globalization for rural women are complex and data remain sparse and unindicative⁶. Some of the women in rural areas, the ongoing changes present new opportunities; for others, they intensify social exclusion and marginalization.

Women play a crucial role in agricultural production and within the rural economies of most developing countries. within the developing world as an entire, agriculture accounted for regarding sixty three per cent of total feminine employment in 1997 and it is still the foremost necessary sector for feminine employment in Black Africa and Asia.⁷ Rural women population build major and multiple contributions to the action of food security and manufacture quite 1/2 the food mature worldwide.⁸ In Black Africa this figure is higher, with female conducive sixty to eighty per cent of the labour in food production each for home consumption and available. In Asia, female do fifty to ninety per cent of the add the rice fields.⁹ Rural women diversify and perform multiple tasks at the same time to sustain their livelihoods, functioning on farms and fascinating in off-farm activities.

In context of globalization, economics policies, as well as those associated with economic stability, investment, taxation, external debt, employment and markets, have an on the spot influence on the livelihoods of rural women, in each the formal and informal sectors. Development of economics policies should take into consideration the impact of these policies on rural women to make sure their equal access service, resources, and economic & financial opportunities.

Women should not solely have equal rights, capabilities and access to resources and opportunities, however they have to even have the agency to use such power, resources, capabilities, and opportunities to create strategic selections.⁶ authorization of girls in rural areas depends on many factors, as well as possession and management over land; access to various forms of employment and income-generating activities; access to public merchandise such as water, village commons and forests, infrastructure, education and coaching, health care and money services and markets; and opportunities for participation in political life and within the style and implementation of policies and programmes.

In recognition of the fact that the majority of the extreme poor live in rural areas in many regions, especially in Africa and Asia, the Millennium Project proposed as one of seven clusters of national strategies for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals the promotion of vibrant rural communities by increasing food productivity, raising rural incomes and expanding rural access to essential public services and infrastructure.³

Women's poverty is reflected in malnourishment and undernourishment, resulting, inter alia, from insufficient income, poor or absence of education and gender inequality inside households.¹⁰ women in rural areas has high fertility rates and restricted access to information and services on procreative health. There is additionally a significant work burden and time allocation

differential between women and men in developing countries. A UN agency study found that ladies in rural Africa pay sixty five per cent of their time on journeys on foot. Improvements in rural infrastructure, such as reasonable and safe water, sanitation and energy near the house and accessible and reasonable modes of transport could dramatically improve the time poverty of rural women.³

VI. Discrimination in Possession in Land and property Rights

Despite several economical efforts, most households in rural areas still rely on land and natural resources for his or her basic subsistence. Due to insecure land rights, farmers have little or no access to credit, rural establishments, irrigation systems and different agricultural infrastructure and services. Land and property possession will increase women's food security, their power of bargain at intervals the family and their social rank as members of the community. A study of twenty savings and credit teams established beneath a global Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) project in Bangladesh¹¹ showed that a lot of ladies used their loans and financial gain to achieve access to agricultural land. In several countries, customary laws and practices permit ladies to access land and alter them to interact in and have the benefit of livestock, agricultural, and forest primarily based production. However, once land becomes a marketable quality, women's access rights to land could also be profaned or neglected by family and community members, notably within the case of single and unmarried ladies.¹³

One common factor of the privatization process in a number of regions is that privatization tends to concentrate most land rights in the hands of a minority. Because of economic and cultural factors and power relationships, this minority often excludes women.¹³ Some general trends in the process of privatization of land at the regional level can be find out. In Latin America, current land distribution programmes are based on land banks or land market schemes that operate on the principle of purchasing of land, necessitating the availability of sufficient cash resources. Women have benefited less than men from these programmes. A survey of land distribution conducted in Brazil, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru found that women represented only one third or less of landowners.¹⁴

Land reforms in most of Asia, reform has targeted on changing tenants into personal sodbuster house owners, except in China, wherever a distinct model promoting the unit responsibility system has been adopted. Possession rights to agricultural land stay within the property right; however the correct to use farmland has been privatized. The attitudes and stereotypes concerning the role of female and male in society have given men management over land. In Nepal, for instance, per the 2001 census, solely eleven per cent of the overall household's reportable female owning land.

VII. Assisting Rural Women through Rural Credit

Credit enables producers to sustain or expand agricultural production and enhance productivity. However, women producers having limited resources, receive only a minor share of formal agricultural credit even in countries where they are major producers. As land is the major asset used to obtain rural credit and due to these women have limited access to credit facilities.⁶

Table 3: Rural And Urban Development: Physical & Financial Progress

Head	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Financial Progress (in millions)						
Available Fund	151100.20	155800.53	172400.55	239400.17	300300.05	1745400.34
Utilized Fund	129000.83	133800.78	142400.20	196500.97	228500.40	1331700.84
Disbursed Amount of Credit to SHGs	102700.66	127500.41	180300.34	209000.70	251300.38	1063900.67
Total Credit Mobilized (4+5)	165800.18	182300.16	229100.21	276000.31	353000.07	1839400.91
Investment Ratio (Individuals to SHGs)	100.79	200.49	300.75	300.18	200.28	100.41
Per Capita Investment (in millions)	2255500	2369900	1928100	2876500	2993200	..
B. Physical Progress (in numbers)						
Self Help Groups formed	266230	276414	246309	306688	563530	3400258
Women Self Help Group formed	191666	213213	176712	231670	404972	2298177
Percentage of Women SHGs	71.99	77.14	71.74	75.54	71.86	67.59
Women Entrepreneur Assisted	606141	662764	1247132	1083905	1206513	6872231
Percentage of Women Assisted	54.32	57.58	73.71	63.79	64.80	56.70

Source: SAARC Social Charter India Country Report 2012.

*Rural and Urban Development under SGSY- Swarna Gyanti Swarojgar Yojna, India

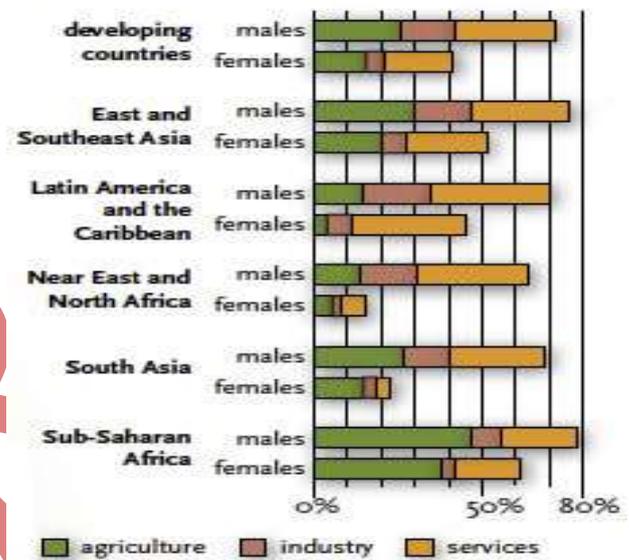
Withdrawal of credit provided by the Government in rural areas as the result of an increased liberalization and privatization of the financial sector can make access to credit even more difficult for women. Lack of information and knowledge concerning how to apply for credit and mutual distrust between banking institutions and agricultural producers constitute additional obstacles.¹⁹ During the past, considerable attention has been given to microcredit for the advancement of women. However, there have been seen mixed results in South Asia; further some studies showed that the bargaining position of women within the household was strengthened by access to credit and control over income and assets.

VIII. Accessing Income and Employment

The expansion of agro-industry and rural industrialization has exaggerated the probabilities for females to access money financial gain through self-employment or the putting in place of rural enterprises. Wage employment permits girls to urge out of the relative isolation of the house or their little rural communities and gain shallowness and confidence. A study of garment and textile producing within the East Pakistan, Export process Zone in Bangladesh that provides urban employment opportunities for rural girls, found that over ninety per cent of feminine garment employees had high self-worth, and compared with fifty three per cent for feminine employees in non-export industries. A survey of houses conducted in 2 townships in China confirmed that the division of labour and gender-specific decision-making patterns in households modified because the supply and structure of household financial gain modified. The role of girls in decision-making exaggerated as their incomes exaggerated. once the contribution of girls to the acquisition of agricultural inputs exaggerated, their share in decision-making exaggerated from twenty five to twenty nine per cent and once the labour input of girls to selling exaggerated from forty seven to fifty six per cent, their share in connected decision-making exaggerated from fifty three to sixty one per cent.¹⁸

Figure 1

Employed population as a share of total adult population, by sex and sector

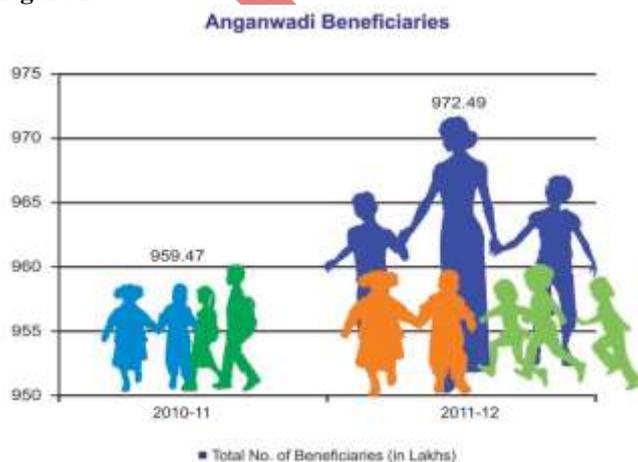


Source: FAO 2011

IX. Advancement through Education, Training and Development

The agenda for the advancement of rural women needs the activity of values, structures and processes that maintain women's subordination to justify difference in access to social, political and economic resources. Education plays a crucial role during this method. Studies in several countries have shown that education for women is that the single only means of reducing poorness, though it's not sufficient by itself.⁹ Inequalities in education and talent acquisition will justify the actual fact that feminine profit but men from economic opportunities yet because the trend towards the rise of ladies among the poorest within the population.¹⁸

Figure 2



Gender inequalities in access to education are well documented in rural areas. The situation varies considerably between countries and regions, and although there is no exact data about the situation in rural areas, global figures indicate that approximately 60 per cent of the illiterate people in the world are women, with only 69 per cent of women over the age of 15 being literate, compared to 83 per cent of men.¹⁹

The needs and opportunities for livelihood diversification within the context of globalization place increased time demands on rural women and girls. Increasing reliance on the labour of girls may jeopardize their education. Other

factors that contribute to reduced enrolment rates and increased dropout rates for girls include school fees and the lack of girl-friendly environments, transport and sanitation facilities. For example, a survey of education in Yemen in 1997-1998 found that only 20 per cent of teachers in rural areas were women and identified this fact as a major deterrent to girls' enrolment and retention in school in rural areas.²⁰ Reduction or abolition of school fees and special monetary incentives have resulted in increases in school enrolment of girls. For example, in Bangladesh the launching of a nationwide stipend programme for rural girls in 1994 had a significant impact on their enrolment, which increased from 27 to 54 per cent.²¹

In addition to increasing women's access to the formal education system, it is important to provide women with access to training, including on marketing, rural entrepreneurship, household management and credit. Rural women's access to training and education is essential if they are to develop livelihood strategies that build on the opportunities created by globalization.

X. Capacity Building in Decision-making

Globalization has been accompanied by political changes in the form of socialization and decentralization and this opens up new space for women. Various systems of positive action were utilized, including the reservation of a proportion of seats on local bodies for women likewise India, and the creation of special electoral paths for women, as in Uganda. In elections Jordan, in 2003, for example, resulted in the election of five women and the appointment of 94 women to village councils. In India, more than a million women are now at different levels of local governance in both rural and urban local governmental bodies.

Rural women continue to face a number of constraints on their ability to participate in formal and informal decision-making processes. The predominant responsibility for household tasks continues to be assigned to women and girls and limits their time and opportunities to be actively involved in social, political and educational activities. Stereotypical attitudes, lack of education, security concerns and freedom of movement may also limit opportunities for women to participate.

Where rural women participate in decision-making, there are signs that women in local government have a tangible impact on allocation of resources, for example in relation to services and amenities such as water supplies and public health, as well as positive effects in terms of building social acceptance of women's political authority. Gender-sensitive budget initiatives have been undertaken to fulfill the needs of rural women, but the research studies shows that these initiatives only lead to women's empowerment if they are accompanied by the creation of an enabling environment that eliminates inequalities in other areas such as household division of labour.²²

XI. Restructuring Households Structures and Gender Equality

Rural households respond to the opportunities and challenges created by increased dependence on the market by diversifying their resource base and by restructuring the division of labour within the household. The emerging diversity of household types includes an increasing number of households headed by women, as well as those containing several generations. Some households, including female-headed multi-generational households, may also have a missing middle generation as a result of migration or the impact of HIV/AIDS.

As per the globe Survey on the Role of women in development increased labour quality as a results of globalization is one all told the foremost very important reasons for changes in house composition. In some female headed households, men unit away on temporary and seasonal migration, whereas continuing to require care of decision-making powers. There unit female-headed households whereas not a link to males as a results of single female abandoned. In these households, female have decision-making powers and additionally the total social and economic responsibility for the well-being of house members, though sometimes to a lower place conditions of lower economic rank and access to opportunities. In single households or social units otherwise characterized by the absence of a male household member, rural women sometimes assume all tasks and responsibilities, which could be associate empowering experience for them. Women employ different strategies to compensate for the loss of labour. They may organize labour exchanges with other women, work longer hours or, if they have income from sources such as remittances, hire additional labour. But they might also adopt such strategies as reducing agricultural areas under cultivation to less labour-intensive but less nutritious crops, thus affecting the food security of the household.

XII. Voluntary Migration of Women from Rural Areas

Although labour mobility generally results in the redistribution of work and responsibilities and the effect of migration on household division of labour and gender relations varies significantly. As outlined in the 2004 World Survey on the Role of

Women in Development, women are increasingly involved in various types of migration. Lack of access to resources at home, especially land, is one of the factor that contributes to women's migration from rural areas, result in complementary to the attraction various opportunities. This results in movements from rural to rural areas, as young women join the agro-industry workforce; rural to urban areas, when girls and adult women leave for towns and cities to enter the service and manufacturing sectors as well as export units; and international as women leave to work as maids, entertainers, teachers and nurses. Apart from economic reasons for migration, which are of primary importance, women and in particular young single women, also migrate in order to escape the hardship of rural life and social control.

Voluntary movement of rural women in search of latest job opportunities might contribute to their authorization as they develop skills and knowledge and judge to create associate freelance life. However, there has conjointly been an increase in forced migration, like trafficking in girls and women for the aim of exploitation. Rural women are also significantly liable to trafficking as a result of they need a lot of restricted access to info, education and coaching, employment opportunities and management over financial and economic resources.

Remittances providing additional family income constitute further benefits of migration. Migration increases remittances to rural areas and strengthens market linkages between rural and urban areas. Some evidence suggests that migrant women remit more of their income to their families than male migrants. The impact of remittance income on household well-being depends on who controls remittance income and the manner through it spent. It is evident that remittances from migrants do not fulfill everyone in need and may thus increase inequality. Remittances may also depend on contributions from migrant women who are not investing on their own conditions like health and education.

XIII. Role of Information and Communication Technologies (RICTs) in Advancement

In general assembly resolution (58/146), it was stressed the need to ensure that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communication technologies, and invited the World Summit on the Information Society, in Geneva and Tunis, to take into consideration, while addressing gender issues, the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global information and communication technology strategies. Using effectively knowledge and communication technologies can improve rural women's leadership and participation in community and economic development activities. However, rural females are at the lowest level of the digital gender divide. As per the findings of the International Telecommunication Union, limited infrastructure, affordability and education are the most barriers for rural female in Africa. Time, geographical location of facilities and social and cultural norms represent further constraints.²³

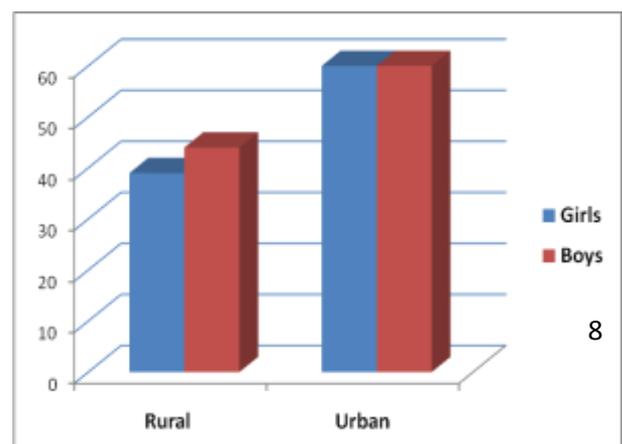
The World Summit on the Information Society affirmed that Governments are committed to ensuring that the information society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. In the second phase of the World Summit held in Tunis in 2005, gender equality and financing information and communication technologies for development, including through the integration of relevant policies into poverty reduction strategies have been discussed. The importance of supporting rural women as information producers has also been emphasized.

XIV. United Nations System and Rural Development¹

United Nations entities have continued to respond to the challenges facing rural women by implementing policies and programmes addressing different aspects of the situation of rural women, including land ownership, microfinance, access to markets and trade, migration, trafficking and knowledge-sharing, education and training. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has built the capacity of Member States to integrate gender perspectives in policies and programmes and has provided support to over 30 countries in developing sex disaggregated agricultural statistics.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has promoted the economic empowerment of rural women through multi-stakeholder dialogues and capacity-building and multi-stakeholder dialogue. ESCAP has also provided sharing of experience and good practices on the elimination of gender discrimination in the labour market through gender-sensitive legislation. UNDP, operating with the Japanese women in Development Fund, has supported programmes in Kingdom of Bhutan, Cameroon, Egypt, India, Ruanda and

Figure 3: Global Secondary School Attendance (%)



country to extend rural women's access to data and communication. To Promote participation of rural women in designing and resource allocation has additionally been a key component of UNDP interventions. For instance, in India, economic condition alleviation initiatives have committed \$6 million to supporting partnerships with civil society organizations, as well as women's teams. UNDP additionally continues support work for the elimination of violence against ladies in rural areas.

Source: FAO 2011

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) projects have supported the integration of women in advocacy for and building of networks on environmental issues. UNEP has also undertaken initiatives to strengthen the capacity of women in rural areas in knowledge-sharing and natural resources management, for example in water and sanitation management.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) capacity-building programme for the empowerment of marginalized adolescent girls in depressed rural areas in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan covers literacy and skills, management of small enterprises, microfinance and education with access to information and communication technologies. The outcome of this and other new models and innovative approaches of applying information and communication technologies for poverty reduction at the grass-roots level are documented in two UNESCO publications: Profiles and Experiences in ICT Innovation for Poverty Reduction and Research on ICT Innovations for Poverty Reduction.

In the Arab States, UNIFEM has supported the participation of women in information and communication technologies through a new partnership in a Jordanian government sponsored electronic village 'e-village' initiative. The project also creates new job and marketing opportunities, focusing especially on linking women producers to expanded tourist markets. In a rural community heavily affected by HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe, a UNIFEM-supported pilot programme has noted that men's participation in home-based care is increasing and that stigma and discrimination against women have declined.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) focuses on initiatives to move women from subsistence agriculture to the manufacturing sector through off-farm productive activities. To support the socio-economic empowerment of rural women and their full participation in it also assists women to manage/organize business associations to provide access to finance.

International Labour Organization (ILO) emphasizes on promoting the rights of women working in rural areas in the agricultural sector, creating job training and skills training opportunities for rural women, generating opportunities for women's entrepreneurship and employment, strengthening institutional capacity to provide financial services to women, eliminating child labour and combating trafficking in women and children. The World Intellectual Property Organization has an ongoing programme addressing traditional knowledge and genetic resources. The programme includes a focus on the knowledge and intellectual property of indigenous women, many of whom live in rural communities.

XV. Conclusions and Recommendations

Globalization has direct and indirect effects on the advancement of rural women. The benefits are increased opportunities for non-farm activities, employment in non-agricultural sectors, and enhanced opportunities for participation in local decision-making and networking, including through information and communication technologies. The empowerment of rural women has a direct impact on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration in all areas, including development, security and human rights and poverty eradication.

Entities of UN, Governments, and relevant stakeholders should follow policies and programmes that strengthen the enhancing effects of globalization on the advancement of rural women. Also ensuring rural women's needs and contributions, including through free consultation and ensure their participation in the rural development, implementation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies, programmes and poverty reduction; Enhancing protecting of women's rights pertaining to property and inheritance through legislature, promotion of education among them, providing legal assistance, awareness campaigns and training of government officials; Also ensuring the total integration of rural women's perspectives in all policy measure for combating HIV/AIDS and giving priority to multi-dimensional policies in directly for the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural women.

Promoting rural women's participation in decision-making, including through affirmative action, and support for women's establishment, labour unions or other associated and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights; Ensuring gender-sensitive budget initiatives at the local and national which support the allocation of resources for the up gradation of women in rural areas; Improving availability of resources, access to and use of rural infrastructure likewise energy and transport also public goods such as water and communal resources, as well as access to safe health services; Mobilizing national level

resources through official development assistance to enhance women's access to savings and credit finance schemes, as well as the government programmer's that provide women, capital, know-how and tools that enhance their economic conditions; Supporting remunerative non-farm employment of rural women, improving conditions of workings and enhancing access to productive resources; Increasing the capacity for gender analysis through training and development programmes and providing methodologies and tools that could ensure the positive integration of rural women's perspectives in policies and programmes; In addition to this also increasing the focus among policy makers on rural women's legislative demands for equal rights and better life & future.

In addition to recommendations responding to each and every challenge and problem, the Implement a comprehensive national strategy to reduce the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty and promote their well being. Allocate adequate budgetary, humane and administrative resources to achieve rural women's substantive equality in national budgets. Place a gender perspective at the center of all policies and programs affecting rural development, strengthen the mechanisms to claim the rights and take initiative to remove barriers to women's ability to take action against those rights.

References

- [1]. UN Women Annual Report, 2010-11
- [2]. Government of Progressive Alliance, Report to the People 2011-12
- [3]. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals rural poor to overcome their poverty. Discussion paper, IFAD 1978-2003.
- [4]. *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals* (New York, Millennium Project, 2005).
- [5]. SAARC Social Charter India Country Report 2012, General Recommendation on Article 14 of CEDAW Rural Women By Ms. Naela Gabr.
- [6]. *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World*, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.III.Y.1).
- [7]. *Filling the data gap: Gender-sensitive statistics for agricultural development*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1999.
- [8]. "A Fairer Future for Rural Women", Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1995.
- [9]. *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women* (Millennium Project, Task Force on Education and Gender Equality, 2005).
- [10]. "Household food security: implications for policy and action for rural poverty alleviation and nutrition", International Fund for Agricultural Development, 1996.
- [11]. Govind, Kelkar, Dev Nathan and Jahan, Rownok, "Redefining women's samman: microcredit and gender relations in rural Bangladesh", *Economic and Political Weekly* (August 2004).
- [12]. "A gender perspective on land rights: equal footing", Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2005.
- [13]. Susana Lastarria-Cornhiel, "The impact of changing patterns of land rights on rural women", (Land Tenure Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison); paper presented at the expert group meeting on the situation of rural women within the context of globalization, Ulaanbaatar, June 2001.
- [14]. Deere, Carmen Diana and Magdalena Leon, "The gender asset gap: land in Latin America", *World Development*, vol. 31, No. 6 (2003).
- [15]. Owing to factors such as population growth, desertification and land degradation, arable land per member of the agricultural population of most developing countries has been declining for the past 30 years; Ruth S. Meinzen-Dick and others, "Gender and property rights: an overview", *World Development*, vol. 25, No. 8 (1997).
- [16]. P. Paul-Majumder and A. Begum, "The gender imbalances in the export-oriented garment industry in Bangladesh", research paper for the World Bank Policy Research, report on gender and development, No. 12 (2000).
- [17]. Lin Zhibin, "Capacity or opportunity: women's role in decision-making in the household and the community: case studies in China", paper presented at the expert group meeting on the situation of rural women within the context of globalization, Ulaanbaatar, June 2001.
- [18]. R. Pearson "Moving the goalposts: gender and globalization in the twenty-first century", C. Sweetman, ed., *Gender in the 21st Century* (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Oxfam, 2000).
- [19]. "Women of our world", Population Reference Bureau, New York, 2002.
- [20]. The website of the Yemen country office of the United Nations Development Programme (<http://www.undp.org/ye/education.htm>).
- [21]. *Taking Action: Achieving Gender Equality ...*, based on B. Herz and G. B. Sperling, *What works in girl's education: evidence and policies from the developing world*, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, D. C., 2004; and *Gender and Education for All: the Leap to Equality*, Global Monitoring Report, 2003/2004, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 2003.
- [22]. Nirmala Banerjee and Joyanti Sen, "The Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana: a policy in working"; see also, for example, case studies on Brazil, India, Nigeria, Philippines and Uganda (<http://www.gender-budgets.org>).
- [23]. Daphne Topouzis, "The implications of HIV/AIDS for rural development policy and programming: focus on sub-Saharan Africa", study for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development
- [24]. Programme, 1998.