

Effects of Economic Dependency on Decision Making Power of Women in Rural Areas of Tehsil Dera Ghazi Khan

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Abstract

Rural women are economically dependent on men especially in the developing countries. Economic dependency is the degree in which a person relies upon others to fulfilling his or her needs. This study was conducted to know the effects of economic dependency on decision making power of rural women. Rural women were economically depended on their husbands and they were not free to spend their own income on their will because of the culture and patriarchal society. The researcher found that majority of rural women were economically depend on their men and this economic dependency effect their decision making power. Mostly their husband took the decision in their family. They got money for their personal needs from their husbands. The researchers found that majority of rural women were not participating in decisions regarding family affairs and other affairs of their life due to economic dependency. The researcher found there is association between economic dependency and decision making power of women.

Keywords: Economic dependency, rural women, rural area, Pakistan.

Introduction

Rural women are economically dependent on men especially in the developing countries. Women are more likely to be dependent during their adult lives. As a daughter, it is considered her obligation to obey her father's decision. They have hardly any choice of their marriage. After the marriage, women are more likely to depend on their husbands for economic support. This economic dependency is the outcome of sexual division of labor in which primary responsibility for child care and family work falls to women and charge of securing an income for family falls to men. Women's labor force participation rates is low than men. If this rate of participation would increase, it will help to increase the family income and decreased their degree of dependency on men. Economic dependency is hurdle to their personality growth, achievements and affects their ability to pursue their self interests. Economic dependency of women encourage them to go further and are more likely to serve as a hurdle to the full use of

the available options in their life, because women finds himself in a dependent relationship with men. Economic arrangements between men and women are the part of social system. Most of the culture provide breadwinner role to men with the duty to earn more money and gain power and status in order to secure the family a better position in society. Men are in the stronger position when it comes to making career decision and allocating household resources than women. Hence, a married couple is more likely to choice the decision which would be good for husband's career than wife (Sorensen and Sara, 1989).

Women also play an important role in the economic welfare of the family. Women perform different tasks regarding their Socio-economic structure, number of people in the family, the nature of professions they are involved. Decisions made in home management ranges is importance from major once in a lifetime. For example, choice of a marriage partner is indeed an important decision and decisions related their children education and so on. In the upper income groups, the type of home decisions and the duties of women may vary greatly from the conservative or traditional home. The authoritarian character of the traditional joint family entails decision making powers concentrated, in the position of the eldest male members (Megha, 1990).

In rural areas, women also economically support their families. Majority of the women are involved in livestock production process. Taking care of livestock is usually performed by rural women. They collect fodder, clean sheds, milking the animals and do other works related with livestock care. Unfortunately their involvement in livestock management is undervalued and regarded as housework. Role of women in the household is traditional. The rural woman has a very busy work schedule. The rural woman's work included livestock and poultry care etc. without anybody's help. Women play a vital role in livestock and poultry management as part of their housework. Despite their considerable contribution in variety of work within and outside home, women of Pakistan are neglected in major household decisions (Feldstein, 2008).

Women play a great role in over all development and progress of the nation. But their participation in different fields either directly or indirectly are still ignored in many aspects. Unfortunately, women are considered inferior to men, and their life is restricted within the four walls of the house. For taking any decision, less power is given to women, as they have no right to take decisions regarding various items as compared to men. In this article the author has tried to make women aware of their influence on society, nation and to attain their respectable status within the family. Rights should be given to women, to make decisions regarding various aspects in the family and society (Raj, 2008).

Pakistani society is patriarchal society. Women mobility is restricted which is a hurdle in their economic development. This thing becomes women economically dependent on their family and their decision making is done for them by male family members. The value of the society creates gender inequality. Gender is socially constructed. In family girls are given completely separate roles than boys. Moreover, in many families sons are given preference are daughter. In this way, boys get more affection and more education. All these things make boy's

personality confident than girls. So, their lack of confidence also becomes a barrier in their economic development (Bhatti, 2007).

Significance of the study

Rural women are trapped in a web of economic dependency and subordination due to their low social, economic and status in society. Economic dependency is the degree in which a person relies upon others to fulfilling his or her needs. Pakistan is an under developing country and almost seventy percent of the population is living in rural areas. Women's economic dependency is greater in rural areas than urban areas. The ratio of females working in the fields is comparatively higher than males. But still they are economically dependent on males because of the patriarchal society. This economic dependency effects their life and decision making power. That's why researcher selects this topic.

The majority of women suffer from poverty and majority of women are not involve in family decision making. As compare to men, women are faced unequal opportunities of health, education and other social services due to the patriarchal control over society. These unequal opportunities effect the decision making power of women.

Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study were following.

1. To find out the economic dependency of rural women.
2. To find out the decision making power of rural women.
3. To explore relationship between economic dependency and decision making power.

Literature Reviews

The purpose of this chapter was to review the literature related to present research. In this chapter those studies were reviewed which either directly or indirectly related to economic dependency or decision were making power of women.

Bogaleet *al.* (2010) discussed that in rural areas, women are dependent on their family. They are dependent on parents for taking decision in every matter and after marriage; they rely on their husband's decision on different issues such as financial decisions, children's education decisions, and children's marriage decisions and especially in family planning decisions. Shahnaj (2007) discussed that social status of rural women is low. Economic dependency makes women socially backward and considered as a burden on family. Culture of any society plays an important role in determine the social status of female. In rural areas, culture also promotes low social status of female. Female education is treated to be against the traditions. In rural family, their role is considered to be secondary and is faced stressed condition such as domestic violence. This low social status leads the low decision making power than male.

Kerley (2011) concluded that gender inequality play an important role in domestic violence against women. This gender inequality leads to the economic dependency of women on men. Because females have less chances to get higher education than males. Culture plays also an important role in gender inequality. In many cultures, women are considered inferior than men and wives have less economic resources than their husband and have lower decision making power than their husband. So, that's why they are at greater risk for multiple form of violence.

Meiners and Olson (2010) suggested that household, paid and unpaid work are unique for rural women and rural women. There is also difference among rural women and urban women in the allocation of time to categories of household work. Rural women spend more time in the fields and urban women spend more time in organizational participation. Urban women are more likely to free to spend their money on their will than rural women. That's way urban women are more economically independent than rural women. Rural women are economically dependent on family. This economically dependency effect their decision making power. Rural women have low decision making power than urban women because rural women are financially dependent on their males.

Methodology

The universe for the present study was areas of Tehsil Dere Ghazi Khan, it comprised thirty four rural union councils. From these thirty four rural union councils, five rural union Councils were selected with the help of simple random sampling technique. From the selected five union councils, name of these union councils were Aliwala, Jakhar Imam Shah, Paigah, ,ShadanLound and Shah Sadar Din. Total two hundred respondents were selected. The sample of present study consisted of two hundred married rural women of Tehsil Dera Ghazi Khan in 2012; forty respondents were selected from each rural union council by using the quota sampling technique. Keeping in mind the objectives of the research the researcher constructed a structured interview schedule for the purpose of data collection according to the nature of the present research. The researcher personally interviewed the respondents in their homes. In order to ensure the validity and accuracy of tool, pre-testing of structured interview schedule was done and ten respondents were interviewed. After Pre-testing, some modifications were made in interview schedules. For present research, hypothesis was "Greater the freedom to spend money, greater will be decision making power". The data was tabulated and statistically analyzed with the help of SPSS software (statistical package for the social sciences). Each item of investigation was into a frequency distribution. Chi-Square test was applied to examine relationship between independent and dependent variable. The value of Gamma showed the strength and direction of relationship between independent and dependent variables.

Results and Discussion

Table No. 1

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their age

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage
20-29 years	122	61.0
30-39 years	41	20.5
40-49 years	37	18.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents sixty one percent (61.0 %) belonged to the age group of 20-29 years, more than twenty percent (20.5 %) of the respondents belonged to the age group of 30-39 years, more than eight percent (18.5 %) of the respondents belonged to the age group of 40-49 years. This ratio show that the majority of the respondents belonged to young age.

Table No. 2

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their Marital Status

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	150	75.0
Divorced	20	10.0
Widowed	25	12.5
Separated	5	2.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents seventy five percent (75.0 %) of the respondents were married, more than twelve percent (12.5 %) of the respondents were widowed, ten percent (10.0 %) of the respondents were divorced and more than two percent (2.5 %) of the respondents were separated. This ratio shows that the majority of the respondents were married because of the custom of early marriage in rural areas.

Table No. 3

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their education

Education of the respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	145	72.5
Primary	25	12.5
Middle	15	7.5
Metric	15	7.5
Total	200	100

This table shows the percentage distribution of respondents regarding their education. The data shows that majority of the respondents more than seventy two percent (72.5%) of the respondents were illiterate, more than twelve percent(12.5 %) of the respondents got Primary education, more than seven percent (7.5 %) of the respondents got Middle education and more than seven percent (7.5 %) of the respondents got Metric education. This table shows that majority of the respondents were illiterate because they preferred religious education and lack of education facilities in rural areas.

Table No. 4

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their Family type in which they are live

Family type in which they are live	Frequency	Percentage
Nuclear	25	12.5
Joint	175	87.5
Total	200	100

This table shows that majority of the respondents more than eighty seven percent (87.5 %) lived in joint family system; more than twelve percent (12.5 %) of the respondents lived in nuclear family system. This table shows that majority of the respondents lived in joint family system. It can be concluded that joint family system are hindrance in economic development. Mostly this happens in joint family system, one earns and all other member eats by sitting at home.

Table No. 5

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their the head of family

The Head of the family	Frequency	Percentage
Father-in-law	74	37.0
Husband	81	40.5
Own-self	24	12.0
Son	21	10.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents forty percent (40.0 %) said that their head of the family were their husband, thirty seven percent (37.0 %) of the respondents said that their father-in-law were head of the family, twelve percent (12.0%) of the respondents said that they were own-self head of their family and more than ten percent (10.5 %) of the respondents said that their sons were the head of their family. The table shows that mostly men are the head of the family because of patriarchal society. It is also said that men can manage the things in proper way as compare to women.

Table No. 6

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they support their family economically

Support their family economically	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	90	45.0
To some extent	102	51.0
Not at all	8	4.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents fifty one percent (51.0 %) said that they support their family economically to some extent and forty five percent (45.0 %) of the respondents said that they support their family economically to great extent and four percent (4.0 %) percent of the respondents said that they did not support their family economically at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they supported their family economically either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 7

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their nature of work

Nature of work	Frequency	Percentage
Private Job	24	12.0
Farming	92	46.0
Labor	51	25.5
Livestock	33	16.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that forty six percent (46.0 %) of the respondents were belonged to farming, more than twenty five percent (25.5 %) of the respondents were labor, more than sixteen percent (16.5 %) of the respondents were belonged to livestock work and twelve percent (12.0 %) of the respondents were did private job. The table shows that majority of the respondents were belonged to farming.

Table No. 8

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their monthly income from different sources

Monthly income from different sources	Frequency	Percentage
1000-2000	9	4.5
2000-4000	68	34.0
3000-4000	72	36.0
Above 4000	51	25.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that thirty six percent (36.0 %) of the respondents 3000-4000 monthly income from different sources, thirty four percent (34.0 %) of the respondents said that they had 2000-4000 monthly income from different sources, more than twenty five percent (25.5 %) of the respondents said that they had above 4000 monthly income from different sources and more than four percent (4.5 %) Percent of the respondents were 1000-2000 monthly income from different sources. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they had 3000-4000 monthly income from different sources.

Table No. 9

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their holds the saving of the family income

Holds the saving of the family income	Frequency	Percentage
Father-in-law	24	12.0
Husband	66	33.0
Own-self	72	36.0
Mother-in-law	38	19.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that thirty six percent (36.0 %) of the respondents said that they own self hold the saving of the family income, thirty three percent (33.0 %) of the respondents said that their husband hold the saving of the family income, nineteen percent (19.0 %) of the respondents said that their mother-in-law hold the saving of the family income and twelve percent (12.0 %) of the respondents said that their father-in-law hold the saving of the family income. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they own-self holds the saving of the family income.

Table No. 10

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their money for personal needs

Get money for your personal needs	Frequency	Percentage
Father-in-law	24	12.0
Husband	81	40.5
Own-self	74	37.0
Son	21	10.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that more than forty percent (40.5 %) of the respondents said that they got money for their personal needs from their husbands, thirty seven percent (37.0 %) of the respondents said that they own-self have money for their personal needs, twelve percent (12.0 %) of the respondents said that they got money for their personal needs from their father-in-law, and more than ten percent (10.5 %) of the respondents said that they got money for their personal needs from their sons. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they took money for their personal needs from their husbands.

Table No. 11

Distribution of the respondents regarding to their decision making in their family

Takes the mostly decision in your family	Frequency	Percentage
Father-in-law	45	22.5
Husband	108	54.0
Own-self	27	13.5
Son	20	10.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents fifty four percent (54.0 %) of the respondents said that their husband took the mostly decision in their family, more than twenty two percent (22.5 %) of the respondents said that their father-in-law took the mostly decision in their family, more than thirteen percent (13.5 %) of the respondents said that they own-self took the mostly decision in their family and ten percent (10.0 %) of the respondents said that their sons took the mostly decision in their family. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that their husbands took the mostly decision in their family. It means, females are not mostly participate in decisions in rural areas.

Table No. 12

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they are free to spend their income on their will

Free to spend your income on your will	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	48	24.0
To some extent	38	19.0
Not at all	114	57.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents fifty seven (57.0 %) said that they did not free to spend their money at all, twenty four percent (24.0 %) of the respondents said that they free to spend their money to great extent and nineteen percent (19.0 %) of the respondents said that they free to spend their money to some extent. This ratio shows that majority of the respondents said that they did not free to spend their money on their will because of the male control over the family

Table No. 13

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they compelled to spend their money on their household needs

Compelled to spend your money on your household needs	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	83	41.5
To some extent	99	49.5
Not at all	18	9.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that more than forty nine percent (49.5 %) of the respondents said that they compelled to spend their money on their household needs to some extent, more than forty one percent (41.5 %) of the respondents said that they compelled to spend their money on their household needs to great extent and nine percent (9.0 %) of the respondents said that they had not compelled to spend their money on their household needs at all. This table shows that majority of the respondents said that they compelled to spend their money on their household needs either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 14

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they participate in decisions regarding family affairs

Participate in decisions regarding family affairs	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	24	12.0
To some extent	70	35
Not at all	106	53
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority fifty three percent (53 %) of the respondents said that did not participate in decisions regarding family affairs at all, thirty five percent (35 %) of the respondents said that they participate in decisions regarding family affairs to some extent and twelve percent (12.0 %) of the respondents said that they participate in decisions regarding family affairs to great extent. This table shows that majority of the respondents said that had not participate in decisions regarding family at all.

Table No. 15

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they participate in decisions regarding their personal health

Participate in decisions regarding your personal health	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	39	19.5
To some extent	61	30.5
Not at all	100	50
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that fifty percent (50 %) of the respondents said that they did not participate in decisions regarding their personal health at all, thirty percent (30 %) of the respondents said that they participate in decisions regarding their personal health to some extent and more than nineteen percent (19.5 %) of the respondents were participate in decisions regarding their personal health to great extent. This table shows that majority of the respondents said that they did not participate in decisions regarding their personal health at all.

Table No. 16

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they participate in decision regarding the children's marriage

Participate in decision regarding the children's marriage	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	17	8.5
To some extent	80	40.0
Not at all	103	51.1
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority more than fifty one percent (51.1 %) of the respondents said that they did not participated in decision regarding the children's marriage at all, more than eight percent (8.5 %) of the respondents said that they participated in decision regarding the children's marriage to great extent and forty percent (40.0 %) of the respondents said that they participated in decision regarding the children's marriage to some extent. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they did not participated in decision regarding the children's marriage at all.

Table No. 17

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which their head of family impose any kind of decision regarding the family affairs

Head of family impose any kind of decision regarding the family affairs	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	107	53.5
To some extent	69	34.5
Not at all	24	12.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority more than fifty three percent (53.5 %) of the respondents said that their head of family impose any kind of decision regarding the family affairs to great extent, more than thirty four percent (34.5 %) of the respondents said that their head of family impose any kind of decision regarding the family affairs to some extent and twelve percent (12.0 %) of the respondents said that their head of family did not impose any kind of decision regarding the family affairs at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that their head of family impose any kind of decision regarding the family affairs either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 18

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they participate in decisions regarding the children's education

Participate in decisions regarding the children's education	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	44	22.0
To some extent	108	54.0
Not at all	48	24.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents fifty four percent (54.0 %) said that they participated in decisions regarding the children's education to some extent, twenty four percent (24.0 %) of the respondents said that they did not participate in decisions regarding the children's education at all and twenty two percent (22.0 %) of the respondents said that participated in decisions regarding the children's education to great extent. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they participated in decisions regarding the children's education either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 19

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they participate in decisions regarding their family health

Participate in decisions regarding your family health	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	30	15.0
To some extent	64	32.0
Not at all	106	53.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority fifty three percent (53.0 %) of the respondents said that they did not participate in decisions regarding their family health at all, thirty two percent (32.0 %) of the respondents said that they participate in decisions regarding their family health to some extent and fifteen percent (15.0 %) of the respondents said that they participate in decisions regarding their family health to great extent. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they did not participated in decisions regarding their family health at all.

Table No. 20

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they participate in decision regarding the solution of family disputes

Participate in decision regarding the solution of family disputes	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	10	5.0
To some extent	80	40.0
Not at all	110	55.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority fifty five percent (55.0 %) of the respondents said that they did not participate in decisions regarding the solution of family disputes at all, forty percent (40.0 %) of the respondents said that they participated in decisions regarding the solution of family disputes to some extent and five percent (5.0 %) of the respondents said that they participated in decisions regarding the solution of family disputes to great extent. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they did not participated in decisions regarding the solution of family disputes at all.

Table No. 21

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they are free to choice the decision regarding their work for economic gain

Free to choice the decision regarding your work for economic gain	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	102	51.0
To some extent	60	30,0
Not at all	38	19.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority fifty one percent (51.0 %) of the respondents said that they free to choice the decision regarding their work for economic gain to great extent, thirty percent (30.0 %) of the respondents said that they free to choice the decision regarding their work for economic gain to some extent and nineteen percent (19.0 %) of the respondents said that they did not free to choice the decision regarding their work for economic gain at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they free to choice the decision regarding their work for economic gain either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 22

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which they are economically dependent

Economically dependent	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	128	64.0
To some extent	57	28.5
Not at all	15	7.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents sixty four percent (64.0 %) said that they economically dependent to great extent, more than twenty eight percent (28.5 %) of the respondents said that they economically dependent to some extent and more than seven percent (7.5 %) of the respondents said that they did not economically dependent at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that they economically dependent either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 23

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which their lack of education is the cause of economic dependency

Lack of education is the cause of economic dependency	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	78	39.0
To some extent	102	51.0
Not at all	20	10.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents fifty one percent (51.0 %) said that their lack of education was the cause of economic dependency to some extent, thirty nine percent (39.0 %) of the respondents said that their lack of education was the cause of economic dependency to great extent and ten percent (10.0 %) of the respondents said that not their lack of education was the cause of economic dependency at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that their lack of education was the cause of their economic dependency either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 24

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which the authoritative attitude of men is the cause of economic dependency

Authoritative attitude of men is the cause of economic dependency	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	72	36.0
To some extent	117	58.5
Not at all	11	5.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority of the respondents more than fifty eight percent (58.5 %) said that authoritative attitude of men was the cause of economic dependency to some extent, thirty six percent (36.0 %) of the respondents said that authoritative attitude of men was the cause of economic dependency to great extent and more than five percent (5.5%) of the respondents said that not authoritative attitude of men was the cause of economic dependency at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that authoritative attitude of men was the cause of economic dependency either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 25

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which the married women are more dependent on men for economic support

Married women are more dependent on men for economic support	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	101	50.0
To some extent	90	45.0
Not at all	9	4.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority more than fifty percent (50.5 %) of the respondents said that married women were more dependent on men for economic support to great extent, forty five percent (45.0 %) of the respondents said that married women were more dependent on men for economic support to some extent and more than four percent (4.5 %) of the respondents said that not married women were more dependent on men for economic support at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that married women were more dependent on men for economic support either to great extent or to some extent.

Table No. 26

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which their decision making power can be improve by making them economically strong

Decision making power can be improve by making you economically strong	Frequency	Percentage
To great extent	116	58.0
To some extent	61	30.5
Not at all	23	11.5
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that majority more than fifty eight percent (58.0 %) of the respondents said that their decision making power can be improved by making them economically strong to great extent, more than thirty percent (30.5 %) of the respondents said that their decision making power can be improved by making them economically strong to some extent and more than eleven percent (11.5 %) of the respondents said that their decision making power cannot be improved by making them economically strong at all. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that their decision making power can be improve by making them economically strong either to great extent or to some extent

Table No. 27

Distribution of the respondents regarding the extent to which women can be made economically strong

Women Can Be Made Economically Strong	Frequency	Percentage
Government support	40	20.0
Establishing home industry in rural areas	100	50.0
Providing proper educational facilities	60	30.0
Total	200	100.0

This table shows that fifty percent (50.0 %) of the respondents said that women could be made economically strong by establishing home industry in rural areas, thirty percent (30.0 %) of the respondents said that women could be made economically strong by providing proper educational facilities in rural areas and twenty percent (20.0 %) of the respondents said that women could be made economically strong by government support. The table shows that majority of the respondents said that women could be made economically strong by establishing home industry in rural areas.

Hypothesis Testing

Alternative Hypothesis = Greater the freedom to spend money, greater will be decision making power.

Null Hypothesis = Greater the freedom to spend money, lower will be decision making power

Table No. 28

Associate between freedom to spend money and participate in decisions regarding family affairs

To what extent you participate in decisions regarding family affairs	To what extent you are free to spend your income on your will			Total
	To great extent	To some extent	Not at all	
To great extent	24			24
To some extent	24	38	8	70
Not at all			106	106
Total	48	38	114	200

Chi-Square value= 230.426

Degree of freedom= 4

Level of significance= 0.05

Significant

Gamma value= 1.000

Conclusion

The above table's results show that there is relationship between freedom to spend money and participate in decisions regarding family affairs. The gamma value is positive which shows that relationship between variables is direct means greater the freedom to spend money, greater will be decision making power. So, alternate hypothesis is accepted and null hypothesis is rejected.

Summary and Conclusion

Rural women are trapped in a web of dependency and subordination due to their low social, economic and status in society. Economic depending is the degree in which a person relies upon others to satisfying his or her needs. Economic dependency is hurdle to women's personality growth and achievements. Economic dependency of women encourage them to go further and are more likely to serve as a hurdle making the full use of the available options in their life, because women finds himself in a dependent relationship with men. Most of the culture provide breadwinner role to men with the duty to earn more money and gain power and status in order to secure the family a better position in society. Men are in the stronger position when it comes to making career decision and allocating household resources than women.

The patriarchal system of society has created a situation where men and women have different family works. Men work is considered to earn money and women work is considered to

production children. This is cause of stress, mental, physical fatigue and alienates women from the outside world. It creates barriers to a women's access to education and work.

In rural areas, women also economically supported their families. Women were involved in livestock production process. Taking care of livestock was usually performed by rural women. They collected fodder, clean sheds, milking the animals and did other works related with livestock care. Despite of this, they were economically dependent on men because of the patriarchal and traditional society. All the money remained in the hand of the male and he facilitated the woman according to his will and take the decisions.

There were many factors which become cause of lack of decision making among women. Education was main factor. Lack of education in rural areas effects the development of women. In rural areas, there was lack of basic facilities like school hospital, roads and other institutions. Mostly the population were uneducated especially the women.

The result shows that majority of the respondents sixty four percent (64.0 %) said that they were economically dependent. The result shows that more than forty nine percent (49.5 %) of the respondents said that did not participate in decisions regarding family affairs at all. The result shows that majority of the respondents fifty four percent (54.0 %) said that their husband took the mostly decision in their family. The researcher found that there is an association between economic dependency and decision-making power.

Conclusion

The status of women in Pakistan varies from classes to classes, region to region and rural to urban due to uneven socioeconomic development. Pakistani rural women are economically dependent on men, because of patriarchal society. The patriarchal system of society has created a situation where men and women have different family works. In rural areas, more importance are given to men than women. Men work is considered to earn money and women work is considered to production children. Culture is also a cause of women economic dependency, culture provide breadwinner role to men with the duty to earn more money and gain power and status in order to secure the family a better position in society. It is also traditional society which always criticizes the work of women outside the home. In rural areas, cultural values are strict for female than male. If the rate of women participation in economic activities would be increased, it will help to increase the family income and decreased their degree of dependency on men.

Although rural women financially support their men. Majority of the women are involved in farming process. Despite of this, women are economically depends on their husbands and they are not free to spend their own income on their will because of culture of rural areas. Men domination not allows women to become economically independent. Lack of education is also a cause of rural women economic dependency.

Economic dependency of women also affect their decision making power. Due to men's economic dependency, men are in the stronger position when it comes to making the decisions regarding the household affairs. Despite the rural women's contribution in variety of work within and outside home, rural women is neglected in major household decisions, their participation in different fields either directly or indirectly are still ignored. For taking any decision, less power is given to rural women as compared to men, because they economically depend on their men. Rural women do not play any special role in decision making regarding family affairs, almost all decisions regarding number of children, child's socialization, economic and social decisions are taken by males. Even rural woman cannot decide by herself to go to market or a relative's home without permission of male. Rural women decision making power can be improved by making them economically strong. So, there is an association between economic dependency and decision making power.

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