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Attitudes of Rural Women Towards Working in Small Agricultural Prpojects in Bashiqa Sub-District / Nineveh Governorate/ Iraq

ABSTRACT

The research aimed to identify the attitudes of rural women towards working in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa sub-district/Nineveh governorate in general. Also, to identify the correlation between the attitudes of rural women and each of the following independent variables: (age, marital status, educational level, family size, family support, The ability to solve problems), the final research sample amounted to (50) respondents after excluding the pre-test sample of (20) respondents. The data was collected by tool of a questionnaire form that consisted of three parts, the first part of which included the independent variables, and the second part included the dependent variable attitudes of women towards working in small projects, while the third part included the most important problems facing rural women towards working in small projects. The study stated that the majority of the respondents (92% are within the categories of the neutral and positive attitude towards working in small projects), and the study showed so a significant correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small projects and each of the variables of educational level, family size, family support, and the researcher concluded that there is attitudes or a positive attitude among rural women To work on these projects as a result of their awareness of the importance of these economic and social projects to them and their families.

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INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH PROBLEM

Manufacturing is the main engine of growth and development in all countries of the world, whether developed or developing countries. Micro, small and medium agricultural projects are considered the cornerstone of the process of economic and social development through their ability to solve the problem of unemployment and provide new job opportunities (Institute of Planning and Agricultural Development, 2021). Small projects have a prominent role in the development of countries, especially developing countries, as they play a major role in economic and social development and in increasing the productivity of the individual. This is due to the freedom of the employer to practice the work of his choice, which motivates the members of society to integrate their individual touches in the development of the national economy (Heikal, 2003). Small projects contribute to spreading the culture of entrepreneurship instead of searching and relying on government jobs, as such These projects strengthen the economic partnership in the community and increase the network of relations between institutions, and small projects have wide links with large projects, as they contribute to increasing national income (Al-Najjar, 2005) and that attention to small projects in developing countries comes from the door of economic reform and reducing the role of the state In Investment (Latha & Murthy, 2009). Small projects play an important role in

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increasing production and reducing the problem of unemployment among rural youth and rural women, as small projects are more suitable for young people looking to work and with their nationality (male and female) due to many factors, foremost of which is scarcity Financial resources, they require limited investment and released best results (ALenzy and Sahab,2018). Also, it does not require highly experienced administrative cadres and relies on self-management or family most of the time, which leads to a decrease in administrative costs, and thus a decrease in the cost of final production. Also, it does not need advanced technological methods, it does not require high technical skills, it is less in need of training and is compatible with the capabilities of rural women, and it is easy to resettle in a way that leads to its spread in rural areas in addition to the spread of the market for its products (Abu Zaid, 1995) and (Mahros and Ahmed, 1999). The fields of work for women are limited in relation to the fields of work of men, especially in the Arab world and specifically in rural areas because of the nature of rural women and their privacy and their association with domestic work. The need for a high budget for its establishment or a site to operate it, has proven that small projects have an effective role in women's work (Al-Subaie, 2013).

The agricultural and livestock projects in particular are among the most profitable projects in the world, and this is what makes many investors move in this direction, and the reason is due to the low cost of these businesses and the profit that often exceeds 100%, and the presence of workers who love to work in agriculture, and can develop These projects are being better invested, especially in Iraq, where agriculture and food processing projects have been known in Iraq since ancient times: The ancient Iraqis knew food preservation since the early ages and benefiting from the surplus of agriculture and meat in operations such as salting, drying, smoking and pickling It includes the use of ignoring processes to improve the quality of food, the use of flavorings, and the implementation of food projects to extract some foodstuffs (Al-Ajili, 2011). However, recent decades have witnessed a decline in the number of these projects and the number of workers in them. In 2000, Iraq owned (77,197) small projects and (156) medium projects, and the number of workers in small industrial projects was (164579) workers. In 2009, the number of small projects became (10,289) and medium projects (51), while the number of workers in small projects in 2009 became (27,780) workers, and in medium projects (871) workers.

these numbers reflect the deteriorating situation of the Iraqi economy, the decline in the number of small and medium industries, the size of the workforce in them, and the weak competitiveness. The continuation of this situation will have serious consequences, which is the survival of the economy within the circle of underdevelopment and the increase in the number of unemployment and poverty rates, and the absence of government support policies that these projects require from legal and financial legislation, enhancing competitiveness, using appropriate technology, making effort and addressing the problems and obstacles facing small industrial projects Medium (Fathal , 2018). Certainly, the severity of these problems increases in the rural areas (and the agricultural extension agency is one of the development agencies that are responsible for developing the countryside and bringing about desirable behavioral changes in their knowledge and attitudes through its important educational role in introducing and spreading important rural industries based mainly on the exploitation of agricultural products What other resources are available in the establishment of various projects, leading to the exploitation of leisure time, especially for young people and rural women, and for the economic and social benefit of rural families to raise their level of income and living (Al-Samarrai and Adnan, 1991: 17). Bashiqa sub district of Mosul governorate , located in the north-east of the governorate, with a population of more than 137 thousand people, and it is an area where many small projectswere established in which many rural women work, such as the manufacture of spirits (Al-Arak Al-Bashiqi) and in the production of Tahini industry which made from pure Sesame wheat sapp. More than ten factories for Tahini industry are there inside Bashiqa, as well as the work of pickles, or as the people of the district call it (Al-Trashi), as well as the olive oil industry and other household industries, where many rural women work in these projects, who constitute a percentage of more than the middle of the population of the district and for the purpose of standing on the attitudes of rural women

towards work in those Projects The idea of this study came from asking the following research questions:

1- What are the attitudes of rural women towards working in small projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate/ Iraq in general?

2- What is the correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small projects and each of the following independent variables (age, marital status, educational level, family size, family support, ability to solve problems, training to work in small projects?

3- What are the problems faced by rural women in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh governorate in the field of work in small projects?

Objectives of the research

1- Identifying the attitudes of rural women towards working in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate/Iraq in general.

2- Identifying the correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects and each of the following independent variables (age, marital status, educational level, family size, family support, ability to solve problems, training to work in small projects).

3- Identifying the most important problems that face rural women in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh governorate in the field of work in small agricultural projects.

Research importance

The importance of small projects lies in the fact that they are the main source in covering the needs of individuals for goods and services. The establishment of small projects in rural areas contributes to the development of these projects, and limits rural migration to the city, which has a positive impact on rural areas and limits the spread of slums and slums in The cities that rural immigrants seek refuge in, and that they achieve self-sufficiency for the state in many fields, especially agricultural and service ones, and that small projects contribute to the integration of rural women in various economic and social activities, which enhances their role in economic development (ALenzy and Sahab,2018)

In addition to the economic importance of small projects, it constitute a special social importance for marginalized groups of us, as these projects can develop individuals by relying on themselves instead of relying on others and thus contribute to creativity, development, leadership and innovation, and keep their owners away from dependence and dependence on the job.

Small projects help to eliminate social problems. Employment of young people and rural women in these small projects and their access to work reduce the problems arising from unemployment such as poverty, theft, prostitution and others (Al-Mahrouq, 2011).

Given that the attitudes are behavioral, identifying the attitudes of rural women towards establishing or working in small projects is an important indicator, expressing the extent to which these projects can be adopted and disseminated in rural areas, a delegation that can be used to develop appropriate indicative programs for this. On training courses in the field of setting up small projects, as it is useful in identifying the most important problems and obstacles to setting up small projects from the point of view of rural women, which helps to remove them and thus disseminate and adopt these projects. The agricultural extension activities aimed at training and learning acquiring the necessary skills to take advantage of the possibilities and resources available in the surrounding environment and to take advantage of the available free time in the work of a small project that generates income for the family and improves its standard of living(El-Ezabyand and Amany,2002).

Statistical hypotheses

1- There is no significant correlation between attitudes of rural women towards working in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa district and the old variable

2- There is no significant correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects and the variable of social status

3- There is no significant correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects and the educational level variable.

4- There is no significant correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects and the variable of family size.

5- There is no significant correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects and the family support variable.

6- There is no significant correlation between the attitudes of rural women towards working in small projects and the variable ability to solve problems

Operational Definitions

Small agricultural projects

It are the simple rural household farm industries that rural women can work in or implement on their own or in cooperation with members of their family or in partnership with other women and by relying on self-possession in terms of financing and management in order to generate additional income that contributes to raising the standard of living of rural women.

Attitude towards working in small agricultural projects

an indicator of the positive, neutral or negative attitudes of rural women for or against working and working in small agricultural projects.

Rural women

All women who work in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate whom the study included ,

Research Methodology

The descriptive approach was used in the current research because it is the most appropriate research method and provides real descriptive data about the reality to be studied, and the reality is described accurately.

Research region

The research region was confined to the Bashiqa sub district of the Mosul governorate , which is located in the north-east of the governorate, which includes a number of rural families who do some small projects such as the manufacture of(Tahini) industry and paste and a section of nannies, as well as other projects that bring many rural women to work in them, which contributes to reducing unemployment Increasing the income of rural families and achieving self-sufficiency in many products.

Population and sample research

The research included all rural women who work in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh Governorate only, who numbered (70) women. The research became comprehensive after excluding (20) respondents from them for thepre-test to identify the reliability of the questionnaire, as the final comprehensive research reached (50) respondents , They are the ones who collected the final information.

Data collection tool

The questionnaire was used as a tool for collecting data related to the research topic. The questionnaire consisted of three parts as follow :

part One

First: - Personal variables :- represented by (age, marital status, educational level, family size, family support, ability to solve problems). It was measured as follows:-

1- **Age:** It was measured by giving one degree for each year of the age of the respondent until the moment of data collection.

2- Marital status: she was given four values (4, 3, 2, 1), respectively, and she is married, single, widowed, and divorced.

3- **Educational level**: it was measured at six levels (illiteracy, reading and writing, primary, secondary, institute, college) and they were given numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) respectively.

4- **Family size:** It was measured by the number of people, and one score was given to each member.

5- **Support for the family**; It was measured at two levels as follows (breadwinner and non-breadwinner) and they were given numbers (2, 1), respectively.

6- **The ability to solve problems**: It was measured by three (I try to solve it myself, I try to solve it with the help of my parents, I leave it) and each alternative was given my agency number (3, 2, 1), respectively.

The second part of questionnaire

It included the dependent variable is (attitudes of rural women towards working in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa sub- district / Nineveh governorate). It divided to three levels (positive, neutral or negative) attitude of the respondents for or against working in small projects. To identify the attitude towards working in small projects, a scale consisting of (21) statments was prepared. In its formulation on the mental, emotional and behavioral components that reflect the basic parameters of the attitude towards working in small projects (Keeves 1988), Three alternatives (agree, neutral, disagree) were given to measure it for each statement. The numerical values (3, 2, 1,) were assigned, respectively, to the positive statements, and the ratings were reversed for the negative statements .The range of attitudes was between(21-63) degrees

The Third part

The problems that faced rural women in working in small projects were measured by a quadrilateral scale, which was placed in front of each problem (4) levels (large, medium, small, non-existent), and these levels were given numerical values (4, 3, 2, 1), respectively. Measuring

Develop of Instrument of the research

Validity

The validity of the tool was measured, by distributing it to arbitrators with a specialization in agricultural extension and psychology at the College of Agriculture and Forestry / University of Mosul, where some minor modifications were made to it, and the rate of approvals by the arbitrators on the validity of the questionnaire was 80%, and thus the form is considered Sufficient and acceptable to measure.

Reliability: - As for the reliability, it was identified by collecting data from an initial sample of (20) respondents, who were excluded from the comprehensive research, as the questionnaire tool's Reliability coefficient reached (0.80) after its data was analyzed using Cronbach,s coefficient.(Clave and Sincich, (2006)

Data collection

The data were collected by means of a questionnaire that was distributed to individuals, including the final research, which amounted to (50) female respondents from rural women who work in small projects in Bashiqa district.

Statistical means

After completing the data collection, it was checked, unloaded and classified into tables organized on the Excel program according to the research objectives. They were analyzed using the statistical program (Spss) (Al-Hiti, 2006) .

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first objective: - **Identifying the attitudes of rural women towards working in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate/ Iraq in general.**

The results showed that the numerical values expressing the attitude to work in small projects ranged between (41-57) with an average of (48.3) on a scale whose theoretical value was limited between (41-57), and the respondents were divided into three categories using the range, as shown in the table (1)

Table (1): Distribution of respondents according to the attitude towards working in small agricultural projects in a general

Categories Number	Frequency	Percentage	Average
Negative attitude(41-45)	4	8	43.5
Neutral(46-50)	28	56	47.5
Positive attitude(51-57)	18	36	54
Total	50	100%	

It is clear from Table (1) that the highest percentage of respondents was in the neutral attitude category (56%), followed by the positive attitude category, and their percentage in it was (36%), so it can be described the rural women's attitudes towards working in small projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate in general It is neutral and tends to be positive, and this may be attributed to the presence of a positive attitude and desire towards working in small projects well and it is a good indicator for increasing the chances of adopting small projects, which calls for strengthening this type of attitudes among rural women and trying to modify negative attitudes through information and guidance programs to clarify the importance of Small projects and their benefits for the family and society.

The second objective: - Identifying the correlation between rural women's attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects and each of the following independent variables (age, marital status, educational level, family size, family support, ability to solve problems, training to work in small projects)

The results of the statistical analysis showed that the correlational relations between the variables (age, marital status, educational level, family size, family support, ability to solve problems) and the respondents' attitude towards working in small projects as shown in Table No. (2).

Table No. (2) shows that there is a significant correlation at the level of (0.05) between rural women's attitude to work in small projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate and each of: (educational level, family size, family support) and this is due to the fact that the more The higher the educational attainment of rural women, the more positive their attitudes towards working in small agricultural projects, and the larger the family size, the higher the level of work in small projects, because they need more labors to complete these projects, and also the more the woman is the breadwinner for her family, the greater her need to work in small projects In order to provide a financial source to support her family, which leads to an increase in her attitude and desire to work in these small projects.

As for the variables (age, marital status, ability to solve problems) there was no significant correlation at the level of significance (0.05) with rural women's attitudes towards working in small projects in Bashiqa district / Nineveh governorate. This may be attributed to the fact that these variables have no effect on the attitudes of rural women towards working in small projects, and thus no significant change in their attitudes towards working in small projects in general did not appear.

It is the lowest value at which the null hypothesis is rejected and it appears in the results of the analysis in the (spss) program when finding correlations

Third objective **- Identifying the most important problems that face rural women in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh governorate/ Iraq in the field of work in small agricultural projects.**

The results of the study showed that rural women fade many problems . it arranged in descending to their importance and priority as shown in table (3):-

Table No. (3) shows the arrangement of the problems facing rural women who work in small projects in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh governorate, according to their importance, according to their percentage weight. Small projects) where the percentage weight for them was (66%), where this problem ranked first, and this indicates the weak role of the agricultural extension apparatus in the district, and the lack of training courses in order to increase the experiences of women in the field of work in small projects, while the problem of (The prevailing norms and traditions that limit rural women's work in small projects) ranked last, as their percentage weight was (44%). To work in those small projects and provide a suitable environment for the establishment of such projects.

Table (2): Distribution of the respondents according to the research variables

Level of significance	value of p (P.value)(*)	Value of Pearson's simple correlation coefficient	% Value of Spearman's ordinal correlation coefficient	%	Frequency	Categories	Variable name
Not significant	0,194	0,185		42	21	(16-33)	1- Age
				34	17	(34-51)	
				24	12	(52-70)	
				100	50	Total	
Not significant	0,935		-0. 2	34	17	Married	2- Marital status
				38	19	Single	
				22	11	Divorced	
				6	3	widow	
				100	50	Total	
Significant	0.421*		0,282	28	14	illiteracy	3- The educational level
				20	10	Read and write	
				24	12	Elementary	
				22	11	High School	
				2	1	Institute	
				4	2	College	
				100	50	Total	
Significant	0,473 *	0.293		40	20	Small family size (1-5)	4-family size
				52	26	Medium (6-10)	
				8	4	Large (11-15)	
				100	50	Total	
Significant	0,033		0,244	62	31	as the breadwinner of the family	5- Supporting the family
				38	19	Unsupported family	
				100	50	Total	
Not significant	0,742		0,047	24	12	I try to solve them myself	6- The ability to solve problems
				42	21	I'm trying to solve it with the help of my parents	
				34	17	Leave it	
				100	50	Total	

Table (3): in descending order of the problems that face rural women from working in small agricultural projects. Problems Frequency Mean Weight Percentage Rank

Problems	Frequency Mean	Weight	Percentage	Rank
Scarcity of training courses for rural women in the field of work in small projects	33	3.22	66	1
Lack of support for these small projects by the state	32	3.18	64	2
Frequent power outages	31	3.09	62	3
Lack of appropriate financial means to establish these small projects	30	3.01	60	4
Lack of places to establish small agricultural projects	28	2.99	56	5
Lack of sufficient markets to sell the products of small projects	26	2.92	52	6
Lack of a suitable environment to work in these small agricultural projects	25	2.90	50	7
Husband and family opposition	24	2.87	48	8
Lack of experience of some rural women in the field of work in small projects	23	2.19	46	9
Prevailing customs and traditions that limit rural women from working in small businesses	22	2.07	44	10

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The conclusions

The results of the study showed the following:

1- There are neutral tendencies towards positive attitudes in rural women's work in small agricultural projects in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh governorate.

2- There are independent variables that have an apparent relationship with the attitudes of rural women to work in small projects, such as (the variables of educational level, family size, and family support).

3- There is an insignificant relationship between the variables (age, marital status, ability to problems).

Recommendations

1- Increasing government support for rural women and encouraging them to work in small agricultural projects to raise the income of the rural family in a way that ensures local self-sufficiency in some agricultural and household products.

2- Working to establish training courses in order to increase the experiences of rural women in the field of working in small agricultural projects.

3- Studying other independent variables that can effectively affect the increase in rural women's attitudes towards working in small projects in Bashiqa sub-district / Nineveh governorate.

4- The agricultural extension departments in the sub-district should allocate agricultural guides specialized in food processing, animal production and home economics to provide all kinds of support and assistance to rural women in the projects in which they work Sources.

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اتجاهات النساء الريفيات نحو العمل بالمشاريع الزراعية الصغيرة في ناحية بعشيقة /محافظة نينوى/ العراق

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الكلمات المفتاحية:
اتجاهات, النساء الريفيات , المشاريع الزراعية الصغيرة

الخلاصة

تهدف الدراسة الى تحديد اتجاهات النساء الريفيات نحو العمل بالمشاريع الزراعية الصغيرة في ناحية بعشيقة / محافظة نبنوى / العراق بشكل عام. وكذلك التعرف على علاقة الارتباط بين الاتجاهات للنساء الريفيات وكل من المتغيرات المستقلة (العمر, الحالة الاجتماعية, المستوى التعليمي, حجم الاسرة , اعالة الاسرة, القدرة على حل المشاكل), بلغت عينة البحث النهائية (50) مبحوثة بعد استبعاد العينة الاولية البالغة (20) مبحوثة, جمعت البيانات بواسطة استمارة الاستبيان والتي تكونت من ثلاثة اجزاء, اولهما ,المتغيرات المستقلة المدروسة ,وتضمن الجزء الثاني, المتغير التابع اتجاهات النساء نحو العمل بالمشاريع الصغيرة , وتضمن الجزء الثالث اهم المشاكل التي تعاني منها النساء الريفيات نحو العمل بالمشاريع الزراعية الصغيرة , وتم التأكد من صدق الاستمارة بعرضها على اخصائيين في الارشاد الزراعي وتم توزيعها على عينة اولية pre (-test) للتأكد من ثباتها, واظهرت نتائج الدراسة ان النسبة العظمى من المبحوثات 092% هن ضمن فئتي الاتجاه المحايد والايجابي نحو العمل بالمشاريع الزراعية الصغيرة , واظهرت الدراسة وجود علاقة ارتباط معنوية بين اتجاهات النساء الريفيات نحو العمل بالمشاريع الزراعية الصغيرة وكل من المستوى التعليمي, حجم الاسرة, اعالة الاسرة, واستنتجت الباحثة وجود ميل او اتجاه ايجابي لدى النساء الريفيات للعمل بهذه المشاريع الصغيرة نتيجة ادراكهن لأهمية هذه المشاريع الاقتصادية والاجتماعية لهن ولأسرهن.