



## LIVELIHOOD PATTERN OF RURAL WOMEN-A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SHIVNAGAR & MIRJAPUR VILLAGES

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Rural livelihood involves living with and being sustained by nature in rural area. SL framed a livelihood is defined as-“The activities, the assets and the access that jointly determine the living gained by an individual or household.” Under this, most rural people depend on natural resources and agriculture for their livelihoods. As define by **Swift (1989)** in his study;“ Rural livelihood is occupation as a source of income & livelihood in rural areas that include agricultural work and other allied rural employment such as Labour, home industry, dairy farming etc.” It’s basically based on Dual economic nature, heterogeneity, small scale agriculture using family labour etc. **In 1992 Robert Chambers and Gordon Conwa** proposed the rural livelihood, which is applied most commonly at the household level: "A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term." A livelihood is socially sustainable which can cope with recover from stress and shocks, and provide for future generations. The tendency for rural households to engage in multiple occupations is oft remarked, but few attempt have been made to link this behavior in a systematic way to rural poverty reduction policies. For many rural poor families, farming on its own is unable to provide a sufficient means of survival. After post Liberalization period, number of Government efforts were made to bring upliftment in the rural livelihood through initiation of various development policies like; **National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Livestock Insurance Scheme, Rastriya Krishi Vikash Yojana** etc. Hence forth, It is assumed that, it must have contributed positively towards the betterment of rural livelihood. Also it must have contributed in their overall development in different ways. Such as (**Frank Ellis (2002)**) in his study, explained that if in livelihood activities, non farming activities also help for rising output in farming activity. Despite that rural livelihood considered to have high risk because of **absence of market, poor infrastructure & declining of farm size**. Considerations of **risk** spreading, consumption smoothing, labour allocation smoothing, credit market failures, and coping with shocks can contribute to adoption, and adaption over time, of diverse rural livelihoods. Less than 10% of rural workers in India are employed on a regular basis, remaining are involved in various activities. **Department for International Development** reports said that **two third of agricultural labours are women** in India. **Father of Microfinance -Prof. Mohammed**



Yunns said that No, these women needed opportunity, not charity – They want chance, not bleeding hearts.”

### Review of Literature

There are number of study, which are based on rural unemployment, rural poverty & livelihood diversification of rural women are:-

**Reza C. Daniels, Andrew Partridge**, in their paper “**Rural Livelihoods in South Africa**” (2013) analysed that Rural livelihoods are affected by numerous factors changes to rural livelihoods in South Africa between 2008 and 2012, in terms of both compositional changes and changes across the panel of individuals observed over this time period. The results revealed very different livelihood strategies employed by rural individuals and observed surprisingly low levels of employment in agriculture in rural areas, also see the proportion of employed individuals in the sector declining relative to other sectors. Especially rural youth are most unemployed because of inappropriate regulations, **Asha Juma** (2007) observed in her study – “**Promoting Livelihood Opportunities For Rural Youth**”: she said that there are diverse rural livelihood opportunities in rural areas, most youths find them unattractive and not appealing to be engaged in. Inappropriate school curricular and poor quality education that it is largely irrelevant to the needs of the labour market still remain a key challenge for Tanzania, and even for most African Countries there is a need to provide youth with appropriate post primary education, support change of mindset and develop their skills in order to promote self employment and increase their employability in the expanding private sector investments. It assumes that unemployment creates poverty, and it’s runs the cycle of misfortune of rural people. About poverty reduction **Zerihun Gudeta Alemu** (2012) said in his paper –“ **Livelihood Strategies in Rural South Africa: Implications for Poverty Reduction**” paper has the objective of identifying dominant livelihood strategies in rural South Africa, policy implications in that it promotes support to non-farm activities to address poverty in rural areas.,that livelihood strategies in the rural economy play in poverty reduction. There is very high level of income diversification in rural areas. It finds that households that generate income from wage employment in nonfarm and farm activities are better off than other households.Similarly **De Janvry & Sadoulet (2001), Reardon & Escobar (2001), Elbers & Lanjouw (2001), and Lanjouw (2001)**. These studies have found that rural households with the potential to diversify their income sources into non-farm activities are relatively better off than those that depend on farm activities (off-farm and farm) alone or take up non-farm activities as their less important sources of livelihood. Livelihood diversification is the most appropriate way to increase living of standard of rural people, **Frank Ellis in (1999)** examines in his paper “**Rural Livelihood Diversity In Developing Countries : Evidence and Policy Implications** ”- that livelihood diversification as a survival strategy of rural house holds in developing countries, also farming on its own is increasingly unable to provide a sufficient means of survival in rural areas.This paper’s analyzed first, to increase awareness of livelihood diversification in approaches to rural development; second, to consider the interactions among diversification and poverty, farm productivity, natural resource management and gender relations in rural

areas; and third, to advance the policy understanding of diverse rural livelihoods. Diversity is closely allied to flexibility, resilience and stability. Women are also part of rural society and poverty & livelihood pattern of rural women's are different than Men. **Dr. rer. Agr in** .(2012) gave report of her study –“**Improving Livelihood of Rural Women through Income Generating Activities in Bangladesh.**”-. that rural women belong to the most disadvantaged part of the society and face a difficult situation in terms of social and economic inequality. They still have not been able to be integrated into mainstream of production. However, women are involved in many income activities in the agricultural sectors as unpaid helpers, and their labor goes unrecognized. This group needs to bring in economic activities for livelihood development, also indicated that they are involved in various income activities for earning but their personal annual income from various .In order to improve prevailing livelihood situation of the studied women, comprehensive initiatives are needed to be taken by the government organizations (GOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), women's organizations (WOs), development agencies, as well as rural society. Similarly **Henry Crow, Hazel Johnson-2003** also indicates in their report that While women agricultural normally earn less than Men, their contribution to household earning may well exceed that of male household members. **HALDER and MOSLEY, 2004 gave report and said** rural women are most susceptible to hunger and food insecurity due to lack of productive assets and depend on irregular and low-paying, physically demanding daily wage labour. Similarly **Prof. Mohammed Yunns** (2002) observed -“**Women Empowerment in Bangladesh Through SHG**” in research study examines the Effectiveness of Women SHGs in the promotion of micro enterprises in Rajasthan and Tamilnadu, specifically, the development of social and human capital through micro enterprise development to work towards poverty alleviation.SHG as a system has infused certain synergy among its members to move up in the socio-economic ladders from passive onlooker into an active partner/stakeholder in the development process. SHGs in India have become a potential tool for the empowerment of women, social solidarity and socio-economic betterment of the poor in their own setting.

Therefore, in this research paper, we will study about livelihood activities those are performed by rural women & their contribution in the development of socio economic well being of their families in the selected two villages viz; Mirjapur and Shivnagar . This study has also tried to assess the level of women empowerment attained by these rural women through livelihood activities.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To understand the nature of livelihood activities done by Rural women.
- To study the constraint faced by Rural Women in earning their livelihood.
- To determine the level of women empowerment by the rural activities.

### **Research Methodology**

**Type of research** -: This study is based on empirical and analytical study. This research paper have used primary data collected from a sample size of 30 rural women from two

villages -**Mirjapur & Shivnagar** in Indore by convenient method. The data were collected by constructing a Questionnaire schedule and Direct personal oral investigation.

**Tools & Technique-:** The study has used T test for two sample mean to check the mean income difference among rural women those are linked with Self Help Group or non- Self Help Group.

### Analysis & Discussion

- **Mirjapur** is situated 1 km from Indore. It's total population is 1490 hundred out of which 400 are women and 600 are men. There are working population is 1000 & 500 is dependent.
- The second village is **Shivnagar**, which is situated 8 km from Indore, where total population is 2100 hundred in which 492 are women & 508 are men. There are 950 is working population & 1150 is dependent.

**Table 1 - Description of Family-**

<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Shivnagar</b>	<b>Mirjapur</b>
Nuclear family	4	10
Joint family	11	5
Total	15	15

As per collected data from **Mirjapur**, **10 women** are from **Nuclear family** & **5 women** are from **Joint family**. Wherein Shivnagar, 11 women belongs to Joint family & 4 women are from Nuclear family. There are more joint families in Shivnagar than Mirjapur village.

**Table 2- Description of Occupation-**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Shivnagar</b>	<b>Mirjapur</b>
<b>Floriculture/Agriculture</b>	4	3
<b>Labour work</b>	3	10
<b>Dairy farming</b>	6	0
<b>Stitching</b>	1	0
<b>Government job</b>	1	2

- There are more varieties in Livelihood activities in Shivnagar, **4 women** involved in **Floriculture**, **3** in **labour work**, **2** are **stiching & Government job** & **6** are involved in **Dairy farming**, rather than that, in **Mirjapur**, **3 women** are involved in **agriculture**, **2** in **Jobs**, **10 women** are involved in **Labour work**. The main reason of varieties in livelihood activities of Shivnagar is that the women are linked with **Self help Group**, It cause not only no. of varieties in their work but also it's raise their living standard.

**Table 3 - Income status of family & Individual**

Family income	Shivnagar	Mirjapur
1 Lakh 20 thousand – 1 Lakh 40 thousand	0	4
1 Lakh -1 Lakh 20 thousand	5	5
90 thousand - 1 Lakh	6	3
70 thousand - 90 thousand	4	3

Individual's Income	Shivnagar	Mirjapur
30 thousand- 40 thousand	1	5
40 thousand - 50 thousand	5	4
50 thousand - 60 thousand	6	4
60 thousand - 70 thousand	2	0
70 thousand - 1 lakh	1	2

Source – Computed for the study

- In **Shivnagar**, the family income of 5 women is from 1 lakh to 1 lakh 20 thousand, from 70 thousand to 90 thousand of 4 women's family income & from 90 thousand to 1 lakh of 6 women. Wherein, the own income of the women is, 6 women earned from 50 thousand to 60 thousand annually, 5 women earned from 40 thousand to 50 thousand, 2 women earned from 60 thousand to 70 thousand, 1 woman earned from 70 thousand to 1 lakh & 1 woman earned from 30 thousand to 40 thousand annually. But in **Mirjapur**, the family income of 4 women are from 1 lakh 20 thousand to 1 lakh 40 thousand, from 1 lakh to 1 lakh 20 thousand family income of 4 women, from 90 thousand to 1 lakh of family income 3 women & from 70 thousand to 90 thousand family income of 3 women. Also, the own income of women are, 5 women earned from 30 thousand to 40 thousand and 4 women earned from 50 thousand to 60 thousand, 4 women earned from 40 thousand to 50 thousand annual income of 3 women & 2 women earned from 70 thousand to 1 lakh.
- We want to test a two paired sample of "t" test of female's income is taken and seen that what is income difference among rural women those who are linked with Self Help Group or non- Self Help Group.
- **Hypothesis (H0)**- There is no significance of difference in Income level of rural women those are linked with Self Help Group & involved in various activities or non-Self Help Group, are involved in few activities.

**Table - 4**  
**Results of the Hypothesis**

T-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means

	<i>Variable 1</i>	<i>Variable 2</i>
Mean	50000	52066.66667
Variance	464285714.3	190638095.2
Observations	15	15
Pearson Correlation	-0.189671269	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0	
Df	14	
t Stat	-0.288866645	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.388458297	
t Critical one-tail	1.761310115	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.776916594	
t Critical two-tail	2.144786681	

**Results-** T- critical value is more than T- stats value so null hypothesis (H<sub>0</sub>) is accepted. It means there is no significance of difference in Income level of rural women those are linked with Self Help Group & involved in various activities or non-Self Help Group, are involved in few activities. Therefore, SHG is capable for expanding their livelihood activities but not capable to generate high income for women in villages.

**Constraints/obstacles of livelihood activities-**

<b>Constraints</b>	<b>Shivnagar</b>	<b>Mirjapur</b>
Distance & Transportation problem	3	5
Wages/Income/ Salaries issues	No issues	8
Lack of resources	No issues	5
Technological issues	No issues	6

In **shivnagar**, **3 labourer women have distance & transportation problem** & rest of the women have no issues of lack of resources & technological problem. In self help group of the women, all the information is given by **Krishi vigyan Kendra** to Soutl out their problems. Wherein, **Mirjapur 5 women have transportation & distance problem, 8 women have wages problem & 5 women have faced problem of lack of resources & 6 women have faced technological issues.** As these village situated nearby city, despite that,

those women doesn't get any type of guidance in their livelihood activities and suffers from many problem

- **The level of Women empowerment-**

Indicators for women empowerment	Shivnagar	Mirjapur
<b>Decision Making</b>		
At home	5	0
At working Place	7	2
Expend & control own Income	6	2
Awareness about technology	12	9
Awareness about basic civic sense	12	3
Education qualification (12 <sup>th</sup> or graduation)	8	6

Under Women Empowerment, the scope of decision making varies, in **Shivnagar**, there is 7 women able to take self decision in Working place and only 5 women can take decision in family matters in their home. Also, 12 women are **aware** from technology & basic civic sense. 6 women can able to expense their self-income and 8 women passed 12<sup>th</sup> or graduation. But in **Mirjapur**, the women have no authority to take their own decisions only 2 women capable to take self decision and have their own opinion in working place. 13 women are in boundation as they don't have permission spend their income and 12 women are not aware by basic **civic sense** but 9 women must aware with new technology and 6 women passed 12<sup>th</sup> or graduation. Women are more aware and empowered in **Shivnagar** in comparison to **Mirjapur**, only due to **self help group & krishi vigyan Kendra** guidelines given to them time to time. As the family's income level of women in Mirjapur is high, despite of that they are not regulate with the working & faced the obstacles in livelihood activities.

### Major Finding

- If we want to expanding the rural livelihood activities, women should have involved in livelihood activities because women are more efficient to expand livelihood activities through home based industries.
- SHG, NGO or any organization are very helpful to involvement of women in varies livelihood activities. SHG is capable not only to expanding livelihood activities but also helpful for increase women empowerment in different indicator, which already said by **Prof. Mohammed Yunns** that SHG are most important for women.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra gives guidelines to SHG and organized Krishi seminar & workshop for rural farmers and dairy farming.
- It is found that Women those are linked with SHG or NGO, they are more aware about technology & civic sense.
- The income earning through SHG is more proper continuous and smooth in earning livelihood. It will aware them and promote them by given financial help and proper information time to time.

- Linking with SHG also helps in the improvement of quality, expansion of livelihood activities & standard of living.
- Even the Decision making is more prompt and right when women are linked with SHG.
- The family income of Mirjapur is high because of their men's contribution & village is situated in nearby city.
- But SHG is not capable to generate high income of rural women, which are not showed in reviews.
- So SHG should have to work for high income generation through improvement in livelihood activities.

### **Conclusion-**

As we studied, on comparing the livelihood activities of women in shivnagar and mirjapur village. If they will be linked with such NGO, Self Help Group like organization, The income earning through SHG is more proper continuous and smooth in earning livelihood, it will aware them and promote them by given financial help and proper information time to time. Also help to improve in quality of standard of living and provide varieties in livelihood activities. So that women would be self dependent and aware about their rights in society. When women are linked with any organization then it will expand their working criteria. It is also a fact that the women plays vital role in expansion of any activities and development in any field, and this is the way by which condition of women get strong. But SHG should have to work for high income generation through improvement in livelihood activities. So, to include varieties in rural livelihood activities and for development purpose, it is so essential for women to be linked with any organization or group and get the expected financial help from them for their upliftment.

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