

## Female Credit for Alleviation of Rural Poverty through Punjab Rural Support Program. A Case Study in Faisalabad District

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**Abstract:** This study was based on 60 rural women in the Faisalabad district. Female credit for alleviation of rural poverty play important role in daily routine life & helpful in bringing prosperity in their domestic life. The result showed that the independent variables such as education, age & occupation had significant association with credit for alleviation of rural poverty through Punjab Rural Support Program.

**Keywords:** Female credit for alleviation, rural poverty

### Introduction

The pressure of increasing population has necessitated that both male & female within the family should work & contribute economically so that they may have reasonable living standard. Indeed developmental process can't be completed and our society can't develop without involving women as female are almost fifty percent of the overall human resources. As families grow in size, cash need increases, hence burden of family's survival falls on women. Major economic activities of rural women are related with agriculture. Rural women are also involved in some form of production outside agriculture and their activities are related to making home made craft. The women of poorer families are interested in improving their life structure and ready to learn skills.

Poverty is the denial of all fundamental human rights and is one of the most effective tool to breed social contempt. It is in this context that things need to be viewed & analyzed. Poverty can be removed quickly and directly by allowing the poor the access to credit to utilize their own skills.

Unlike other development strategies, credit / micro finance is unique for it has been able to reach out to millions of poor women. There is further empirical evidence to show that a significantly higher proportion of women's earning in contrast to men is spent on the basic needs of family. The situation is more realistic when one considers that 25% of working rural women have the major economic responsibilities for their families. They are strictly involved in on farm & off farm activities but they are not recognized as the females are playing significant roles in the agricultural development. Based on several studies it can be said that an average women works from 16 to 18 hours daily with no break for rest and recreation and also she doesn't enjoy a full day holiday.

Due to lot of interest of poor women towards improving life structure & ready to learn skills. Strategies are being proposed at national level to promote integration of rural women into the development process. It has been realized by the experts to explore the nature and kind of various economic activities in which village women can take part for the greater incentives of national development. Government of Pakistan is giving loans to women of rural areas to start small business to earn their livelihood. These loans have been granted in the fields of knitting, poultry, & buffalo breeding running small shop etc. or for the income generating activities which are based on the

by products of agriculture.

The PRSP has played a vital role in the development of agriculture in Pakistan. The PRSP was established in 1998 to meet credit to individual by reference of community's people as social collateral. The most encouraging point in over all credit based activities is the active participation of women in all packages i.e. they are engaged in healthy income generating activities like from keeping animal & poultry birds to development of linkages with city markets to sell their handicrafts. The impact of such development is not only economic but social as well.

To enhance the status of women and improve their potential, it is imperative that female literacy rate should be raised and their confidence should be built so that they can be utilized as productive members. All resources should be mobilized to provide this neglected section of the society, the real return of their labor must be channeled in order to be utilized it for the development of the nation policy makers and administration should develop workable policies to protect them from the exploitation and thus enable women to participate fully social and economic activities.

### Objectives:

- \* To assess the needs of women.
- \* To study the facilities being provided by the Punjab Rural Support Program.
- \* To study the attitude of the loan of the rural area towards activities of the project.
- \* To study the progress thus far made in involving women in income generating activities through provision of the loan.

Shaiq (1985) concluded that there was a big gap between credit needs and its supply from institutional sources and the bulks of the credit requirement were being met through non-institutional sources.

Khan (1989) suggested that if agricultural growth rate of five year plan was to be maintained the demand for credit would increase definitely. This should be treated by commercial banks & the agricultural bank.

### Materials and Methods

This study was conducted in the rural area of district Faisalabad. Five villages were randomly selected namely Chaks # 24,135,139,144, & 156. From the universe of 138 female loans who had avail the facility of micro credit

through PRSP in 1999, a sample of 60 loans through simple random method was selected.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of the respondents in order to assess the needs of women.

Particulars	Yes	No	Total
Female sharing in income of family	12 (66.6)	6 (33.3)	18 (100.0)
Security satisfaction	13 (76.7)	4 (23.5)	17 (100.0)
Better education of children	24 (96)	1 (4)	25 (100.0)

Chi-square value : ( 6.433), d.f : 2, significant value : 0.103, such statement is rejected.

In this study 96% women earn for better education of children ,76.6% for security satisfaction 66.6% for family share,

## Results and Discussion

### Relation with education and loan

Education	Loan amount :		Total
	< 12,000	> 12,000	
Total			
Illiterate	29(69.04)	13(30.95)	42(100)
Literate	05(27.70)	13(72.22)	18(100)
Total	34 (56.60)	26 (43.30)	60(100)

Chi square = 54.38, d.f = 1, significant value = 0.004, accept the hypothesis.

In this study 72.22% educated women getting loan amount more then 12,000,69.04%getting loan less then 12,000.

### To Show the Relationship Between the Attitude of Loanee Towards Activities of PRPS.

Facilities provided by PRSP	Attitude			Total
	+ve attitude	Neutral attitude	-ve attitude	
Technical	16(57.14)	4(14.20)	8(28.57)	28(100)
Inter dept.	9(50.00)	2(11.10)	7(38.80)	18(100)
Marketing cha.	7(50.00)	1(07.14)	6(42.80)	14(100)

Chi square = 1.209, d.f = 4 significant value = 0.71, reject the hypothesis.

In this study 53.3% women have positive ,11.66% have neutral, 35% have negative attitude towards project activities.

Particulars	Attitude			Total
	+ve attitude	Neutral attitude	-ve attitude	
Atti. towards proc. for getting loans	15(60)	3(12)	7 (38.8)	25 (100)
Amount of loan	6(40)	1(7.14)	8(53.3)	15(100)
Rate of interest	2(20)	1(10)	7(70)	10(100)
Installment procedure	4(40)	1(10)	5(50)	10(100)
Total	27 (45)	6(10)	27 (45)	60(100)

Chi square value = 6.307, d.f = 6, sigma 1.635, reject the hypothesis.

In this study 45% are positive ,10% are neutral and 45% are negative attitude of loan procedure.

### Association of age and loan

Age	Loan amount		Total
	< 12,000	> 12,000	
15 -35	07(46.0)	08 (53.3)	15 (100)
36 - 55	30(66.6)	15 (33.3)	45 (100)
Total	37(61.6)	23 (38.8)	60 (100.)

Chi square = 1.899, d.f = 1, significant value = 0.004, hypotheses is accept.

In this study 66.6 % women who are in the age of 36-55 range getting loan less then 12,000, 53.3% who are in the age between 15-35 getting loan more then 12,000.

### Association with occupation & loan:

Occupation	Loan amount:		Total
	<12,000	> 12,000	
Farmers	26(54.1)	22 (45.8)	49(100)
Non-farmer	8(66.6)	4 (33.3)	12(100)
Total	34(56.6)	26(43.3)	60 (100)

Chi square = 0.605, d.f = 1, reject the hypothesis.

In this study 66.6% women who are getting loan is less then 12,000 are non former, 54.1% are farmer who are getting loan less then 12,000,45.8% are farmer who are getting loan more then 12,000, and 33.3%are non former who are getting loan more then 12,000.

**Conclusion:** It was found that 96% women were getting loan for better education of children, 56.6% women were getting loan less then 12,000 , 66.6% women were getting loan in age range between 36-55, 54.1% farmer women getting loan from PRSP.53.3%women were positive attitude towards project and 45% were in favor of loan procedure.

**Suggestions:** In the light of the results of the present study. Following suggestions are made for the improvement of rural women & loaning system. The rate of interest should be decreased because most of the respondents cannot pay it easily . Straight way lending of money does not seem much attractive for most women . There is an imperative need to provide facilities for training of skills which can generate income to the rural families.

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