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**Socioeconomic Impacts on the lives of Women
Agriculture Labor in Palestine, Case Study: Jericho and
Jordan Valley Province**

**By:
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Jordan Valley Province**

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Thesis Approval

**Socioeconomic Impacts on the lives of Women Agriculture Labor in
Palestine, Case Study: Jericho and Jordan Valley Province**

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Jerusalem-Palestine

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Declaration:

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

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Manal Mahmoud Ibrahim Al-Khateeb

Concepts and Definitions:

Concept	Definition
Socioeconomic	A term with different usage, it refers to a contemporary practice considers behavioral interactions of individuals and groups through social capital and the formation of social norms (Becker and Murphy, 2001).
Women agricultural labor	Women who conduct agricultural operations as hired wage labor and whose main source of livelihood is wage labor in agriculture (Thersia, 2004)
Household	The members of a family who stay together in the same house and part take of the food prepared in the same kitchen (Thersia, 2004)
Informal Employment	Those who are informally employed don't receive their full share of benefits from the economy or from economic policies (Esim and Kuttab, 2002).
Labor force	The economically active population (labor force) consists of all persons 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed as defined over at the time of survey (PCBS, 2009).
Economic Activity	Economic activity refers to the activity of the establishment in which an employed person worked during reference period or last work if unemployed. This activity is defined in terms of the kind of goods produced or services supplied by the unit in which the person works. Economic activities are classified according to PCBS, 2008 which were based on the International Standard Classification at all economic activities.
food security	Achieving all people at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. (WHO, 2010)
Poverty	The lack of means to purchase basic goods and services and inadequate access to basic goods such as food and water (FAO, 2009)
Economic Impact	Effect on employment and incomes produced by a decision, event, or policy (Business Dictionary, 2010).
Social Impacts	Effect of an activity on the social fabric of the community and well being of the individuals and families (Business Dictionary, 2010).
Livelihood	The changes of environment, economy, and living conditions in rural areas. These changes become as a result of cultivation of seasonal food which used for surviving (FAO, 2009) .
Empowerment	The process of enabling or authorizing an individual to think, behaves, take action, and control work and decision making in autonomous ways. It is the state of feeling self-empowered to take control of one's own destiny (Human Resources, 2010).
Capacity Building	An ongoing process through which individuals, groups, organizations and societies enhance their ability to identify and meet development challenges (CRS, 2009).

Researcher Definitions

Concept	Definition
Socioeconomic	Study of social and economic impact of a work.
Women agricultural labor	Women who mainly work in agrarian sector
Informal Employment	Non-Paid work
Economic Impact	Impact of agricultural work on family income.
Social Impacts	Impact of agricultural work on social life of women and family.

Abbreviations

WHO	World Health Organization
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
WB	West Bank
GS	Gaza Strip
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
PWRDC	Palestinian Women's Research and Documentation Center
ICRW	International Center for Research on Women
N.D	No Date
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission For Africa
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
ICBA	International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
Mod.	Moderate
S.D	Standard Deviation
S.S.c	Statistics Significant Scale

Abstract

Women have a significant role in agriculture. This study has been conducted in the period between Sep. 2009 and March, 2010. It was represented by farm women in Jericho and Jordan Valley Province. A cluster sample was used to choose three areas which have 215 households working in agriculture, from which 20% of them were chosen as a random sample to be studied, of them 110 females were involved in agricultural work. The descriptive approach was used to accomplish the current study by distributing a close-ended questionnaire distributed to 4 themes using the SPSS package for data analysis.

This study aimed to identify the socioeconomic impacts of women working in agriculture, the indicators that took into account to accomplish were, the impact on Livelihood, education and capacity building, social status, empowerment and health, as well as the economic impacts. And the possible women need to empower them in agriculture and get more positive impacts. It is expected that this study could be a scientific document for public and private institutions to enhance the agricultural situation and status of women farmers in such area.

Most of women who work in agriculture in the study area age between 30 – 40 years old, and they have a low educational level that lead to a few employment opportunities and enforce them to work in this sector, which indicate that agriculture is the main source of income for most of the families, and results show that agriculture contribute more than 75% of family income.

Women's Participation in agricultural activities had positive as well as negative impacts on their socio-economic life; their involvement in farming activities improve the livelihood of the family; increase the quantity as well as quality of food which leads to improve the nutrition of household individuals.

Moreover, Women become having double roles according to this work; this lead to ignore the attitudes of their children, and the participation in social events becomes less. In addition to this, they suffer of physical fatigue, and become more frustration due to the double tasks they do.

Despite the huge role of women in the study area in agriculture, they still have no ability to be a decision maker unless if they are the responsible person in the household, this means that agriculture didn't give them the opportunity to participate in any decision making related to farm management (they do more and receive less). This indicate to the male dominated patriarchal.

According to the economic impacts, agriculture increases the employment in the household, as well as income rate. Although, they could not have enough income to sustain small personal business as a second income which lead to non financial security.

To improve the conditions of farming families in the study area from the viewpoint of respondents was to open a local market for the Palestinian products, providing them with some inputs with reasonable prices, in addition to creating job opportunities in non-agricultural seasons.

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Chapter One

Background

1.1 Introduction

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood and income for many third world countries particularly in rural areas. It provides food, materials for many industries, and increase family income (World Bank, 2008). It is a culture and custom and a way of life since many decades (manage.gov, 2010), which means that it usually plays an important role in socio-economic development of many countries. Over the last years, the role of women in agriculture becomes a familiar and well-developed subject. Since rural women play a significant role in agriculture and have a socioeconomic impacts of the society. Their role in agricultural production can never be overemphasized, and the rural development can hardly be achieved with the neglect of this important role (Damisa, 2007).

Women in agriculture have a variations participatory, their importance in this sector represent that they are the molder and builder of any nation's destiny (Reddi, 2003). They play a significant role in any economy, perform several works to improve the livelihood status and they are activation in the agricultural sector which it meets as informal and unorganized (UNIFEM, 2005).

In Palestine, Musa (1999) reflects that more than 60% of the Palestinians live in rural areas are benefit directly or indirectly, fully or partially from agriculture. Furthermore, it provides jobs for around 13.4% of the labor force in the Palestinian territory (PCBS, 2009). Another indicator of the importance of women in agriculture is their contribution to income generation. Many are depend on agriculture as a primary source for their income (Abu Al-Haija, 2006). Table (1.1) represents the labor force in Palestinian Territory according to PCBS (2009).

Table1.1: Percentage Distribution of Employed Persons in the West Bank by Economic Activity and Sex

	Economic Activity	Both Sexes	Male	Female
1	Agriculture	13.4	10.1	27.5
2	Mining, Quarrying and Manufacturing	12.1	12.9	8.8
3	Construction, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply	10.9	13.4	0.5
4	Whole sale, Retail, trade, Hotels & Restaurant	20.2	23.2	7.4
5	Transport, Storage, Communication & Financial Intermediation	5.0	5.9	0.6
6	Services & Other branches	38.4	34.5	55.2
	Total	100%	100%	100%

Data in Table (1.1) reflects that women are the highest contributor in agriculture compared to men. Despite of this contribution, Musa (1999) indicated that women in Palestine are a major invisible factor in the development process, since their contribution in the economy is underestimated and most of their works are not accounted, not paid, and informal business. Even if they are paid, they neither paid the equal wages as their colleagues (men) nor wages comparable to working time. This sort of discrimination is widespread in Palestine.

Palestinian rural women like women in other countries of the world, play an important role in agriculture. They have been involved in agriculture since ancient time. Despite this, such work is unrecognized up to date; they constitute 15.2% of the total employment in all sectors of the economy (PCBS, 2009). However, it also presents that 27.5% of women labor force are employed in the agricultural sector as shown in (1.1). This implies that supporting the activities directed towards rural women will improve their status in the family and the community.

Researcher justifies the choice of the study area that the highest participation of women in agriculture was in Jericho and Jordan Valley Governorate with a rate of 49.0% of the total women labor in the study area, this face indicated in Figure (1.1).

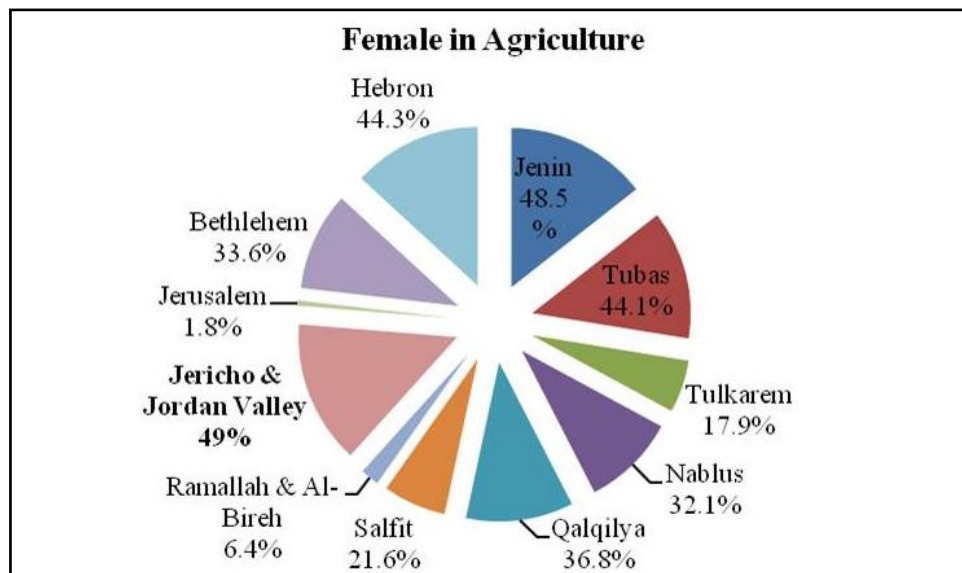


Figure 1.1: Percentage Distribution of Female in agriculture from the West Bank by Governorate (PCBS, 2009)

This study will contribute in finding the important impacts of women participating in agriculture on their socioeconomic lives which has a lack to enough studies in Palestine. Since most of the studies focused on women in agriculture with less attention to the impacts of such important work.

Furthermore, with this study, new strategies and services will be recommended to help in thinking for a future research and action, and the specialist will be able to plan for a new strategies and services that will help the addressing group. Many institutions will take it in consideration to empower the role of women in agriculture and improves the economic opportunities for a greater number of families and individuals as well as enhancing their skills and their work to be counted in economic indicators.

1.2 Problem Statement

Most people in rural areas depend on agriculture as a source of livelihood. The people of the Eastern part of WB for example depend primarily on agriculture for their subsistence. Some statistics shows that 49% of the agricultural labor forces in this area are women (PCBS, 2009); they spend most of their time in traditional agriculture which exceeds those of men. They perform the major share of farming activities; planting, weeding, harvesting, packaging, processing, feeding animals, milking, and cleaning pen (Abu Alhaija, 2006).

Women are the major invisible factor in the development process, since their contribution in the economy is underestimated and most of their works are not paid, not accounted in the economy; which means that it considers as informal business. Even if they are paid, they neither paid the equal wages as men labor nor wages comparable to working time. This sort of discrimination is widespread in Palestine (Musa, 1999).

Agriculture has a greater emphasis on the reduction of poverty, improved nutrition, and on increased self-reliance in rural areas particularly on the household level. To this end, many studies indicate that there have been efforts in many countries to increase awareness among decision-makers and planners of the role played by women in agricultural production and rural development and to better identify and respond to women's needs for training and access to inputs and services for food production and associated activities (FAO, 2010)

According to the above, it was noticed that participation of women in agriculture in Palestine has different socio-economic impacts that need to be analyzed and understood to develop effectiveness and training programs to reach and empower them to enhance the situation of agriculture to return more benefits to them and their families.

Therefore; the problem of this study appears in the following main question that will be answered through this research; What are the actual socioeconomic impacts of women participating in agriculture in Jericho and Jordan Valley Governorate?

1.3 Justification of the study

There are many important reasons that justify this study:

- Most of Palestinian researches focused on the role of women in agriculture with less attention to investigate the important socioeconomic impacts according to their participation in such work.
- In most developing countries, farm women don't have access to adequate resources because of cultural, traditional, and social factors (Jamali, 2009). This study will contribute in identifying the important correlation between women participating in agriculture and socioeconomic impacts which hadn't received a full study until now in Palestine.
- Forty Nine percent of women labor force in the study area is participating in agricultural sector.
- Lack of planning by agricultural institutions represented by the Ministry of Agriculture/Department of Women Development, especially in the study area, since women farmers in this area suffer from a bad situation of living, particularly at the end of the agricultural season.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to investigate the important impacts of women in agriculture on their socioeconomic life in Jericho and Jordan Valley Province; which studied with certain specific objectives:

- 1) Identify impacts on livelihood, education and capacity building, social activities, empowerment, and health.
- 2) Identify impacts on financial situation.
- 3) Obtain feedback from the target group to enhance the positive impacts, empower and improve living conditions by highlighting the importance of women contribution in agriculture as well as reducing the negative impacts.

1.5 Questions of the Study

To reach the conclusion, the study based on one main question, What are the impacts of women working in agriculture on socioeconomic lives? The sub-questions are as follows:

- 1) What are the impacts on livelihood, education and capacity building, social status, empowerment, and health?
- 2) What are the impacts on financial status of the family?
- 3) What are the needs of women to enhance the positive impacts to improve their living conditions?

1.6 Hypothesis of the Study

Based on the above specific objectives, this study will be guided by the following two hypotheses:

- 1) There is no correlation between women working in agriculture and social impacts in Jericho and Jordan Valley at the significance level $\alpha \leq 0.05$.
- 2) There is no correlation between women working in agriculture and economic impacts in Jericho & Jordan Valley at the significance level $\alpha \leq 0.05$.

1.7 Importance of the study

This study is important for many reasons:

- 1) It covers farm women who are facing some difficulties and obstacles in agricultural activities, as well as the socioeconomic impacts as a result of this work.
- 2) This study will scientifically document the impacts of the important role of women in agriculture in Jericho and Jordan Valley on their selves and family which could be a scientific basis for women development institutions to use in developing strategies and policies to enhance the skills of women in agriculture.

Chapter Two

Theoretical Framework

2.1 Agriculture in Palestine

Palestine is divided into two geographic areas, the WB (Including East Jerusalem) and Gaza Strip. It is the largest and dominant sector of the Palestinian economy, generate over 29% of the GDP of the WB & GS (World Bank, 2008), and provide employment to 13.4% of the agricultural labor force in WB and 10.7% in Gaza and 6.9% in Israel & settlements (PCBS, 2009); especially for many unemployed people who lost their jobs in Israel or other local sectors of the economy (Butterfield et. al, 2000). Thus, it supplies the basic needs of the majority of local population.

Agriculture is the chief earner of the overseas exchange and provides the essential needs of the most of local population. Agriculture in Palestine is separated into rain-fed and irrigated cultivation, more than 30 different vege crops have been planted; and the main fruit trees of Palestine are grapevines, olive trees, citrus, figs, and almonds (PCBS, 2008).

Agricultural data in (PCBS, 2008) had shown that 42.5% of the Palestinian Territory Land is cultivated or arable land (for the year of 2006), while the area of open land with/without insignificant vegetation cover represent 29.3%, the area of pastures represent 12.5%, the area of Palestinian Built-up Land represent 6.6%, and the area of Built-up Land in Israeli Occupation Sites including Expansion and Annexation Wall represent 4.1% (Figure 2.1)

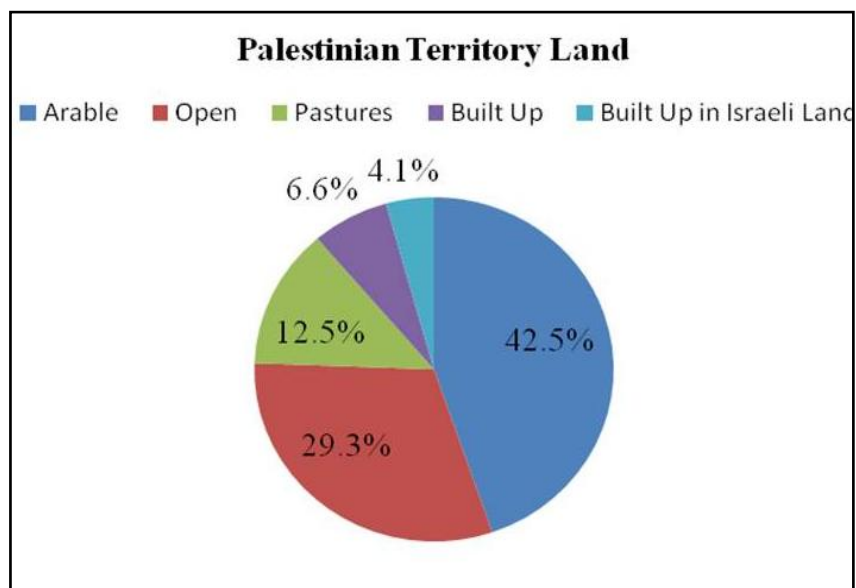


Figure 2.1: Percentage distribution of Palestinian Territory Land (PCBS, 2008)

2.2 Importance of Agriculture

Agriculture is a backbone of every nation (Agricultural Times, 2010); it plays a vital role in social and economic sectors which making it an important tool to achieve development.

- As a sector of economic: Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economy of developing countries; it can be a source of growth for the national economy, provider of investment opportunities for the private sector. It generates on average 29% of the GDP and employs about 65% of the labor force and provides job for 1.3 billion smallholders and landless workers (World Bank, 2008), since that, it is important in employment for the rural population; as an example, it is a major source of income for about three-fourth of India's Populations who live in villages. Also it supports poverty reduction and acts as an engine of overall economic growth in much of the developing countries (FAO, 2009). Furthermore, it is a source of national income and exports earning, for instance, most of West African countries depend on agriculture for their export trade (African Green Revolution, 2010).
- As a livelihood: Agriculture is a source of food security because it is a source of income; it is a source of livelihood for many of rural people (World Bank, 2008). By this, it provides human beings with some of their basic needs; such as food products for life sustaining. As a case of India, agriculture is the predominant occupation of two-third of working population for their livelihood (Importance of Agriculture, 2010).
- As Industrial sector: one of the agriculture output is raw materials which are used for manufacturing industries like textiles, sugar, veges, oil and tobacco in India as an example. Thus, it develops the industrial sector of the economy (manage.gov., 2010).

Supporting the above ideas; FAO (2004) found that "Improvements in agriculture and land use are fundamental to achieve food security, poverty alleviation and overall sustainable development".

In Palestine, important of agriculture reveals in some sectors as indicates in MOA (2009):

- Protection of land against confiscation and settlement and protection of entitlements to water resources and use: this is by some activities such as, land reclamation, water harvesting and tree planting. Since that, working in agriculture in Palestine is necessary to protect the environment and offer employment to Palestinians; and to prevent confiscation of Palestinian land.
- Food security: local agricultural production achieves self sufficiency in most veges, olives, poultry and eggs.
- Jobs and income provider for social stability: historically, agriculture has been the main employer, as most Palestinians depended on agriculture as a secondary source of income.
- The employment proportion within the agricultural sector is 13.4% of the Palestinian employees persons (PCBS, 2009), and its contribution to GDP increased from 6.4% in 1997 to 8.2% in 2008 (World Bank, 2008). After the second intifada, most Palestinians who lost their jobs in Israel became engaged in agriculture. Likewise, when public sector salaries were cut during the period 2006-2007, a sizeable portion of PNA employees reverted to agriculture. In addition to

that; the agriculture sector is a major provider for formal and informal job creation especially for women.

- Contribution to exports: sizeable quantities of flowers, veges and fruits are exported, mainly to Israel, Europe and some Arab Countries.
- PCBS (2008) indicated that the highest value of Palestinian agricultural exports to Israel was Plastics products that amounted to US\$ 9,806 thousand, fixed vege fats and oil processed products recorded the highest value of Palestinian agricultural exports to other countries and amounted to US\$ 2,576 thousand.
- Environmental protection: this is afforded mainly through soil and water conservation measures, olive and other fruit tree planting, rehabilitation of rangelands, forestation, protection of agro-biodiversity and curbing desertification.

2.3 Women in the Workforce

2.3.1. Palestinian Women in the Labor Force:

Palestinian Basic Law-Art. 25 is “Work is the right of every citizen as well as a duty and honor. The Palestinian National Authority seeks to provide work for every citizen who is capable of it.” (PWRDC, 2009)

Women reach 15.2% of the Palestinian Labor force, divided into formal and informal sectors as classified in Table (2.1) according to their place of work (PCBS, 2009):

2.1: Percentage Distribution of Palestinian Employed Persons;

Economic Activity		West Bank		Gaza Strip		Israel and settlement		Total
		Male	female	Male	female	Male	female	
1	Agriculture	11.8	28.4	8.4	24.0	6.6	25.3	13.4
2	Mining, Quarrying and Manufacturing	16.0	10.2	4.6	3.2	16.1	14.2	12.1
3	Construction, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply	11.5	0.6	1.0	0	45.0	0.8	10.9
4	Whole sale, Retail, trade, Hotels & Restaurant	25.1	7.9	20.9	5.2	19.6	11.2	20.2
5	Transport, Storage, Communication & Financial Intermediation	6.6	0.7	6.1	0.3	2.8	0	5.0
6	Services & Other branches	29.0	52.2	59.0	67.3	9.9	48.5	38.4
Total		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

In Table (2.1), it is important to note that employed women in the WB are concentrated in several sectors; such as, the agriculture sector (28.4% includes 49.0% in the study area), the mining, quarrying and manufacturing sector (10.2% includes 2.1% in the study area), construction, electricity, gas, water supply (0.6% in WB with no participation for women in the study area), whole sale, retail, trade, hotels and restaurant (7.9% includes 4.4% in the

study area), transportation, storage, communication and financial intermediation (0.7% includes 1.0% in the study area) and finally, the participation in services sector and other branches is 52.2% includes 43.5% in the study area.

Service employs the highest percentage of women across the WB, while the highest percentage of women across the study area employ in agriculture. This indicates that people in the study area depend on agriculture for sustaining, but unfortunately, several studies like (Abu Al-Haija, 2006) showed that agricultural employment for Palestinian women is classified as informal sector with unpaid work (informal sector was identified in the concepts part).

2.3.2. Factors that influence Women Participation in Labor Force:

There is a set of social and economic factors influences women participation in labor force:

- **Social Environment:** the socio-cultural barriers is a significant conditions that threaten women participation in labor force, such as traditional culture (masculine concepts and double values) conflict between women's roles, level and quality of education, no freedom of movement, scarce children day care centers and the end of the role of the extended family. All of these conditions result in policies and practices of integration and exclusion of women from labor mechanisms of support to working women. Legislation that prohibits bias against women and the stream opposed to work of women (PWRDC, 2009). Esim and Kuttab (2002) shows that the social and cultural explanations aside, the high dependency ratio of the Palestinian households, the lack of social safety nets and services are strong explanatory factors for the low labor force participation of women in Palestine who are too busy attending to their households and caring for the young, old and the sick.
- **Economic Environment:** Slow Economic growth, expansion and subsequent shrinking of the public sector, problems in the agricultural sector, reduced wages, and financing small enterprises. These factors influences joining social networks at work, equi access to resources, opportunities for foreign education and training, and finally availability of capacity and training (PWRDC, 2009)
- **Production Problems:** the severe production problems are attributed to lack of working capital, and lack of use of production capacity, which is attributed to the limited market. Women are the main actors of production in many sectors, such as embroidery, agriculture, crockery (Esim and Kuttab, 2002).
- **Political Problems:** the Israeli occupation has transferred most of the Palestinian employment into informal employment where the formal sector is an uns sector that keeps slipping back and forth into informal (Esim and Kuttab, 2002).

2.4 Women in Agriculture

2.4.1. Role of Women in Agriculture:

Woman is very important part of any nation's destiny. She has biologically and socially combined to create four distinct functions: mother, wife, homemaker and worker. Most of the women perform various types of work for their livelihood. They are regarded as the backbone of the rural scene, and agriculture is considered as the biggest unorganized sector where large number of rural women takes part actively (Reddi, 2003).

Women represent a substantial share of the total agricultural labor force, as individual food producers or as agricultural workers, and that around two-thirds of the female labor force in developing countries is engaged in agricultural work (FAO, 2003).

In Latin America and the Middle-East, they comprise half of the agricultural labor force (Prakash, 2003). In Africa, three-quarters of the agricultural work done by women while in India; farm women make one third of the agriculture labor force (Wadha, 2009).

Recent methodological research papers have revealed that there is an important role for women in agriculture, the activities they do varies from region to another and from country to another; these activities could be classified as following

:

Food Processing: Women produce 60 – 80% of the food in most developing countries and are responsible for 80% of food production like Nigeria (Rahman, 2008). In India, they help to grow at least 50 % of the world's food according to their participation in this sector (Thresia, 2004), while in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, they are specialized in weeding, transplanting, post-harvest work, land preparation, seeding of harvesting (Rahman, 2008 and Prakash, 2003).

Rural women in Pakistan have been actively involved in agriculture, such as, crop production, harvesting operations, weeding, hoeing, grass cutting, picking, cotton stick collection, separation of seeds from fiber, preparation of pesticides application, fertilizer application (Jamali, 2009).

Indian farm women participate actively in all aspects of cultivation including planting, weeding, harvesting, sowing, threshing, transplanting, they come to work in agriculture at a very early age (Reddi, 2003). Furthermore, women in Japan provide 75% of the farm labor and they are actively in drying / cleaning (FAO, 2009).

On the other hand, Ghimire (1996) found that women in Nepal has different participation in agricultural activities, they are involved in carrying out different irrigation tasks.

Therefore, we can conclude that women has much greater amount of farm work, they participate in all operations related to agriculture, and as a view of Ahmad, et. al (2005), their daily work in agriculture start from the early morning and end at dusk.

2.4.2. Women status in agriculture:

In many developing countries, including Palestine; despite women roles as a backbone of agriculture, they still face several problems due to cultural, traditional and sociological factors. And their contribution often remains concealed due to some social barriers and gender bias.

Prakash (2003) noticed that women has a huge role of agriculture, they grow about half of the world's food, and doing most of the agricultural work, but own hardly any land, have difficulty in obtaining credit and more overlooked by agricultural advisors and projects.

In Pakistan; women's in agriculture has a low paid, low status, casual, and lacks potential upward mobility. They are overwhelmingly concentrated in this sector, which employs 79% of female labor force as compared with 57.3% of male workers, and nearly 36–38%

of economically active rural women work on their own family farms. It revealed also that their own food security is always at risk, and they are ignored in development strategies and policies (Jamali, 2009).

In Nepal, women participate in agriculture and irrigation, and men migrate to urban areas in searching for economic alternatives. Women who are usually participate in this important activity is the poor women of nuclear families whose head family is far away. This target is also having no education and has less amount of irrigated land (Samad et. al, 2005)

In Nigeria, they are active in agriculture labor force, they spend several hours in the farm work (agricultural production), but rarely own the means of production and don't have adequate access to land and their income is very low by any standard within the country irrespective of location (Rahman, 2008).

In Palestine, in spite of the major role played by women in development process in rural areas, particularly in the agricultural processes; most of this work carried out by rural women falls within work without a direct cash wage. It also falls within the scope of the informal sector (Abu Al-Haija, 2006).

However, neglecting women's role in agricultural processes in rural areas is due to some reasons:

- The most serious obstacles women face is the lack of security of tenure, their access to land based on states within the family are involved right of use, not ownership, and this limited in access or control over natural assets (land and water) reduce and limit in generation from these assets as well as reducing in the family income, this is a historically issue (FAO, 2009).
- Many sociologists and anthropological researches have shown that norms and habits assume that women carry out only reproductive works in society and their productive roles are overloaded. This is due to the social arrangements and not from her biology. By this, Abu Al-Haija (2006) indicates that the narrow view of production and productive activities, which do not fall within the scope of economic activities, or any activity that is not linked to the process monetary form exchange. With the same reason Ghimire (1996) assures that women perform both productive and reproductive works. Productive works are works that have economic value and include the production of commodities that are geared towards the market. Reproductive works are the domestic works of household and are generally not considered "work" because these don't directly contribute to the production of tradable products.
- Despite their contributions to food security, women tend to be invisible actors in development. All too often, their work is not recorded in statistics or mentioned in reports. As a result, their contribution is poorly understood and often underestimated. There are many reasons for this; Work in the household is often considered to be part of woman's duties as wife and mother, rather than an occupation to be accounted for in both the household and the national economy. Outside the household, a great deal of rural women labor - whether regular or seasonal - goes unpaid and is, therefore, rarely taken into account in official statistics (Prakash, 2003).

- The cause of considering this work as informal sector; “women’s informal employment is mainly unskilled, and traditional or extension to their traditional roles in the housework, and don’t generate high income” (Esim and Kuttab, 2002)

Literature above show that inequality and discrimination against women is obviously in regard to the returns to their activities and the heavier load they done. Wadhwa, (N.D) assure in one of its reports that Women contribute 80% towards food production but receive only 2-10% extension support. This means that they do more and receive less.

2.4.3. Role of Palestinian Women in Agriculture:

Women in Palestine perform many basic roles that have a large impact on rural development opportunities. They participate in agricultural activities, play an important role in rural production process through helping men in the field, and they are a productive force. However, they do all the grain storage process and prepare shelters for the new season, sometimes they graze and milk dairy products produced in home, in addition to assisting in the poultry production, and doing some household handicrafts, and marketing the agricultural and household rural products (Abu Al-Haija, 2006). They carry out activities such as planting, preparing the land, and harvesting, weeding, packaging, processing, feeding animals, milking, and cleaning pen, and sometimes, they are helping in spraying with chemicals (Musa, 1999). Another female task tied closely to biodiversity is the collection of medicinal plants, which may be used for curing illnesses, in addition to other kinds of plants that have economic or industrial values while also serving as fodder and fuel or even as manure and pesticide (Musa, 1999). In the West Bank, there has been a clear tendency in 1970 for women to replace in agricultural work as more lucrative employment sources have become available to men outside agriculture. Large number of farmers abandoned partially or completely the means of production they owned, their lands, and moved into wage work in Israel or joined other money earning sectors. By the mid 1980’s, women were performing an estimated 75% of agricultural work in the occupied territories, taking a larger share as men left the land for jobs in Israel and in other economic sectors (Musa, 1999). Women in Palestine divided into three types as an agricultural labor force (Musa, 1999):

- Head of the house (men) are away working to bring or sending wages, while women continue to work some of the family’s land.
- Full time with no other major source of income.
- Few numbers are mostly on whom the responsibility of a farm devolved when their husbands abandon them for one reason or another.

According to the above, Palestinian women farmer play a comprehensive role in the Palestinian economy, which give them a power influence in rural area development.

2.4.4. Reasons for Women to Work in Agriculture in Palestine:

Khalefa and Najjar (1992) and FAO (2010) pointed some socio-economic factors that obliged women to participate in agriculture; some of the factors were:

- Limited income: some practices of Israeli occupation; curfews, closures, separation wall and others increase the interest of women to work in agriculture to generate income.

- Improve livelihood: Israeli practices prevent the head of the family (men) from going to work in other sectors, which lead women to start searching for new opportunities to contribute in increasing the livelihood standard of the family.
- Family size: Large number of family members leads to lower livelihood standard, which move women to work in agriculture to meet their basic needs.
- Social status: Divorce, absence of the family head by death or disease; these social phenomenon's let woman having the responsibility to look for this kind of work to meet the needs of her children (food, education...etc).

2.5 Socioeconomic Impacts

2.5.1. Socioeconomic Definition:

Socioeconomic is a term with different usage, it refers to a contemporary practice considers behavioral interactions of individuals and groups through social capital and the formation of social norms (Becker and Murphy, 2001). Others describe it as a discipline studying the reciprocal relationship between economic science on the one hand and social philosophy, ethics, and human dignity on the other toward social reconstruction and improvement (Lutz, 2009), and some studies refer it to the relation of economics to social values. Socioeconomic status refers to the social and economic position of people within society. It is a combination of factors including income, level of education, and occupation. It is a way of looking at how individuals or families fit into society using economic and social measures that have been shown to impact individuals' health and well being (Boskey, 2009).

Social indicators include education, health, employment status, housing conditions, access to services (water, sewerage, electricity among others) while economic indicators include income, wages, home ownership, asset possession, and family income (Gilbride et. al, 2006).

Wikipedia (2010) confirms the definitions mentioned above that the goal of socioeconomic study is generally to bring about socioeconomic development, usually in terms of improvements in metrics such as GDP, life expectancy, literacy, levels of employment, etc.

2.5.2. Socioeconomic Impacts of Agriculture:

Socioeconomic impacts are more difficult to quantify, but may include impacts to local culture and customs, land use, scenic, recreational and ecological resources, infrastructure, emergency personnel and systems, and education (Nyserda, 2005). Related to the current study, woman working in agriculture has very important socioeconomic impacts on life. Thus, she is employer, producer, increase productivity, source of nutrition; generating income, decrease poverty, which lead to improve food security. As well as it effects on health and education. Following; some of the socioeconomic impacts on lives summarized into sub-titles:

2.5.2.1. Impact on Livelihood:

Livelihood is the changes of environment, economy, and living conditions in rural areas. These changes become as a result of cultivation of seasonal food which used for surviving (FAO, 2009).

Many studies highlights that there is a close connection (positive impacts) between the important role of women in agriculture and productivity; It has an impacts on livelihood; they are providing food in sufficient nutritional quality to achieve food security, have real potential for improving food production which lead to diversification and food security, provide family with daily food nutrition and improving the quality of nutritional food. FAO (2009) indicate that women in rural areas produce most of the food consumed locally. Their contribution in food production and food security is more than 60%.

In Sudan, women contribute in enhancing their household nutrition status and reducing hunger and malnutrition by controlling their family nutrition through food preparation and processing products, and through daily determining of quantity and quality of food provision (Ibnouf, 2009).

In contrast, Jamali (2009) revealed that women supply half of the Pakistan's food production, yet her own food security is always at risk. The same in Nigeria, women make a significant contribution to food production and processing according to their participation in such work (Rahman, 2008).

In a study for Duncan et. al (2008) showed that the perceived benefits of agriculture on livelihood that it provide a local source of fresh food, contributes to local food security and safety and to quality of life in the community.

Most of the Indian women perform various activities in the farm for their livelihood, and have better standard of living, and better on household standard, acquired more appliances, better adequate furniture, better adequate utensils, better adequate clothing and better transport (Dhillon et. al, 2007).

In Nepal, some female-headed households have improved the living condition by ensuring the food security for their family according to some activities in agriculture. A greater participation of women in vege production may increase total household food availability (Samad et. al, 2005).

In India, women in rural areas are the main responsibility for the nutrition of their children; they are the principal for food producers and prepares for the rest of the family. They are usually responsible for the food crops destined for immediate consumption by the household, that is, for subsistence crops rather than cash crops (Prakash, 2003).

2.5.2.2. Impact on Education and Capacity Building:

Many studies show that involvement of women in agriculture has positive and negative impacts on education for women and other family member. Dhillon et. al (2007) show that women in India are unable to help their children with their studies because they are busy in performing agricultural activities in addition to their household responsibilities.

A report related to International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), states that women have less to education and training courses related to agriculture which lead to have an illiteracy that hampers their access to and ability to understand new technical information. Furthermore, agricultural work prevents women in Nepal to receive training and participation in institutional activities (Samad et. al, 2005). On the other hand, Ibnouf (2009) states that such work lead women in Sudan to improve child education, and Dhillon

et. al (2007) pointed out that in India, according to the involvement of women in this sector; children become having better facilities, getting a chance to get education outside village, raised educational level of family members.

2.5.2.3. Impact on Social Relations:

This kind of work has impacts on women social interactions with family, relatives and others. Literature pointed out that women's labor in agriculture has family appreciated in many most of the countries but the majority of women are still deprived from many rights such as, the land, amount of water...etc.

In India, Dhillon et. al (2007) pointed out that farm women in India are able to spend more money on social rituals and had better interaction with people in the village, achieve a position/status in the society, while Sarafat et. al (2007) showed that women in Japan have less communication and less participation in events. Moreover, they become having less leisure time to spend with family members in entertainment, less interaction because of the double roles outside the home as well as household responsibilities and they are unable to attend the needs of the family (Dhillon et. al, 2007). In contrast, social groups has gradually increased with women farmers in Nepal (Samad et. al, 2005).

According to the impact on household tasks, Khalil & Kishk (2009) noticed that women in Egypt ignore their household tasks because of their participation in agriculture, they have a low attention to their children, cleaning, cooking, etc.). The same in Palestine, Khalefa and Tukan (1993) showed that they neglect home and children for a short or long time to accomplish the daily tasks in the field.

2.5.2.4. Impact on Empowerment:

Empowerment of farm women is called for the preparation of component plans for women in every sector of development. Wadhwa (N.D.) shows that even many workload done by women in agriculture in Africa, they are marginalized in land issues decisions which undermine their situation and position in the family and society.

In the contrary, women in Sudan are the responsible of marketing and they are free to market the products and to determine the prices (Ibnouf, 2009). The same in Japan, they can access and control of income, being in-charge of management of the farm, having price and place decision ability for the products, as well as they are the responsible of marketing the products and saving it as they want (Sarafat, 2007).

In some countries, like Nigeria, women are the decision-maker on what crops to grow on, responsible of daily management of the farm, but they don't have adequate access to loan, and commercialization of land has overlooked their cultivated rights. The productivity of women in Nigeria depend on the rate of their involvement in farm decision making, they have a high involvement in decisions regards to selling the production, consumption of produce, processing and storing of produce. And has less involvement in other activities, such as, selection of enterprises, inputs procurement and allocation. So, they have the responsibilities related to the farm tasks they performed (Rahman, 2008).

In Nepal, women are more involved in overall vege production, they have greater access to the cash generated from the sale of these vege (Samad et. al, 2005), while they have

limited participation in decision making process of irrigation although they are involved in this task in a very high, they don't have an important role to decide how much irrigation water to allocate and to whom (Ghimire, 1996).

By Regards, it can conclude that there is a poor participation in decisions regarding agricultural activities, since knowledge and economic independence are the parameters of women empowerment enhancing the knowledge, skills and building greater involvement in various farm activities. This will lead them to improve their bargaining power and decision-making roles in the household and a greater participation of women in vege production may increase total household food availability, which lead to improve livelihood standard including access to, and control over resources. By this, they will achieve empowerment.

2.5.2.5. Impact on Health:

As mentioned above, women do most of the agricultural activities in many countries, they are involved in cultivation, harvesting, spraying using pesticides...etc. Thus, many of them suffered of skin allergies and breathing difficulties. By this, women are the most exposed to health risk because they are the responsible of picking products and participate in spraying (Urban Harvest, 2007).

Furthermore, women become had less time to relax, fatigue due to the double workload, uncomfor work positions and frustration when their work not recognized, and this affect on their physical and psychological health (Dillhon et. al, 2007).

On Contrast, this involvement has positive impacts, the linkage between agriculture and child mortality is strong, such as, this work contributes in reducing the child mortality by assuring food and nutrition security according to agricultural productivity and diversification (Khalefa and Tukan, 1993). Moreover, it is linked to improve maternal health, higher production and income give women greater ability to pay attention to their own physical well-being.

2.5.2.6. Economic Impacts:

Economic impact is “the effect of a policy, program, project, activity or event on the economy of a given area. It is usually measured in terms of changes in economic growth (output or value added) and associated changes in jobs (employment) and income (wages).” (Wikipedia, 2010).

The participation of women in agriculture bring a positive impact to family income, Ibnouf (2009) approve that income generating from this sector enable household to purchase high nutrient non-staple food and to afford food shortage, women use almost all of this income to satisfy the food needs of the household, and improves the child nutrition. They spend much of their income on family welfare; their involvement in income-earning opportunities has a role in increasing their own income or household income.

Women's in agriculture has a close connection to reduce poverty; it is a source of employment and income generating opportunities. This income provides nutrition, and contributes in improving children's access to education, as well as facilitating access to health and education services (UNECA, 2005).

Despite of the huge participation of women in this field, they have very less role in financial contribution to the family. They are unable to spend the earned money for which they need; they should take the permission from men, as well as they have less economic independence. They are far from saving the income or use it for their personal expenditure. They have no access to control over income (Samad et. al, 2005). In Egypt, they still subordinate to men with little freedom and independence (Khalil & Kishk, 2009). While in India, women's contribute more than half of the household income in some countries according to their participation in agricultural work (Thresia, 2004)

This work has an income generating and employment which leads to reducing poverty and women empowerment, also good production come from agriculture improved diets to women and family. Moreover, an indirect social and economic impact of agriculture is the increased purchasing power of small-scale farmers leading to stronger demand for labor-intensive, local non tradable, good and services. This leads to growth in the non-agricultural rural economy and via employment multipliers, to decreases in rural poverty.

From this section (socioeconomic impacts), it can be conclude that the contribution of women in such sector could be much greater on social and economic lives if they had equal access to essential resources and services, such as, land, agricultural small project,...etc. Higher productivity will indirectly lead to social improvement, and higher income will enable either the use of hired labor or labor-saving technologies- in place of the labor of school-age children in farming household, thereby, contributing directly to achieving primary education.

2.5.3 Conclusion

This section had shown that women involvement in agriculture has important impacts on socioeconomic lives in both sides, positive and negative, which can be summarized as the following:

2.5.3.1 Positive Impacts:

- Improve food security: Cultivation of seasonal food and cash crops, livestock rearing, tree growing, collecting of wild food products and income-generating activities are the dominant elements of the livelihood systems for surviving in most rural countries.
- Increase nutritional status: Women using available resources and skills to further improve the welfare of their family specially the nutrition and health aspects
- Increase employment opportunities: agriculture provides work to half of the world's labor force in rural areas (estimated at 1.3 billion workers), it provide employment or income to two-thirds of the country's population
- Decrease Poverty: Poverty can push women into employment, often in informal and poorly paid jobs. On the other hand, women's employment income often makes a critical difference to keeping their households above the poverty threshold.

2.5.3.2. Negative Impacts:

- Loss of farm labor to cash crop agriculture: most of the women participating in agriculture for basic food needs with no focus on cash crops, such as; cotton which used for business.

- Spread of diseases: Farmers are the most labor to get the negative health effects that can result from using either very toxic or unsafe pesticides or simply using too much of it, but unfortunately, they are often oblivious to it. Also, due to the double responsibilities, they become tired and fatigued.
- Increase women workload without providing additional income: this kind of work is considered as informal work for women, and it considered as integral to the home tasks.
- Less participation in decision making: Despite the huge participation of women in agricultural activities, they still far away from participation in decision making related to farm management. This assure the concept that the world still a masculine society.

2.6 Demographic and Socioeconomic Background of the study area

2.6.1. Profile of the research area:

Jericho is situated to the eastern part on the Jordan River of the West Bank, located 30 kilometers east of Jerusalem, 8 km from the Jordan River, 10 km north of the Dead Sea (Frejat, 2008). It is the oldest city in the world and approximately 250m below the sea level, where it formed a factor in attracting tourism and foreign affairs. It has a geographical feature, historical, archaeological and tourist destination, in addition to the religious places and monuments. It is considered as the food basket of Palestine. Jericho and Jordan Valley Province is the biggest area in Palestine, it covers 593km² with a population density of 71km² (PCBS, 2008).

It is surrounded by orchards, and most of the population working in agriculture, the weather is dry and in summer is hot, and where winter runs from mid-October to the end of April and the rainy season ranged between 20-25 days (Frejat, 2008).

The study area is surrounded by 8 villages and 2 refugee camps, Duek, Nue'me, Al-Auja, Fassayel, Al-Jiftlik, Zbeidat, Marj Ghazal, Marj Na'je, Ein Sultan Refugee camp. All these areas are located to the north of the governorate, with the exception of Aqbat Jaber refugee camp which is located to the south at a distance of 3km.

2.6.2. Population:

The number of population in the study area is 42,320 inhabitants, divided into 21,187 male and 21,133 for female with a population destiny of 71 / km² (PCBS, 2008), includes 22,466 urban, 9,518 in rural area, and 10,336 in the two camps as classified in Appendix (1).

2.6.3. Economic:

Recently, statistical data reveals that Jericho and Jordan Valley Governorate has a development process specially in tourism sector, the labor force over 15 years old increased slightly, PCBS (2009) shows that the higher labor force in the WB was in the study area which reach 48.8% distributed to some activities as mentioned in Table (2.2)

Data in Table (2.2) indicates that agriculture has the highest employment sector for both male and female in the study area; which means that it is the main economic source for

people in this area. It shows that it reaches 49% of women labor force in the study area, and 35.9% of men labor force in the study area.

Table 2.2: Percentage of employed persons from the study area by economic activity and sex

	Economic Activity	Study Area	
		Male	Female
1	Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	35.9	49.0
2	Mining, Quarrying and Manufacturing	9.5	2.1
3	Construction, Electricity, Gas, Water Supply	7.3	0
4	Whole sale, Retail, trade, Hotels & Restaurant	17.0	4.4
5	Transport, Storage, Communication and Financial Intermediation	5.3	1.0
6	Services & Other branches	25.0	43.5
	Total	100%	100%

2.6.4. Socioeconomic Background

People in the study area have some characteristics and constraints that extracted from JICA Report (2008):

- Educational level of housewives is low in general and graduates of higher than high school are very limited. But many housewives wish to study more and make their children to graduate school.
- Many houses have narrow floor area for number of family members, and small opening area on walls for lightening and ventilation. House were maintenance condition is bad and not clean are also many. Additionally, many families suffer from damage from pests in houses.
- Most husbands keep and manage money in their families but housewives are very limited to do so. Additionally the same trend can be seen for the conditions of housework sharing among family members and of housewives having petty cash, therefore democratic condition has not been developed well in families. Under such circumstances, families in some areas are rather progressive than others.
- Housewives having practical plan for improving living condition are very rare, and majorities do not have any idea for improvement.
- The most important source for villagers to get living information is TV and neighbors. Villagers relying on radio and newspaper are very little.

Data in Table (2.2) show that 35.9% of agricultural labors force is male and 49.0% are females (PCBS, 2009). ICBA (2009) indicate that farmers in this area face some problems and obstacles; such as,

- Lack of local markets
- High prices for the production inputs.
- No real interest in the animal farms.
- Unavailability of food processing factories to manufacture the surplus amount of agricultural products.

- Some of water resources are present in confiscated or military areas.
- The farmers feel that they are not involved in the planning procedures that the institutions and Ministry of Agriculture is doing and many projects that are ongoing doesn't reflect the actual needs of the farmers.

Women farmers in targeted area are actively participating and contributing to the development of the family and of the country. In this area, women are entering into formal and informal labor market and an important development has been done in several sectors, they are participating in income activities. Sometimes they are the principal of the income for their families. Women's contribution to the family income helps in poverty alleviation and improves the standard living. By this, women have a social and economic entity.

2.6.5. Agriculture in Jericho and Jordan Valley:

Agriculture is considered as the main source of Jericho income, on the other hand it is the most important agricultural area in Palestine according to its climate characteristics and unique topography (Frejat, 2008), this climate gives it a special advantage because more than one agricultural season can be cultivated (ICBA, 2009). It has natural springs and deep wells which enhance the irrigated agriculture for all the agricultural lands with no rain-fed agriculture. Cultivated land in this area is divided into permanent crops "5.7km²" and temporary crops "20.0km²" (PCBS, 2008). Table (2.3) shows the areas of cultivated land in the WB with focus on Jericho and Jordan Valley by cultivation type and Irrigation according to (PCBS, 2008).

2.3: area of cultivation land in the WB and study area by cultivation type and Irrigation

Crop Production	WB		Study Area	
	Irrigated	Rain fed	Irrigated	Rain fed
Permanent Crops (km ²)	23.4	78.14	5.7	No rain fed
Temporary Crops (km ²)	57.0	22.05	20.0	

Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Methodology

The methodology of current study was form the core of describing and identifying the impacts of women participation in agriculture on socioeconomic lives in Palestine, particularly in Jericho and Jordan Valley Governorate. This description based on collecting data from farm women concerning the feedback to their life, by distributing a close-ended questionnaire to a random sample of 101 females in the targeted area, which collected data by questionnaire as interviews with the target group. Since using of the two multiple methods reflects an attempt to secure an in-depth understanding of the reality in questions. Then, the descriptive approach was used to analyze the obtained data through statistical package SPSS.

3.2 Study Procedure

Study procedure can be described as following:

- Secondary data: literature was reviewed from reports, documents, and brochures during the period of collecting data. This was to get more information about the study area, community of the study, and the activities that the women are involved in. The source of this data was prepared by Palestinian institutions related to the target group.
- Study tool: the main tool of current study was the questionnaire, which was designed based on the review of relevant literature, field visits to the studied area, and explorative interviews with a group of women farmers working in the area. This tool was divided into (4) main themes, which in turn, were divided into sub Scales of the tool: One main scale was adopted while designing the tool; high, medium, and low; and when the statistical analysis was conducted, the following weighs were given to the above scale 3, 2, 1 respectively.
- Calculating validity and reliability of the tool, and then distributed to the surveyed and recollected for the purpose of analysis
- Interview: questionnaires with close-ended questions was used to conduct the interviews with the respondents, this also make it possible to explain the questions if they are unclear to respondents. Based on the results of the study, conclusions were drawn, then; recommendations were made.
- Validity of the tool (questionnaire ratification): To ensure the validity of the questionnaire, it was reviewed to a group of specialists in the sectors of women and socioeconomic. The notes they presented were taken in consideration, which helped

in developing questionnaire in a proper scientific methods in order to achieve the needed objective, and to outcome of a real

- Reliability of the study tool: The reliability of the study tool was verified through selection of a small sample of 20 women participating in agriculture. They were met to answer the questionnaire for the same purpose a week later. Person coefficient factor was calculated to check the correlation between the answers in the test. The value of this test shown in Table (3.1) was (0.761) with a significance level of (0.000). Also Table (3.2) reflects the value of Cronbach alpha factor for the comprehensive consistency of the questionnaire which value was found to be (88.2%). The results of the two statistical tests reflect good reliability of the questionnaire. Based on that, the questionnaire was distributed among all the respondents.

Table 3.1: Results of Pearson correlation

No.	Theme	Person correlation	Statistical Significance
1	Livelihood Standard	0.424	0.000
2	Education and Capacity Building	0.828	0.000
3	Social Relation	0.631	0.000
4	Empowerment	0.771	0.000
5	Health Impacts	0.619	0.000
6	Economic Impacts	0.761	0.000
	Total Score	0.761	0.000

Table (3.1) reveals that Pearson correlation coefficient for the entire questionnaire was (0.761) and the level of statistical significance (0.000). In the study themes, it was range between 0.828 and 0.424 and the statistical significant ranges between 0.000 and 0.000. This indicates that all the statistical significant was less than 0.05. By this, the hypothesis of full questionnaire instability is not accep. Since that, the questionnaire distributed to whole respondents.

Table 3.2: Results of Internal Consistency Test (Cronbach alpha)

No.	Theme	Cronbach alpha
1	Empowerment	%93.3
2	Education and Capacity Building	%73.3
3	Social Relation	%70.2
4	Livelihood Standard	%60.0
5	Economic Impacts	%58.5
6	Health Impacts	%54.7
	Total Score	%88.2

The results of the study in Table (3.2) found that the total score of internal consistency for the study is (88.2%) which means that the internal consistency is very high, therefore, the questionnaire was distributed to whole respondents. While the internal consistency for the study themes was 93.3% for the empowerment followed by education and capacity building (73.3%). On the other hand, the lowest internal consistency score was for the health impacts (54.7%) followed by economic impacts with a rate of 58.5%.

- Data analysis: input the data to SPSS and the statistical analysis was carried out includes descriptive analysis (means, frequencies, standard deviations, correlations, t-test and others).

The summary of the Study Procedure can be showed in Figure (3.1).

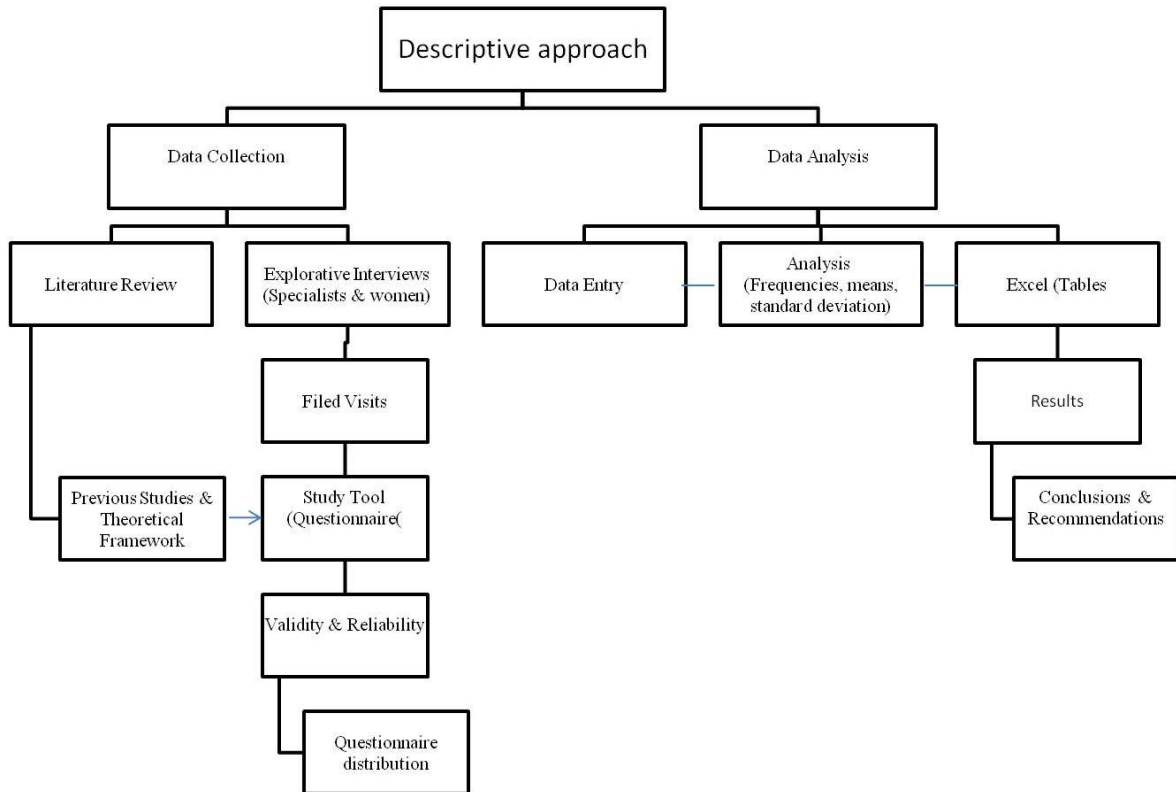


Figure 3.1: Study Procedures

3.3 Study Boundaries

The boundaries of the study were (Figure 3.2)

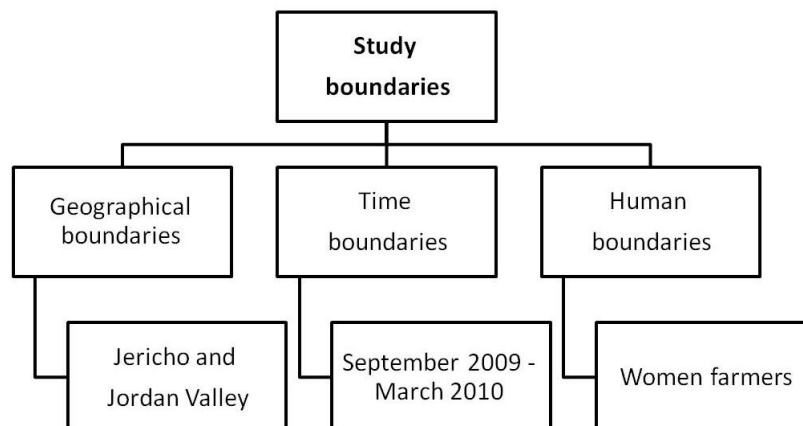


Figure 3.2: Boundaries of the Study

- Geographical boundaries: the study was conducted in Jericho and Jordan Valley Province (Al-Jiftlik, Zbeidat, and Jericho).
- Time boundaries: the study was carried out on the agricultural year 2009 -2010 “Sep. 2009 – March 2010”.
- Human boundaries: women actively involved in agriculture.

3.4 Population and Study Sample

The study used a cluster sample to choose three areas to conduct the study, then list all the households working in agriculture in these areas (215 households), later on, sample size has been calculated as 20% of the households for each area, and finally took all females involved in agriculture in each household. Figure (3.3) represents the sample of the study (101 respondents: 40 females in Al-Jiftlik, 39 in Jericho, and 22 in Zbeidat).

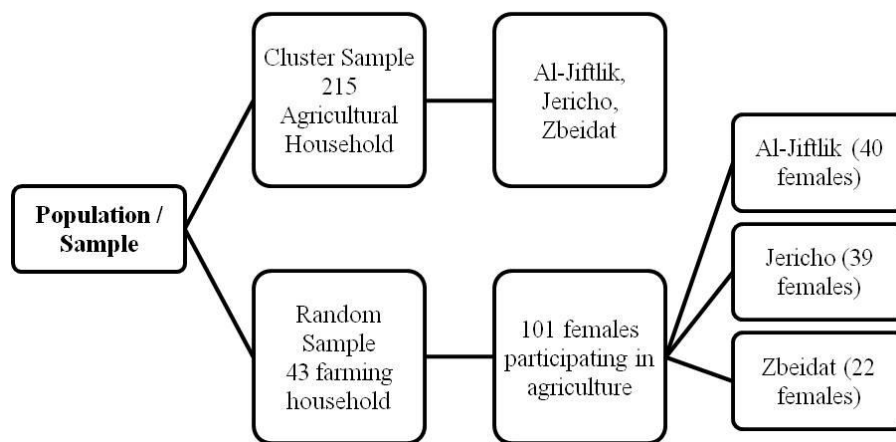


Figure 3.3: Study Sample distributed as place of residence.

Chapter Four

Data Analysis, Results, and Discussion

4.1 Introduction:

This section presents the results of the study according to the statistical analysis process for the respondents' answers using the (SPSS), and to assess the correlation between women participating in agriculture and socioeconomic impacts in Jericho and Jordan Valley Governorate. The study depends on the mean values for this purpose using a scale of three grades according to Likert scale as the following Table (4.1)

Table 4.1: Depended grades for analysis

No.	Degree	Mean Value	Percentage
1	Low	1.50 – 1.99	50.0% - 66.3%
2	Medium	2:00 – 2.49	66.6% - 83.0%
3	High	2:50 – 3:00	83.3% - 100.0%

The ranges above are personal suppositions and are not documented in any literature.

4.1.1. Distribution of Research Population / Socio Economic Characteristics:

This section reviews the respondent's characteristics that could be a factor to test the relation between women participating in agriculture and socioeconomic impacts.

Table 4.2-a: Percentage distribution of Respondents socioeconomic characteristics

No.	character	Frequency	Percentage
1	Age		
	Less than 18	10	9.9
	19 – 29	17	16.8
	30 – 40	39	38.6
	41 – 51	18	17.8
	52 and more	17	16.8
2	Position in the family		
	Mother	59	58.4
	daughter	23	22.8
	grandmother/father	19	18.8
3	Marital status		
	single	24	23.8
	married	65	64.4
	divorced	4	4.0
	widow	8	7.9

Table 4.2-b: Percentage distribution of Respondents socioeconomic characteristics

No.	character	Frequency	Percentage
4	Educational level		
	less than tawjihi	77	76.2
	tawjihi	21	20.8
	diploma	3	3.0
5	Household members		
	1-3	8	7.9
	4 – 6	18	26.7
	7 – 9	41	40.6
6	Head of the household (responsible person)		
	respondent	17	18.8
	mother	5	5.0
	father	21	20.8
	husband	52	51.5
	other,	6	5.9
7	Type of involvement in agriculture		
	Full time (major)	80	79.2
	Part time (secondary)	21	20.8
8	Land tenure		
	owned	34	33.7
	Rented / seizing	34	33.7
	By force	26	25.7
	Israeli land	7	6.9
9	Status of participation		
	family work	69	68.3
	Farmers	25	24.8
	Employee with daily paid	7	6.9
10	Production use		
	household consumption only	3	3.0
	marketing	1	1.0
	1+2	90	89.1
	Selling the remaining quantities after consumption	5	5.0
	other,,,,,	2	2.0
11	Income contribution from agriculture		
	less than 25%	11	10.9
	(26% - 50%)	19	18.8
	(51%-75%)	8	7.9
	(more than 75%)	63	62.4

Profile of the respondents, Table (4.2) shows that most of the female farmers in the studied area were of the middle age and their ages varied between 30 – 40 years old. The sample of women working in farming married within percentage of 64.4%, singles were 23.8%, while the percentage of divorce and widows respondents were low. Around 76.2% of the sample women do not have access to more than high school (Tawjihi), while 20.8%

reached a high school level. The remaining women only had diploma with no one having bachelor degree. This lack of educational level leaves few working opportunities and leading them towards working in agriculture.

The average of family size is between 4-6 members. Most of the respondents are mothers (58.4%) and the grand participation in such sector has very low percentage (18.8%). Respondents mostly related to a family that husband is the responsible person for about 51.5% of them comparing with respondents who are responsible to their families; the percentage is around (18.8%) which is considered a very low amount.

The engagement of women in agriculture is divided into full time and part time, with full time participation being 79.2% and part-time (20.8%) which is considered low. This indicates that agriculture is the main source for living in this area.

Through SPSS analysis, about 68.3% of respondents are working as a member in the family (family work), these respondents are working in a family own land (33.7%) and rental/seizing land (33.7%). Others are just farmers in a land for other families, and nearly (6.0%) are employee in Israeli farms with daily paid.

Results of the study's sample survey showed that they use the crops for both household consumption and marketing. Moreover, agriculture contributes to more than 75% of total family income in the study area. By this, it can be concluded that farming is an important economic activity in the area.

4.2 Data Analysis

4.2.1. Impact on Livelihood:

Data in Table (4.3) show that the participation of women in agriculture has positive impacts on livelihood.

Table 4.3: Percentage distribution of the impacts of women working in farming on livelihood

No.	Livelihood Standard	high	Mod.	low	Mean	S.D
1	Outcome of product with efforts	52.5	31.7	15.8	2.63	0.74
2	Quality of food	61.4	27.7	10.9	2.50	0.68
3	Unemployment	56.4	32.7	10.9	2.46	0.68
4	Sufficiency of food	44.6	41.6	13.9	2.31	0.70
5	Depending on market production	30.7	44.6	24.8	2.06	0.74
6	Home situation	17.8	30.7	51.5	1.66	0.76
	Total Score				2.27	0.41

Women farmers felt that their participation in this sector enabled them to have a better standard of living, 44.6% show that this kind of work provides their household individuals with enough production, and this is due to the satisfaction of the quality and quantity of food. By this, we can conclude that the food they take from agriculture meet the efforts they spend in farming which approved by 52% of the respondents. Also, 30.7% and above of the families reduced their dependence on external market products, which indicates to the self-efficiency of agricultural products, and this depends on agricultural season. From

this result, the aim of women participation in this sector is sustaining themselves and their families by cultivation of seasonal food, tree growing, collecting of food products and income-generating are the dominant elements of the livelihood systems for surviving in around 50% of the study sample which lead to improve food security.

Working of women in agriculture reduce unemployment in the family for about 56% of respondents and become having food security, but this work affect in a low impact (17.8%) in improving the situation of respondents houses. Results in (4.3) conclude that the aim of women participating in this sector is for sustaining themselves and their families.

These findings confirm Dhillon et. al (2007) who reported that major impact of women’s employment was important in the overall standards of living. In addition to Rahman (2008) who noticed that women in Nigerai make a significant contribution to food production and processing according to their participation in such work.

In contrast, this result disagrees with Jamali (2009) that is despite the participation of women in Pakistan in this sector, their own food security is always at risk.

4.2.2. Impacts on Education and Capacity Building:

Farm women felt that agricultural practices have a low positive impact on the education and capacity building in general as shown in Table (4.4).

Table 4.4: Percentage Distribution of the impacts of women working in agriculture on education and capacity building;

No.	Education & Capacity Building	high	Mod.	low	Mean	S.D
1	Agricultural skills	54.4	22.8	20.8	2.36	0.80
2	Belonging to the land	54.5	14.9	30.7	2.24	0.89
3	Education level	47.5	9.9	42.6	2.05	0.95
4	knowledge in local market	35.6	6.9	57.4	1.78	0.94
5	Education level for family member	19.8	18.8	61.4	1.58	0.80
6	School requirements for the children	65.3	11.9	22.8	1.57	0.84
7	Women programs participation	17.8	12.9	69.3	1.49	0.78
8	Marketing skills	18.8	5.0	76.2	1.43	0.79
9	Training course participation	8.9	1.0	90.1	1.19	0.57
10	Agricultural union participation	0	0	100.0	1.00	0.00
	Total Score				1.66	0.42

Data shows that respondents become more belonging to the land they are farming, they like this job, and involvement in agriculture provides 54.4% of respondents with several skills. These skills are related to field activities in order to gain more production with less input.

In contrast, this involvement doesn’t give them the opportunity to participate in marketing; since that, it doesn’t strength the knowledge of 76.2% of them with the needs of local market and doesn’t get any marketing skills. This result refers to the majority of Palestine which is Muslim. For Muslims, preserving the purity and intact of the family is very important, that’s why the head of the family (mostly males) like to keep the women from

interacting with stranger people, and that's why men do most of the marketing. This result opposes Abu Alhaija (2006) stating that women in Palestine participate in the marketing. According to education, most of the respondents (47.5%) indicate that agriculture is one of the reasons that they have low educational level. Farmers from the study area not originally from that area. Some come from the north of the WB and some come from south of the WB. Each location in the WB has its own private culture. That's why the education factor differs from north to south depending on the original locality. This finding agree with the result of Samad et. al (2005) stating that participation of women in agriculture in Nepal prevented them from education.

Moreover, this work improves the educational level for the children or household individuals, but in a low level with a percentage of 19.8%, and the income of this work helps in meeting the education needs for children, such as clothes, books, stationary...etc. This finding is opposed to Dhillon et. al (2007) who reported that they were able to provide better educational facilities by buying books and stationary.

Referring to Table (4.4), it reveals that the involvement of respondents in agriculture doesn't give them the opportunity to participate in union related to agriculture, programs, and training courses to improve their skills in such work. This may be due to two factors. The first factor is the availability of time; farming takes a lot of work and long hours in order to obtain good crops. In addition, women that work in farming have to go back home and take care of their families. This doesn't leave them with a lot of time to participate in activities, such as workshops, training,, etc. the second factor maybe that the income from the crops planted is enough that the women working in farming are satisfied and don't pay much attention to improve their farming skills which is related to labor division. This agrees with Sarafat et. al (2007) that women in Japan are usually prevented by their spouses from programs or activities that can make them challenge the status quo of gender power, while it agrees with Sharma (2007) that women in India have often been excluded from agrarian reform and training programs in new agricultural methods.

4.2.3. Impacts on Social Status:

Working of women in agriculture has medium positive impacts and high negative ones on their social relations which concluded from table (4.5).

Table 4.5: Percentage Distribution of impacts of women working in agriculture on social activities

No.	Social Activity	high	Mod.	low	Mean	S.D
1	Leisure time	74.3	18.8	6.9	2.67	0.60
2	responsibilities	69.3	13.9	16.8	2.48	0.76
3	visitor needs	56.4	22.8	20.8	2.36	0.80
4	children behaviors	51.5	17.8	30.7	2.21	0.88
5	household chores	41.6	27.7	30.7	2.11	0.84
6	social interaction	40.6	20.8	38.6	2.02	0.89
7	participation in social events	35.6	23.8	40.6	1.95	0.87
8	Family time	33.7	19.8	46.5	1.87	0.89
	Total Score				2.20	0.47

Participation of women in agricultural work increase the workload for about 69% of respondents women (double roles; house and field) which lead to some negative impacts on children and family as well as socialization. Results in Table (4.5) indicate that involvement of 51% of respondents in this kind of work will lead to ignore the behavior of their children, have less time to be with the family individuals as well as it decreased their participation in social events and activities despite they become having more social interaction with people outside their home area. Furthermore, farming takes a lot of physical work and body strength. As the women get back home, they are tired and have less desire to participate in social events or do house tasks.

4.2.4. Impacts on Women Empowerment:

Six statement questions were used to measure the empowerment of women working in farming, ranging from the ability take decision in income control, type of production, choosing agricultural method “machine or hand use”, crop usage, and finally the ability of marketing and add prices as mentioned in Table (4.6).

Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of women working in agriculture on empowerment

No.	Empowerment	high	Mod.	low	Mean	S.D
1	Control over Agricultural income (income distributing)	29.7	13.9	56.4	1.73	0.89
2	Crops type	23.8	16.8	59.4	1.64	0.84
3	Agricultural method	18.8	24.8	56.4	1.62	0.78
4	Irrigation method	18.8	13.9	67.3	1.51	0.79
5	Production Use (storing, drying, food manufacture... etc) in order to protect the crops	21.8	7.9	70.3	1.51	0.83
6	Marketing method	20.8	3.0	76.2	1.45	0.81
Total Score					1.57	0.71

Working of women in agriculture has no positive impacts on their empowerment. This means that it doesn't enable them to play an important part in decision making. This was obvious at the results in (4.6), that despite of their greater workload and huge participation in the field, they are not being in-charge of management of the farm. This maybe refers to the Palestine culture in agriculture. In Palestine, the whole family works in farming since long time ago, that's why in our recent times, participation of women in agriculture doesn't give them higher status within the family; since it is something traditional and familiar. This means that people in the study area still keep the old mentality prevailing in the region where the decision is always for the male.

Results above agree with Prakash (2003) that in Japan, women in decision-making organs is low, as well as agreeing with Samad et. al (2005) that they have no access to control over income but disagree with Reddi (2003) which indicate that agricultural women participate actively in making decisions in the household and farm activities. The individual's opinion, due to poorer education, cultural concepts having the male dominated patriarchal; women are still under-represented in decision-making in the study area.

4.2.5. Impacts on Women's Health:

Results in Table (4.7) indicate that the involvement of women in farming activities has a positive impact on respondents' psychological health.

Table 4.7: Percentage Distribution of women working in agriculture on their health

No.	Empowerment	high	Mod.	low	Mean	S.D
1	feeling of shame	78.2	5.9	15.8	2.62	0.74
2	self-confidence	69.3	10.9	19.8	2.50	0.80
3	family appreciation	66.3	14.9	18.8	2.48	0.79
4	Important in this work	61.4	18.8	19.8	2.42	0.80
5	illness according to pesticides using	47.5	11.9	40.6	2.07	0.94
6	medichal check up	38.6	13.9	47.5	1.91	0.92
7	Feeling of frustration	33.7	20.8	45.5	1.88	0.88
8	illness according to manual activities in agriculture	25.7	29.7	44.6	1.81	0.82
9	Physical fatigue	16.8	18.8	64.4	1.52	0.76
	Total Score				2.13	0.38

Data shown that 78% of women feel proud of their working in agriculture, they think that their work is important to the farming sector and it gives them a feeling of family protection and life style improvement. On the other hand, double workload they are doing, less time to relax, and the bad situation in the field affect negatively on their psychology that causing in frustration feeling.

Nevertheless, the women's health while working in farming was affected. From the statistics 47% of the women were affected lightly while 40% was affected heavily. The reason maybe their exposure to pesticides while spraying the fields. Older women working in farming maybe more vulnerable to pesticides effects than younger ones. Some farmers spray pesticides while the other members of the family are working in the field. Whereas, other farmers keep their families at home while spraying their crops. Therefore, the effect of pesticides can be due to the amount of exposure and women's age. Apart from the exposure to pesticides working in farming needs a lot of body strength and physical work. This may cause physical damage to the women's body and extreme fatigue. As well as the possibility of being injured from farming equipment while working in the field.

This study conducted on women working in farming from Jericho, Al-Jiftlik, and Zbeidat. Women living in Jericho have more accessibility to medical treatments than the women in Jiftlek and Zbeidat. Since there is a hospital and medical centers in Jericho city. This maybe the cause of having 38.0% of the sample receiving medical treatment than 47.5% that don't get any.

4.2.6 Economic Impacts;

Statistics in Table (4.8) reflects that involvement of women in agriculture has low positive economic impacts on the household.

Table 4.8: Percentage distribution of women in agriculture on economic situation

No.	Economic Impacts	high	Mod.	low	Mean	S.D
1	Debts	45.5	29.7	24.8	2.21	0.81
2	Poverty alleviation	32.7	45.5	21.8	2.11	0.70
3	family income	20.8	64.4	14.9	2.06	0.59
4	Buying new equipment	38.6	24.8	36.6	2.02	0.87
5	Ability in buying food	21.8	51.5	26.7	1.95	0.69
6	Financial independence	26.7	24.8	48.5	1.78	0.84
7	Income from agriculture meet time & effort	20.8	19.8	59.4	1.61	0.81
8	Financial security	7.9	18.8	73.3	1.35	0.62
9	Income generating	10.9	11.9	77.2	1.34	0.66
	Total Score				1.82	0.35

Data in the above table (4.8) reveals that their working in this sector increases the rate of employee in the household. Despite this, there is no high increase in family income; but it decrease poverty for about 32% for the studied families. Poverty measures by the food they got from agriculture, and also the money they got, since agriculture is the main source of income for the study population.

Working in agriculture requires purchasing new equipment for agricultural use. The purchased equipment sometimes results in indebting the farmer causing financial problems to the family for 45% of studied sample.

Despite the huge contribution of women in farming and income, they still have a low economic independence, and the economic feedback doesn't equal the efforts they spend in the farm. This means that they do more than they receive. They have no ability to money control. Also, the agricultural income is not enough to sustain small personal business as a second income, and there is no future financial security (no saving money for the future).

This result agrees with Samad et. al (2005) that women working in farms are far from saving the income for personal use. The worst fact according to the women is that the bad revenue of their income from agriculture still doesn't meet their efforts in the field.

4.2.7 Women Needs:

In order to enhance the positive impacts of agriculture in the study area, and to reduce the negative ones, respondents referred to some needs:

- Provide a Palestinian Market to market their products.
- Provide the needed production inputs with reasonable prices.
- Provide jobs in non seasonal seasons, such as, food processing.

Results above conclude that women working in agriculture have positive and negative impacts, which summarized in Figures (4.1) and (4.2).

4.3 Testing Hypothesis

For further confirmation of the results obtained through descriptive statistics, hypotheses were tested using the SPSS statistical package. Each hypothesis was tested according to a different method such as correlation coefficient, T-test, F-test, comparing means, ...etc.



Figure 4.1: Positive Impacts of Women in Agriculture

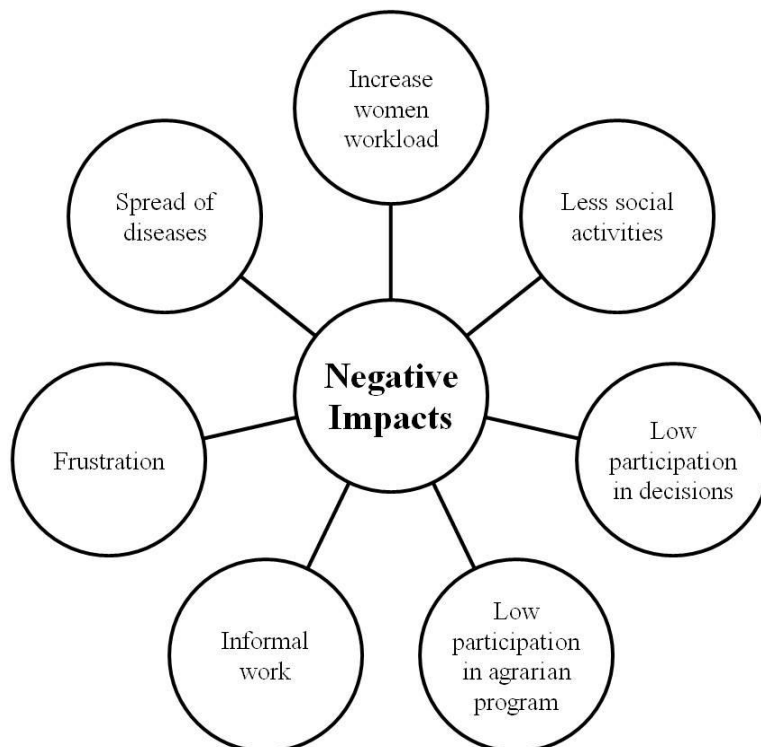


Figure 4.2: Negative Impacts of Women in Agriculture

4.3.1. Hypothesis No. 1:

There is no correlation between women working in agriculture and social impacts in Jericho and Jordan Valley at the significance level $\alpha \leq 0.05$. In order to test this Hypothesis, (39) questions were posed (Appendix 1), taking 6 variables mentioned in tables (4.9 – 4.13) into consideration.

Results of Hypothesis No. 1 (4.9)

Table 4.9: Correlation between women working in agriculture and livelihood impacts

Variable	Impacts on Livelihood	
	T/F Test	Statistics Significant Scale
Age	2.574	0.042
Head of the household	0.332	0.856
Marital status	2.82	0.043
Educational level	0.879	0.418
Work situation (Type of participation)	2.427	0.458
status of participation	8.562	0

Data in Table (4.9) found that there is no correlation between head of respondents household, the educational level, the situation of their participation in this sector (full or part time) and the livelihood of their families according to the participation in this work. Thus, the hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no relation between these characteristics and the livelihood impacts of agriculture.

Moreover, it shows that there is a correlation between (age, marital status, and status participation) with the family livelihood. Therefore; the hypothesis is rejected at these variables. In order to identify this correlation, scheffe Test was conducted; and the results were:

- The highest positive impacts of women participation in farm activities to household livelihood was for who aged **41-51** years old. This is because these are accomplished women; they have families, children, and their own house, so working in farming increases their income leading to an increase on livelihood. While the lowest one was for the target that age between 19-29 years old because these are very young women that have ambition and may think of farming as a restrain to accomplishing their dreams and future goal.
- The livelihood of families related to widows women get positive impacts according to their participation in such work more than singles and married ones because widows are the masters of the house and the main source of income, so, farming gives them an accep amount of income to provide for their homes and families, while single and married women are not the leaders of the house, so, the income coming from working in agriculture goes to the husband.
- The participation of women in agriculture has more positive impacts on their household livelihood for who works as a family member in their own lands. While women who works with daily paid have no positive impacts to their livelihood. This is because women working in their own land have more consious in executing their work than women working in other owner land. This indicates that ownership

of land has an important role in the impact of agricultural work on the standard living.

Table 4.10: Correlation between women working in agriculture and impacts on education and capacity building

Variable	Impacts on Education	
	T/F Test	Statistics Significant Scale
Age	17.076	0
Head of the household	0.365	0.833
Marital status	4.974	0.003
Educational level	1.112	0.333
Work situation (Type of participation)	2.227	0.15
status of participation	7.577	0.001

Referring to Table (4.10), it found that responsible person in the family, educational level, and type of women involvement in agriculture, have no correlation with the education and capacity building of women and individuals in the household. Thus, hypothesis is accepted.

On the other hand, this hypothesis was rejected at some characteristics such as: age, marital status, and status of participation because results reveals that there is a statistical correlation between these variables and the impacts of agriculture on women’s education and capacity, since the statistical significant is less than 0.05.

Scheffe test shows the differences as following:

- Agriculture has the highest impacts on education and capacity building for women who age between 41-51 years old. While female who age less than 18 years old has the lowest impacts on the education and capacity building. The range exhibited by the study is considered to be mostly women from Jericho city since they have more access to women organizations and training courses. The age from 41-51 years old and widows gives them more freedom to interact and leave the house more often than younger women and singles because of cultural believes.
- Women who work in their family owner land are the most affected positively on their education and capacity building than women working for other owner. Because women working in their own land have more freedom to manage their time than women working in other owners land since the last have no income if they don’t work full time at that place.

Table 4.11: Correlation between women working in agriculture and impacts on social activities:

Variable	Impacts on Social Status	
	T/F Test	Statistics Significant Scale
Age	1.266	0.289
Head of the household	6.529	0
Marital status	5.436	0.002
Educational level	0.548	0.58
Work situation (Type of participation)	6.095	0.01
status of participation	3.529	0.033

Data in Table (4.11) revealed that age and educational level of respondents have no statistical correlation with the impacts of their participation in farming on social activities. Thus, hypothesis is accepted. On the other hand, the other characteristics (head of the family, marital status, participation type, and status of participation) have statistical correlation with the impacts of agriculture on social activities. Therefore, hypothesis is rejected.

Statistical analysis reviews the correlation by using scheffe Test; results were as following:

- Families headed by men haven't affected negatively on the social status according to the participation of women in such work. While families who are headed by the respondents, their social activities were affected negatively. When the head of the family is a man, his only obligation is to work in the field. After sunset he has all the free time to go and socialize. This applies to single women too. While women have three obligations, first, the work in the field. Second, the housekeeping. Third, family time. This leaves no time for women as a head of the family and married women to socialize.
- Women who work in agriculture as daily paid have no negative impacts to the social activities, while women who work in their own land (family land) get negative impacts according to the participation in this sector. This is because women with daily paid have not as much dedication and conscious of work as women working in a land of their own. Also they are actively participation in cultivation only, and don't spend many time in the field, since that, they will not affected negatively by this work.

Table 4.12: Correlation between women in agriculture and impacts on women empowerment

Variable	Impacts on Empowerment	
	T/F Test	Statistics Significant Scale
Age	5.09	0.001
Head of the household	3.671	0.008
Marital status	4.057	0.009
Educational level	1.514	0.225
Work situation (Type of participation)	2.182	0.158
status of participation	1.4	0.251

Table (4.12) revealed that educational level, type of work, and status of participation have no statistical correlation with the impact on decision making according to their participation in agricultural work.

Thus, hypothesis is accepted. In contrast, (age, head of the family, and the marital status) have statistical correlation between these characteristics and empowerment of women farmers. Therefore, hypothesis is rejected.

To identify the correlation, scheffe test was evaluated as the following results:

- The highest mean value was 1.97 for women who age 52 year and 1.91 for (41-51) years old. This indicate that agricultural experience give women who age (52) the ability to participate in decision making more than young female whose mean value was 1.00 which indicate that there is no positive impact on these young female. This is refer that in the palestinian culture age is very respect, older women above 50 are wiser and have more knowlgedge in agriculture and in matters of life. This gives them a higher status and more power in society.
- Data indicate that if the respondents are the head of the family, then they have a high positive impact on decision making; the value was 2.14. while if any body else was the responsible person in the household, then respondents doesn't have the ability to participate in decision making.
- Marital status: the highest value was 2.35 for widows respondents. This means that women when they are widows they have the ability to participate in decision making, while in the case of singles or married they have no ability to participate in this aspect.

Table 4.13: Correlation between women working in agriculture and impacts on women's health:

Variable	Impacts on Health	
	T/F Test	Statistics Significant Scale
Age	0.518	0.723
Head of the household	0.519	0.722
Marital status	0.169	0.917
Educational level	0.491	0.613
Work situation (Type of participation)	-5.984	0.405
status of participation	1.886	0.157

Table (4.13) reflect that all the characteristics (responsible person in the household, marital status of the respondents, educational level, type of work, and participation status) have no statistical correlation with the impact on respondents health according to their participation in agricultural work at the level less than 0.05. Thus, hypothesis is accepted.

The correlation between age and health impacts of agriculture statistically turned out to be null. This result was not accepted because logically working for long hours in the field over a large period of years has to cause some physical problems to the women working in agriculture.

4.3.2. Hypothesis No. 2:

There is no correlation between women working in agriculture and economic impacts in Jericho & Jordan Valley at the significance level $\alpha \leq 0.05$. In order to test this Hypothesis, (9) questions were posed (Appendix 1), taking 6 variables mentioned in Table (4.14) into consideration.

Table 4.14: Results of Hypothesis No. 2

Variable	Economic Impacts	
	T/F Test	Statistics Significant Scale
Age	4.175	0.004
Head of the household	0.760	0.554
Marital status	6.410	0.001
Educational level	1.418	0.247
Work situation (Type of participation)	0.685	0.395
status of participation	0.624	0.538

Data in Table (4.14) reveals that some characteristics (Head of the household, educational level, work situation, participation of respondents in this work, and the status of participation) have no statistical correlation and the economic impacts according to their participation in agricultural activities. by this result, hypothesis is accepted.

In contrast, this hypothesis was rejected, since there is a relation between age and marital status of respondents with the economic impacts of agriculture. This result reveals by conducted Scheffe test;

- Age: women who age 52 and more are affected positively on their economy by agriculture while it has no impact on women who ages less than 19; because older women have more control on spending the income from agriculture while all the income gained from women less than 19 goes directly to the head of the family.
- Marital Status: agriculture affected on widows women and married women more than singles because a widow's and single women are in a controlling position, for example head of the family while single women have no power within the family.

Chapter Five

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

In this chapter, the following conclusions were derived from this study which designed to analyze the socio-economic impacts of women working in agriculture on themselves and their families in Jericho and Jordan Valley governorate.

Related to the current study, women involvement in agriculture has very important socioeconomic impacts on life. Thus, she is employer, producer, increase productivity, generating income, decrease poverty, which lead to improve food security, as well as it effects on health and education.

Most of the respondents within the age of 30-40 that should have the ability to development and renewal; but unfortunately, most of them have less education and less participation in development program. This is an indicator to the absence of institutions to benefit this target group, which lead to lack of opportunities to improve skills of women with new technologies.

Women's participation in agricultural activities have positive as well as negative impacts on their socio-economic life; Agriculture is the major source for livelihood; it increases the quantity and quality of food.

Education is the fundamental factor in the development and updating of the community, most of the women that vary in age between 30-40 have not received enough education in their life to develop and give new ideas to the community surrounding them. It is recommended that women's supporting organizations should focus on this target group that has years of experience but no educational basis.

The negligence of the important role of women participating in agriculture leads to the feeling of injustice and under appreciation, women don't own the farming lands nor they participate in the marketing process, and they don't have the authority of taking any decision in the farm management or household. The limitations of women being the decision makers in the agricultural process can be attributed to the age, head of the household, marital status, and the agricultural income.

Women participation in irrigated agriculture increases the duties which lead to ignore other duties in the household, such as, caring of children...etc).

By this, farm women in this area always feel injustice; they do more and receive less. They have lack of own the productive resources (the land) as well as lack of marketing opportunities.

5.2 Recommendation

This study argues that there is a need to enhance the crucially important role played by women in lives according to their participation in agricultural work. This should be with the essential steps, to improve the impacts of this important sector:

- Technologies should be designed to address women's needs to increase their productivity, and reduce their workloads to be care with other social duties carrying of their family, to participate in social events, and to improve the quality of life of the women themselves and in turn.
- Aware Women's of the implications of wrong using pesticides and aware them in modern agriculture, this will happen by agricultural guidance in order to avoid the negative impacts.
- Improve some projects for women to work in the period of non agriculture, such as, food processing of agriculture & animal products.
- Open a Palestinian (local) market for selling the products, since they are depending on the Israeli market.
- According to the results, establishing nursery schools in rural area may help in increasing women participating in agriculture production and marketing with no negative impacts on children.
- Elimination of all the gender discrimination in work. Since, most of the women farmers in the study area have great impacts on food security according to such work, and this should be recognized from those responsible. And they should be equal in ownership of and have a control on the agricultural sources & decision-making. As well as improving their role in reducing hunger and malnutrition. This will lead to a positive impact on their family life as well as themselves.
- Provide rural women with special support (small loans) through anti-poverty programs so that they can begin to special projects generating income, especially for those who own small holdings and heads of household.
- Much more research is needed into the poverty impacts of agriculture to provide more details on which types of agriculture are of greatest benefit to different types of farm people in different agricultural areas and institutional settings.
- Women farmers should become specially targeted recipients because of their vital roles in the agricultural workforce, household food procurement and preparation, and family unit support
- Governments should devise long term agricultural development strategies supporting the development of local agricultural markets and the farmers' ability to answer market demands.

By the above recommendations, we can deliver the socioeconomic security for women working in agriculture.

5.3 Suggested Future Researches

In order to enhance the research on this topics and to fill the gaps by other researcher; the following topics can be proposed as future research areas:

- The impact of rural women work in agriculture on household livelihood and empowerment of women'
- The impact of rural women work in agriculture on poverty alleviation

- The role of rural women in civil society movement in Palestine
- The impact of rural women associations on development agriculture sector

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Appendix 1: Number of Population in Jericho and Jordan Valley by type of locality, size of household (PCBS, 2008)

Locality	Population		Average size of Household	Locality Type
	Male	Female		
Marj Na'je	715		116	Rural
	359	356		
Zbeidat	1,421		43	Rural
	692	729		
Marj Ghazal	203		43	Rural
	106	97		
Al-Jiftlik	3714		578	Rural
	1,857	1,857		
Fasayel	1,078		190	Rural
	537	541		
Al-Auja	4120		674	Urban
	2062	2058		
Nwema	1245		213	Rural
	652	593		
Ein ad Duyuk al Fauqa	821		137	Rural
	412	409		
Ein as Sultan Camp	3,160		589	Camp
	1568	1592		
Jericho	18346		3510	Urban
	9201	9145		
Deir al Qilt	4		1	Rural
	0	4		
Aqbat Jaber Camp	7176		1,298	Camp
	3546	3630		
Deir Hajla	8		1	Rural
	2	6		
An Nabi Musa	309		66	Rural
	142	167		
Total	42,320			

Appendix 2: questionnaire

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
معهد التنمية المستدامة

تقوم الباحثة بدراسة بعنوان :

الآثار الاجتماعية والاقتصادية لعمل المرأة في القطاع الزراعي في محافظة أريحا والأغوار

وذلك استكمالاً لمتطلبات رسالة الماجستير في التنمية المستدامة ، بناء مؤسسات /جامعة القدس .
يرجى الإجابة عن أسئلة الاستبانة بصدق وموضوعية والموجهة للنساء المزارعات، من أجل تحقيق أهداف هذه الدراسة مع العلم أن البيانات التي تجمع بغرض الدراسة تعامل بسرية تامة،

شاكرين لكم حسن مساعدتكم وتعاونكم

الباحث : منال الخطيب
معهد التنمية المستدامة
جامعة القدس

القسم الأول: المعلومات الشخصية	
الإجابة	البيان
1	العمر: (1) 18 سنة فأقل (2) 19-29 (3) 30-40 (4) 41-51 (5) 52 سنة فأكثر
2	الموقع بالعائلة: (1) أم (2) بنت (3) جدة
3	الحالة الاجتماعية: (1) عزباء (2) متزوجة (3) مطلقة (4) أرملة
4	المستوى التعليمي: (1) أقل من توجيبي (2) توجيبي (3) دبلوم متوسط (4) بكالوريوس فأعلى
5	عدد أفراد الأسرة المعالين من الدخل الزراعي: (1) 1-3 (2) 4-6 (3) 7-9 (4) 10 فأكثر
6	المعيل داخل الأسرة (1) أنت (2) الأم (3) الأب (4) الزوج (5) غير ذلك، حددي.....
7	عملك في الزراعة:

		1) رئيسي (2) ثانوي
8	طبيعة الأرض التي تقومين بزراعتها:	1) ملك (2) استئجار/محاخصة (3) أجيرين (مزارعة) (4) عاملة في أرض إسرائيلية
9	الحالة العملية في عملك بالزراعة:	1) تعمل لحساب العائلة (2) تعمل لحساب صاحب المصلحة (3) مستخدمة بأجر
10	الغرض من الإنتاج الزراعي:	1) للاستهلاك الأسري فقط (2) للبيع أساسا (3) 1 + 2 (4) يتم بيع الكمية المتبقية بعد الاستهلاك (5) أخرى، حديدي
11	مساهمة الدخل الزراعي من دخل الأسرة	1. (أقل من 25%) 2. (26% - 50%) 3. (51% - 75%) 4. أكثر من 75%

القسم الثاني: الآثار الاجتماعية المترتبة على المرأة في الزراعة					
الرقم	مستوى المعيشة، عملك في الزراعة عمل على:	درجة كبيرة	درجة متوسطة	درجة قليلة	الإجابة
1	الحد من مشكلة البطالة داخل الأسرة				
2	تلبية الاحتياجات المنزلية من الغذاء (اكتفاء ذاتي)				
3	قلة الاعتماد على منتجات السوق (انخفاض شراء المنتجات الغذائية)				
4	تحسين نوعية غذاء الأسرة (وبالتالي تتحسن الصحة)				
5	حصتك من المحصول تساوي ما تقومين به من جهد				
6	تحسين وضع السكن لدى الأسرة				
التعليم وبناء القدرات: عملك في الزراعة عمل على،					
7	رفع المستوى التعليمي لأفراد الأسرة				
8	إعاقه مسيرتك التعليمية				
9	تلبية الاحتياجات المدرسية للأبناء				
10	مكني من المشاركة في دورات تدريبية في مجال الزراعة				
11	مكني من المشاركة في الاتحادات الزراعية				
12	إعطاؤك القدرة على المشاركة في البرامج النسوية				
13	ساهم في تعزيز الانتماء للأرض				
14	عزز من المعرفة لديك في احتياجات السوق المحلي				
15	ساعد في إكسابي مهارات التسويق الناجح				

				ساهم في إكسابي مهارات زراعي (مدخلات أقل وإنتاجية أكثر)	16
العلاقات الاجتماعية، عمك في الزراعة أدى إلى:					
				القضاء على وقت الفراغ	17
				زيادة علاقاتك الاجتماعية (الاختلاط) مع الآخرين	18
				زيادة عبء أعمالك (عدم زيادة المسؤوليات الملقاة على عاتقك)	19
				عدم أداء الواجبات المنزلية الأخرى بالشكل الصحيح (طبخ وغيره)	20
				قلة قضاء الوقت مع أفراد أسرتك	21
				عدم القدرة على تلبية احتياجات ضيوف عائلتك	22
				اهمال سلوكيات أفراد الأسرة الصغار (ناحية تربوية)	23
				الحد من المشاركة في الأنشطة الاجتماعية (زيارات عائلية، أصدقاء وأقارب .. الخ)	24

الاجابة	بدرجة قليلة	بدرجة متوسطة	بدرجة كبيرة	الرقم	التمكين، عمك في الزراعة أدى إلى قدرتك على اتخاذ القرار في الأمور التالية، القدرة في الوصول إلى المصادر، تصل لمصدر الأرض والتحكم بهذا المصدر)
				25	اختيار طرق زراعية معينة (تقليدي وحديث)
				26	اختيار طرق معينة في الري
				27	اختيار نوع المحصول
				28	كيفية تسويق المحصول (تسويقه كما أشاء)
				29	كيفية التصرف بالمحصول الزراعي (تخزين، تجفيف، تصنيع غذائي، غداء، تسويق... الخ (من أجل حماية الانتاج)
				30	كيفية التصرف في الدخل الزراعي / حرية في إدارة نفقات الأسرة
الصحة الجسدية والنفسية، عمك في الزراعة أدى إلى،					
				31	زيادة تقدير أفراد العائلة لك / حسن من المعاملة واعتراف بهذا العمل
				32	أن تشعرى بأنك عنصر مهم في العمل الزراعي من ناحية الأسرة
				33	تعزيز ثقنتك بنفسك / زيادة الثقة بالنفس
				34	عدم شعور بالإحباط
				35	عدم شعورك بالاحراج
				36	عدم الإرهاق الجسدي نتيجة قيامك بالأعمال المزدوجة
				37	عدم الإصابة ببعض الأمراض الجسدية نتيجة للأعمال اليدوية في الزراعة
				38	عدم إصابة ببعض الامراض نتيجة الأدوية

				عدم إهمال الفحص الطبي نظرا لضيق الوقت	39
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القسم الثالث: الآثار الاقتصادية المترتبة على عمل المرأة في الزراعة

الإجابة	درجة قليلة	درجة متوسطة	درجة كبيرة	عملك في الزراعة أدى إلى:	الرقم
				تخفيف مشكلة الفقر	40
				زيادة في دخل الأسرة	41
				الاستقلال المادي (تقليل التبعية المادية والاعتماد على ذاتك لتلبية الاحتياجات)	42
				المساعدة في فتح مشروع صغير مدر للدخل	43
				الأمان الاقتصادي للمستقبل (تحويش الدخل الناتج عن الزراعة وادخاره)	44
				زيادة القدرة على شراء تموين غذائي للأسرة	45
				شراء معدات وأدوات زراعية جديدة	46
				عدم زيادة الديون نتيجة لشراء مدخلات إنتاج (وبالتالي فإن مدخلات العملية الإنتاجية تفوق الفائدة المادية منها)	47
				ما أحصل عليه من دخل يساوي ما أقضيه من وقت وجهد	48

50. آثار أخرى لم يتم ذكرها؟

.....

51. ما هي متطلبات (كيف يمكن) تعزيز (زيادة) الآثار الإيجابية والتخفيف من الآثار السلبية نتيجة عملك في الزراعة؟

.....

الملخص

تلعب المرأة الفلسطينية دورا مهما في العمل الزراعي. وقد تم انجاز هذه الدراسة في الفترة الواقعة ما بين أيلول، 2009 و آذار، 2010. ومثلت فيها النساء المزارعات في محافظة أريحا والأغوار مجتمع المبحوثات. أما عينة الدراسة فجاءت عنقودية لاختيار ثلاث مناطق وتبين أنها تتضمن 215 أسرة زراعية، حيث تم اختيار 75 أسرة زراعية بطريقة عشوائية يمثلون 20% من حجم المجتمع. متضمنة 110 إناث أجريت عليهم هذه الدراسة. وقد تم استخدام المنهج الوصفي لانجاز هذه الدراسة حيث تم جمع المعلومات والإجابة على أسئلة الدراسة بمراجعة الأدبيات السابقة ومعالجتها بالنقد والتحليل. وتصميم استبيان تكون من 62 فقرة موزعة على 4 مجالات رئيسية. كما وتم تحليل ومعالجة مخرجات الاستبيان إحصائيا وعرضها بواسطة الحزم الإحصائية للعلوم الاجتماعية (SPSS).

وهدفت الدراسة إلى التعرف على الآثار الاجتماعية والاقتصادية لعمل المرأة في الزراعة، آخذين بعين الاعتبار بعض المؤشرات: التأثير على مستوى المعيشة، التأثير على مستوى التعليم وبناء القدرات، التأثير على النشاطات الاجتماعية اليومية، التأثير على تمكين المرأة، التأثير على صحة المرأة النفسية والجسدية، هذا بالإضافة إلى التأثيرات الاقتصادية. ومن أحد الأهداف أيضا كان التعرف على احتياجات النساء المزارعات لزيادة الآثار الايجابية والتقليل من الآثار السلبية. ومن المتوقع أن تمثل هذه الدراسة أساسا علميا تستند إليه المؤسسات الرسمية والأهلية في تعاملها المستقبلي مع الوضع الزراعي في منطقة أريحا والأغوار وتحسين وضع النساء في المنطقة.

جاءت نتائج الدراسة بأن غالبية النساء العاملات في الزراعة تتراوح أعمارهم ما بين (30-40) وبينت البيانات أن ما نسبته 76.2% ينتمون لمستوى علمي أقل من توجيهي الذي أدى بهم إلى اختيار العمل الزراعي. وأن عملهم في الزراعة هو العمل الرئيسي الذي يساهم في الدخل العائلي بنسبة أكثر من 75%.

حول التأثيرات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية لعمل المرأة في الزراعة، بينت النتائج أن مشاركة المرأة في العمل الزراعي تعمل على تحسين مستوى المعيشة لأفراد الأسرة، حيث تعمل على زيادة غذاء العائلة كمية ونوعية وبالتالي تتحسن صحة أفراد الأسرة.

في حين أنها تؤثر سلبا على العلاقات الاجتماعية والعناية بالأطفال وذلك نتيجة للعمل المزدوج الذي أدى بها إلى الشعور بالإحباط والإصابة ببعض الأمراض الجسدية.

وبالرغم من الدور الذي تقوم به المرأة في العمل الزراعي، إلا أنها ما زالت غير قادرة على اتخاذ القرارات الخاصة بالمزرعة، مما يشير إلى استمرارية هيمنة المجتمع الذكوري.

حول التأثيرات الاقتصادية، إن عمل المرأة في القطاع الزراعي يزيد من نسبة العمالة داخل المنزل الواحد والذي بدوره يزيد من الدخل الأسري، ولكنه لا يعطيها الحق في التصرف به كما تشاء ولا يعطيها الفرصة لعمل مشاريع صغيرة أخرى مدرة للدخل.

أما أهم وسائل تحسين أوضاع العائلات المزارعة في منطقة الدراسة من وجهة نظر المبحوثات كانت تتمثل في فتح سوق محلي لتصريف المنتجات الفلسطينية، تزويدهم ببعض وسائل الإنتاج بأسعار معقولة، إضافة إلى إيجاد فرص عمل في المواسم الغير زراعية.