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An analysis of gender based resource allocation among rural household and its impact on women development in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar

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Abstract

The study shows that girls are denied access to household resources inside the family. Based on a sample survey, a descriptive research was designed for this objective. 120 young women from the villages of Dholi and Abdulpur Raini in the Muzaffarpur District of Bihar were chosen at random for the study. There are five dimensions such as community-based/ general facilities, health care services, education, and food and nutrition, the distribution of resources for females in respondent families was examined. The findings indicated that 42.5% of the 120 respondents were receiving preferences in meeting their family's fundamental necessities. Again, 55% of respondents had access to community-based facilities, whereas just 24.16% received services connected to health care. Just 45.84% of girls were eating a healthy, balanced diet, 45 out of 120 had access to school, 26.7% had the flexibility to pursue higher education, and 15% had the freedom to achieve their goals. The study found that resource distribution in the studied area is based on gender. Additionally, the survey found that girls were receiving lesser resources than boys.

Keywords: Gender, resource allocation, gender based resources, household resource allocation, and impact on development of women

Introduction

The term "gender" is often recognized as "an entry point for the analysis of social inequality between men and women and to identify potential points of intervention thereof". Gender is a complicated and multidimensional notion that encompasses identity, expression, roles, and interpersonal interactions. "The characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed are called as gender" (World Health Organization). Gender refers to the social differences that are learned, changeable over time, and have wide variations within and between cultures." It refers to the socially constructed roles of men and women and to elaborate, gender is "socially constructed roles, behaviours, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for women and men" (Council of Europe). Gender based inequality has deep roots in our society pervading almost all issues of social development. Women and girls are the greatest sufferers of this inequality which is exhibited through unequal distribution of resources and access to various developmental forums for girls and women, be it familial, social, cultural, religious, and educational and others. This phenomenon is so closely interwoven and deeply rooted with the culture of a society at micro and macro levels that it is quite difficult to eradicate it. Therefore, a deep analysis of the issue was planned in form of a M.Sc. research entitled "A study on gender-based resource allocation in rural households in Muzaffarpur

District of Bihar and its implications on women development" with the intention of "studying the gender-based resource allocation in the respondents' families and its relationship with women development."

Methods and Materials

Two villages, Dholi and Abdulpur Raini, were selected from the same block, out of 16 blocks in the Muzaffarpur district of Bihar, which was selected for the study. For the study, a sample of 120 homes from these two neighborhoods with children of both sexes was selected. According to census 2011, average sex ratio of Muzaffarpur is 900 females per 1000 males. The locale of the study was purposively chosen as the researcher was a student of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa, Samastipur which was near to the area. A personal interview schedule was used to collect information from the selected respondents. Frequency, percentages, averages, and correlations were used to make relevant findings.

Results and Discussion

Gender-Based Resource Allocation among rural households in Muzaffarpur district of Bihar categorized into five dimensions for the purpose of study which is elaborated below-

Out of 120 females, only 51 were given priority in their families' basic demands, according to Table 1. Access to

community-based facilities was available to most of the 66 respondents, or 55%. Only six of the 120 girls in the sample households had the right to land and property, as are normal in society.

Table 1: Respondents' distribution according to general facility allocation (n=120)

Sl. No.	Statements	Number (f)	Percentage (%)
1	More focus on meeting the family's basic necessities	51	42.5
2	Access to community facilities (parks/libraries)	66	55
3	Access to land/property	6	5

Table-2 revealed that only 29 or 24.16 per cent respondents had access to health care and related services whereas only 40 or 33.33 per cent girls out of 120 had access to medical facility.

Table 2: Respondents' distribution according to health services allocation (n=120)

Sl. No.	Statements	Number (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Availability of medical care and associated services	29	24.16
2	Access to medical facility	40	33.3

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents based on allocation of career development (n=120)

Sl. No.	Statements	Number (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Access to school	45	37.5
2	Freedom to choose stream for higher studies	32	26.7
3	Freedom to accomplish your goal	18	15

Table-6 demonstrated positive correlation between women development and education, significant at 1% level which infers that when education increases it has a positive impact on women development and vice-versa. Women development and availability of nutritious food was positive and significant at 5% level which shows that when access to

Table-3 showed that only 32 or 26.7 per cent girls out of 120 had access to education. A majority of 49 or 40.9 per cent respondents had access to higher studies. A meagre number of 23 girls out of 120 had access to electronic gadgets for educational purpose.

Table 3: Respondents' distribution according to educational facility allocation (n=120)

Sl. No.	Statements	Number (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Access to Education	32	26.7
2	Access to pursue higher studies	49	40.9
3	Access to electronic gadgets	23	19.2

Table-4 revealed that only 55 out of 120 girls had access to wholesome diet. A majority of 56 or 46.7 per cent respondents had access to nutritious food.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents based on allocation of nutritious food (n=120)

Sl. No.	Statements	Number (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Access to wholesome diet	55	45.84
2	Access to nutritious food	56	46.7

Table-5 identified that only 45 out of 120 girls had access to school and 26.7 per cent girls had right to choose higher studies and only 15 per cent had freedom to accomplish goal.

nutritious food increases it has positive impact on women development and vice-versa. General facilities and health care services and career development were positively correlated but insignificant with women development in the study.

Table 6: Correlation analysis between gender-based resource allocation and women development

Sl. No.	Variables	Pearson correlation (r)	Significance
1	Education	.538**	.000
2	Financial resources	.060	.515
3	Decision-making	.203*	.026
4	Nutritious food & good health	.203*	.026
5	Career development	.058	.531

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Conclusion

According to the study's findings, women's development and education were positively correlated, meaning that as education rises, so does women's development and vice versa followed by availability of nutritious food when increases it has positive impact on women development and vice-versa. In addition to showing that there is gender bias against girls in households when allocating resources in the research area, General facilities and health care services and career development were positively correlated but

insignificant with women development.

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