

The Obstacles of Rural Women Participation in Agricultural Development in Erbil Province

Abstract

The role of rural women's in agricultural activities is substantial in Iraq in general and in the Erbil province in particular. The aim of the study is to determine the problems faced by rural women during agricultural activities. This study was conducted in Erbil located in the Northern Iraq province. The data was collected from 250 women from 25 villages by face to face interviews. The results showed that the obstacles of women's role in agricultural development are lack of literacy due to their poor academic background. The majority of the respondents claimed that their obstacles lie in the increased work inside and outside of activity of rural women. Due to the family obstacles, the women always face disagreement with their family while attending to social and economic activities. The women also have obstacles in the agricultural development due to the gender discriminations. The respondents every time encounter obstacles because of the low attendance of women NGOs to track their problems.

Keywords: Obstacles, agricultural development, rural women, Erbil, Iraq.

1. INTRODUCTION

Today's globalized community has preferred the agriculture as an engine for the overall growth and development of the world. It plays a crucial role to reduce the poverty level in the countries as it is regarded as the main occupation of the poor people [1]. But the facts that nowadays people involve less in the agriculture sector rather commercial. People are attracting to the commercial business activities like banking, financing, corporate, etc. as they see more profit and quality life in that sector rather than agricultural sector [2]. In many developing countries, rural women are regarded as the foundation for everyday family survival and agriculture. Though women play a major part in the agriculture, they are probably facing different problems which obstruct women empowerment [3].

Economic status of Iraqi Kurdistan region has been primarily dominated by the agriculture sector. Despite the shift towards industrialisation, this sector has been a mainstream source for

28 rural economy contributing to the overall socio-economic status of the community. [4]
 29 Therefore, it is obvious that improvement in the agriculture sector is the fundamental activity
 30 needed to reduce poverty and improve quality of life especially in rural parts where woman is
 31 central in agricultural activities. Iraq, being an agriculture based country the role of woman in the
 32 agricultural sector is same as in other parts of the rural community. The women are primarily
 33 involved in farming, maintenance of livestock, crop harvesting activities and other household
 34 works. Women have to work through the whole day to feed children and working men of the
 35 family, [5]. Women in rural areas can contribute to the agricultural development and economic
 36 development in all developing countries. It is said that around 50% of rural women inhabitants
 37 have a considerable role in the economic and social development [6]. Additionally to develop
 38 sustainability, it is very important to pay attention to the condition of women beside men for the
 39 participation in various economic and social development activities. in spite of huge efforts of
 40 rural women, their role is ignored in economic developmental activities. Thus, a certain group of
 41 rural women and young people are involved for the overall developmental of rural areas[7] .
 42 Rejuvenation of the agriculture sector is crucial to stabilize the economy of Iraqi Kurdistan and
 43 ensure the return of the farmers to their villages. Extension, in general terms, is a function that
 44 can be applied to various areas of society. It operates in the industrial, health and education
 45 sectors, as well as agricultural and rural development. The term «extension» is, therefore,
 46 applicable to various areas of development. If extension is assumed as an educational process
 47 with the aim of conveying useful information for rural producers and changing their insight,
 48 knowledge, attitude and skills in order to access a better life for their family and society. [8]. The
 49 rural women participation is very significant for the sustainable development, and also they are
 50 considered as the center of the development process and help to improve the agricultural
 51 condition [9]. Rural women considers 70% of agricultural workers, 80% of food producers and
 52 percent of rural women process basic food stuff and are involved in the marketing activities also
 53 from around 60% to 90% [10]. From the survey of the different researcher, it was found that the
 54 lacks of information about the new and latest technological equipment are the hindrance for the
 55 agricultural development in the rural areas [11]. Women should be encouraged and motivated
 56 [12]. From the viewpoint of macro-economic like creating income, production, and
 57 entrepreneurship, science and technology development, women participation is equally
 58 important. The involvement of the rural women in the agriculture not only contribute to the

progress of macro-environment factors but also gives respect, status, social position as well as it evolve the feeling of dependability from the social viewpoint [1] . The effective result from any activities is not gained by the single involvement, expertise, knowledge and personal management rather participation of both male and female. Men and women work together in a society and yet affect with the job conditions that are provided to them [13].

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

2.1. Research Methodology

This chapter aims to outline the research methodology used for the study. In this section, the methods and procedures used for conducting research have been briefly discussed. The plans, structure, and scheme are considered to support the research process along with finding the answers to the questions raised [14].The researcher has maintained the confidentiality of the information gained from the participants. Also, the researcher follows the principles of ethics like objectivity, honesty, openness, integrity along with respect for the intellectual property (Israr, 2014). Since the survey is conducted through questionnaire method, the respondent is assured to maintain the privacy of their answers, views and opinions and won't be disclosed without their permission.

2.2. Research Survey Method and Data Collecting

Primary and secondary are the two methods of data collection (Dawson, 2013). For achieving the result, both types of data collection method are used.The primary data was achieved by conducting questionnaire method among the women of Erbil province. Questionnaires are distributed among two hundred fifty women in every village agriculture.The total numbers of women who are participating in this process are 250 women from 25 villages. The required information is gathered from these women through questionnaire method. In this study, different women were invited to answer the questions through convenience sampling method. After the preparation of the initial questionnaire, a set of questions is given to teachers and experts who are in the field of agriculture and natural resources. After then, this replies corrective action and finally the questions about the questionnaire have been set. And then data will be collected and fed to a computer for statistical analysis.The study was conducted in Northern Region of Iraq during 2016. Data for the present study were collected from the selected

farmers of 25 villages in Erbil province namely: Grdmala, Daraban, Bastora, Gazna, Grdachal, Ashocan, Shakhoran, Seberan, Bahrka, Jazhnican, Bardhusht, Qalachoghan, Qushtapa, Talmusak, Grdarash, Saedan, Drash, Qafar, Khrabadraw, Gaynj, Jdeda, Qultapa, Duztapa, Jmka, Mastawa, Chaluk, Kawrgosk, Grdasher, Parpetan, Arabkand. Erbil is one of the governors of the Iraqi kurdistan region. It covers an area of 15,074 km² in the north of Iraq, with an estimated population (in 2009) of 1,713,461 (5% of total) people.

The location of Erbil governorate is between latitudes 35° 30' and 37° 15' N, and longitudes 43° 22' and 45° 05' E. This study was used simple random sampling that is section from probability sampling techniques. The provenance of data for the study was the primary data collected by use of questionnaires in Erbil province. Background information consists of 21 questions with tables based on the demographic information age, education level, etc. The data were gathered during regular-schedule class meeting times and lasted almost 15 minutes with farmers in 2016. All participants gave their satisfaction for this research study.

2.3. Data Analysis Methods

The responses of the rural women were analyzed and interpreted to find the answer to the research questions along with the achievement of the research aim and objectives. The collected data was presented in the form of charts, graphs, and tables for interpreting the data. The frequency distribution table is an arrangement of the values that one or more variables take in a sample. Each entry in the table contains the frequency or count of the occurrences of values within a particular group or interval, and in this way, the table summarizes the distribution of values in the sample, frequency table have been used to some of the socio economic characteristics of farmers such as, gender, age, education status, years of experiences, household size, and getting information about women farmer. Further, a (m × n) contingency table with Pearson Chi-square was used to test whether a statistically significant relationship exists between some categorical variables and rural women's participation.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results interpretation plus analysis aligns with the general objectives of the study, which was to determine agriculture extension role in the rural women's participation in the development of agriculture in Erbil province. First of all, analysis of socio-demographic variable is arranged, and after those major findings related to women's role and access, constraints and factors influencing the rural women's participation in agricultural development services have been analyzed.

3.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics or Respondents

This section analyzes the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, including age, marital status, education level and household size. The total number of women participating in this survey is 250 women from 25 different villages in the study area. The necessary strength to carry out these operations.

3.1.1. Age of farmers

Therefore, as farmer's age, there is a tendency that productivity will continue to fall owing to their declining strength. In Table 1, the result shows the age of that farmer containing four groups. The first group of farmers age of the respondents ranged between 36-45 years, and it was 32.53% of the farmers, and the second group of farmers who are between the ages of 25-35 years, which represents 27.31% of the respondents, while seniors aged 46-60 represents a specific category by just does not exceed 22.89%, and this indicates that the majority of participants in the questionnaire small and duty age integrated, and young people have the physical strength and the middle aged are on those who have experience in agriculture work and indicate the result. Farmers in most of these young people on the completion of the world health organization to make an impact significantly on agricultural production, These factors affect the participation of women differ in different environments has found many studies that tend older women from families more affluent to be more involved in the institutions [15, 16,17].

3.1.2 Marital status

As shown in the Table 1. The 92.77% of women are married, and this reduces the time and opportunity to participate effectively. Primarily, the woman is responsible for child care and

household activities. This type can be time-consuming depending on the type of task, size and structure of the household. According to [18] , the primary reason for women's inability to expand their work to market is their extensive involvement in family care and household activities.

3.1.3 Educational background of rural women farmers.

As shown in Table 1, the majority of the respondents 59.84% majority of farmers were not educated. It is likely to be more efficient in the use of inputs from counterparts little or no education, farmers have higher levels of education majority of farmers were not educated, they barely know how to read and write only. Education status plays an important role in the acquisition of skills and technology transfer. Respondents reported different levels of educational attainment. While the percentage of women who participated completed elementary school was the 30.92%. In addition, it was about 0.44% of the respondent's grades, including (diploma and bachelor). The minority of the respondents had professional (BSc) educational achievements in agriculture. It is likely to be more efficient in the use of inputs from counterparts little or no education, farmers have higher levels of education. This low level of education, no doubt, affects the level of adoption of technology and skills. According to [17], formal education has the potential to provide some of the deficiencies in the human, that is understood and communication boosts in the field of agriculture.

Table .1. Sociodemographic characteristics of Respondents in Erbil Province.

Sociodemographic characteristics of respondents		Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age of rural women farmers	18-25	43	17.27
	25-35	68	27.31
	36-45	81	32.53
	46-60	57	22.89
The Marital Status of women farmers	Married	231	92.77
	Single	6	2.41
	Widow	12	4.82
	Illiterate	149	59.84

The educational levels of rural women farmers	Primary	77	30.92
	Secondary	14	5.62
	High school	8	3.21
	Bachelor	1	0.40

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164

165 3.2 The Obstacles of Rural Women Participation in Agricultural Development

166 Rural women work hard for long hours, usually for a small reward, often neglected by
 167 extension services. As women have been playing an important role in the agricultural sector, they
 168 are considered as the backbone for rural and national economy development. Women consist of
 169 43% of worlds' total agricultural labor that increases up to 70% in some nations.

170 3.2.1 Individual obstacles

171 The individual obstacles for women farmers and the main difficulties cause the women
 172 farmers do not engage with activities and training on agricultural extensions due to the lack of
 173 education and also their duties in the home for care about family members in cooking and
 174 cleaning in addition outside the home Low accessibility of rural women to various resources,
 175 including participation in the extension programs due to social and family obstacles has hindered
 176 the role of women in the agricultural development [11] . As shown in Table 2 explain individual
 177 obstacles for woman farmers and the main difficulties cause the woman farmers not engage with
 178 activities and training on agricultural extensions due to the lack of education and also their duties
 179 inside home for care about family members for cooking and cleaning in addition outside home
 180 which taking care of animals. Furthermore, the results indicate that the participation of rural
 181 women in the extension programs decreases with the increasing education in contrast to the
 182 findings from [13,19] the level of education and experience in the cultivation influence the
 183 participation of rural women in the extension programs. The finding by [20] reported that several
 184 governments have their undivided attention in agricultural sector these days.

185

186 **Table 2. The individual obstacles of rural women participation in agricultural**
 187 **development.**

Individual obstacles	Never (%)	Sometime (%)	Always (%)	Mean	Std. Deviation
Literacy	6.00	71.0	23.0	1.17	0.51
Lack of self-confidence	77.0	23.0	0.00	0.23	0.42
Inferiority feeling and resignation	93.0	7.00	0.00	0.07	0.25
Increased work inside and outside	0.00	5.00	95.0	1.95	0.22
Home affairs	0.00	8.00	92.0	1.92	0.27
Handicrafts and ranching	0.00	6.00	94.0	1.94	0.25
Low information	4.00	56.0	4.00	1.36	0.56
Their applied scientific knowledge	4.00	46.0	49.0	1.17	0.51

***The Mean of Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, Always = 2

190 The results of the statistical analysis that show the respondents sometimes faced with the
 191 obstacles of literacy due to their poor academic background. The survey results showed that
 192 obstacles of the respondents in regards to the lack of self-confidence are never. The Table depicts
 193 that the inferiority feeling and resignation among the respondents is never. The majority of the
 194 respondents claimed that their obstacles lie in the increased work inside and outside of activity of
 195 rural women (Table 2). Since rural women take different responsibilities and roles, such as
 196 producers of crops, ranching and keeping poultry, children's education, housekeeping,
 197 supervising family economy and managing it, and so, would not be effective in developing rural
 198 societies. So, the importance of education is very critical for rural women especially extensional
 199 educations.

200 The results of Table 2. Shows the majority of the obstacles women in agricultural
 201 development is the easy availability of low information and handicrafts and ranching as well as

the findings of the researchers from the individual obstacles. Illiteracy is beyond many of the problems, leading to a decrease in self-confidence, feelings of inferiority and resignation. And activities through high recruitment and an increase in home and abroad for various reasons, including seasonal activities for migration in seasonal both men and women in rural changes areas (nursery, home, business, agriculture, handicrafts, and animal) wealth and low information and knowledge, in particular, the application of knowledge scientifically [1]. Rural women have the potential to work for increasing food production, but, to meet the future demands, it won't be sufficient. To ensure the best living conditions in vulnerable communities, special measures should be taken to fight malnutrition in the region. In most UN reports, women have been considered as the greatest deprived group of the human societies. While at the global level, about two third of all affairs are done by women, only one third of all recorded affairs relates to women, however, they form 50% of the workforce in agriculture and they produce half of the foods all over the world. So, educating women is important, according to [21].

Table 3. Factors affecting the rural women's participation in agriculture extension training with individual obstacles.

Individual obstacles.		Agriculture extension training			x ² test (P-Value)
		Sometimes (%)	Never (%)	Total (%)	
Literacy	Always	67.2	32.8	100.0	0.328 (0.849)
	Sometimes	64.2	35.8	100.0	
	Never	60.0	40	100.0	
Lack of self-confidence	Sometimes	58.6	41.4	100.0	1.206 (0.277)
	Never	66.5	33.5	100.0	
Inferiority feeling and resignation	Sometimes	64.7	35.3	100.0	0.000 (1.00)
	Never	64.7	35.3	100.0	
Increased work inside and outside	Always	64.4	35.6	100.0	0.125 (0.488)
	Sometimes	69.2	30.8	100.0	
Home affairs	Always	65.1	34.9	100.0	0.207 (0.409)
	Sometimes	60.0	40.0	100.0	

Handicrafts and ranching	Always	66.5	33.5	100.0	5.519
	Sometimes	37.5	62.5	100.0	(0.021)
Low information	Always	63.6	36.4	100.0	0.075
	Sometimes	65.3	34.7	100.0	(0.788)
Their applied scientific knowledge	Always	65.0	35.0	100.0	1.886
	Sometimes	66.1	33.9	100.0	(0.389)

Table 3 gives the result of χ^2 between agriculture extension training and individual obstacles that would show the relation between non-participate the women farmers in the extension training and handicrafts and ranching. the general challenges facing women farmers this objective aimed at investigating various challenges women potentially face in life generally apart from access to agricultural information. Networks operating in rural areas, especially rural women's organizations are involved in the conception of development programs. These organizations must be aware of the local reality. A general belief was that women in some parts of Erbil can neither talk to male strangers, nor can they talk to male extension agents. However, the majority of respondents in both districts disagreed that married women are forbidden from talking to male strangers [22].

Gender, cultural norms and security issues make it more difficult for women than for men in accessing public services, social protection, employment, and markets [23]. The problems of rural women can be divided into four main categories that are economic, social, family and individual [24]. These problems are interconnected and they are closely linked to environmental, social and political changes. The level of education and experience in the cultivation influences the participation of rural women in the extension programs. This multiplicity of roles women reduces the time that would be available to participate in the institutions. As a result, female individuals may not be able to attend meetings and training opportunities program benefit or extension of a relationship because they simply do not have time [25]. Although the proportion of the time available between the various responsibilities vary between and within regions, as well as across different types of households, it is estimated that the modified most of the women work for about 16 hours a day [25].

3.2.2 Family obstacles

The family obstacles for women farmers in Table 5. The result shows in the family obstacles always faced disagreement of their family while attending at the social and economic activity. That result the main difficulties causes the women farmers do not engage with activities and training on agricultural extensions due to the gender discriminations. The survey results showed that negative attitude about the women's abilities was never. And that women have always faced obstacles in agricultural development because of gender discrimination; respondents revealed that in some cases, have faced obstacles in agricultural development because of the economic poverty of the family. And family biases and husband and father's disagreement with women's attendance at social and economic activity due to various cultural reasons and also the lack of knowledge about how to behave with girls and women. And those factors come similar to the conclusion of researchers from where the researchers concluded the family obstacles is the lack of knowledge how to act with women and girls biases the family and husband and disagreement the father with female presence in social and economic activities resulting and the negative attitude about the woman abilities [26].

Table 5. The Family obstacles of rural women participation in agricultural development.

Family obstacles	Never %	Sometime %	Always %	Mean	Std. Deviation
Disagree family attendance	0.0	12.0	88.0	1.88	0.32
Gender discriminations	2.0	12.0	86.0	1.84	0.42
Economic poverty of family	16.0	81.0	2.0	0.86	0.41
Lack of knowledge, behave them	16.0	84.0	0.0	0.84	0.37
Negative attitude about their abilities	93.0	7.0	0.0	0.07	0.26

***The Mean of Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, Always = 2

There also exist gender differences in employment within labor market in various regions. Due to their involvement in household activities and child-rearing women are only able to participate in self-employment opportunities rather than high paying employment programs. The extension program should be introduced to meet the demands and interest of many family members.

The Table 6. shows the χ^2 test between agriculture extension training with family obstacles, the results showed although there is a strong correlation between the lack of participation of rural women in agricultural extension training with the negative attitude about the woman abilities but no significant relationship between the participation of rural women in extension training and family obstacles.

Table 6. Factors affecting the rural womens participation in agriculture extension training with family obstacles.

Family obstacles		Agriculture extension training			x ² Test (P-Value)
		Sometimes (%)	Never (%)	Total (%)	
Disagree family attendance	Never	45.5	54.5	100.0	2.403 (0.148)
	Always	66.4	33.6	100.0	
	Sometimes	51.7	48.3	100.0	
Lack of knowledge, behave them	Sometimes	65.6	34.4	100.0	0.453 (0.308)
	Never	60.0	40.0	100.0	
Negative attitude about their abilities	Sometimes	83.3	16.7	100.0	2.961 (0.067)
	Never	63.2	36.8	100.0	
Gender discrimination	Always	65.0	35.0	100.0	0.079 (0.961)
	Sometimes	62.9	37.1	100.0	
Economic poverty	Sometimes	65.9	34.1	100.0	3.666 (0.160)
	Never	58.5	41.5	100.0	

The policies for rural agriculture development should be tested and reassessed when necessary to ensure effective social learning by rural women. The women who possess expertise and expertise should be treated as important part of the development process; this finding is in line with the findings from [13]. The rural women had the least participation in the items; attending the training courses, reading the extension brochures and interaction with the male extension workers. However, as noted in previous chapters, various family members and the

community facing their own and have their own needs that must be taken into account in the guidance programs obstacles. The reason may be in some cases the lack of knowledge regarding how to behave with the women and girls resulted into obstacles in agricultural development. Womens organizations and other farmers having concepts for developmental programs should be provided with financial and political support for implementing their ideas and introducing income generating activities in rural areas. Researchers have noted the less availability of time and cultural norms, male dominance, etc. These constraints faced by women farmers [27, 28]. [29] Mention to design and provide extension programs of effective services for women, it is essential to understand the roles of men and women in production practice, their information desires, the nature of the special constraints faced by females, and the implications of these constraints for extension. The findings of this study conclude that the rural women in Erbil Province participation in the extension programs are lower than average. Low accessibility of rural women to various resources, including participation in the extension programs due to social and family obstacles has hindered the role of women in the agricultural development [11]

.3.2.3 Social obstacles

Through social obstacles in Table 7 The 85% participants said that bad habits and traditions may be the reason for the lack of effective participation of rural women. As we note that 88% of respondents think the patriarchy and disagreeing it is one of the social reasons behind the lack of effective participation in agricultural activity, more than 82% of the respondents believed the low presence of women is the cause. The researchers said the others the most important other facing rural women farmer are the bad customs and traditions, and factors of production and the arrival of being access to extension services and or directing social activities and programs towards participatory men a limited number of women's competencies to educate rural women problems relating to access to social services and health facilities and the extent of rural low wages compared with men labor and low attendance of women's organizations and community to follow up on their cases and problems low enrollment of women in rural areas management [30] .Gender differences become clearer when looking at women's workloads. It is estimated that women provide 85-90 percent of the time spent on household food processing and preparation across a wide range of countries [31].

306 **Table 7. The social obstacles of rural women participation in agricultural development.**

Social obstacles	Never (%)	Sometime (%)	Always (%)	Mean	Std. Deviation
Patriarchy and disagreeing	0.0	12.0	88.0	1.88	0.33
Low extent of rural women's	0.0	13.0	87.0	1.87	0.34
Being far of accessibility	0.0	14.0	86.0	1.86	0.35
Bad customs and traditions	0.0	15.0	85.0	1.85	0.36
Low attendance of women	0.0	18.0	82.0	1.82	0.39
Limited number of females	21.0	76.0	3.00	0.82	0.46
Problems of access	33.0	66.0	1.0	0.67	0.45
Low women's access	90.0	10.0	0.0	0.10	0.29

307 ***The Mean of Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, Always = 2

308 The table indicates that the respondents always faced obstacles because of the low
 309 attendance of women NGOs to track their problems and issues, Because of the work burden,
 310 women usually are not able to actively participate in programs of economic possibilities. Though
 311 norms may differ slightly from different culture and time, women are mostly involved in
 312 household activities such as rearing of livestock and child-rearing. This work is unpaid and acts
 313 as a burden to expand themselves to participate in economic opportunities, which would result in
 314 low income and have limited growth potential [32] .

315 Rural women, as the half of human population in rural areas, play a significant role in
 316 social and cultural realms along with economic roles in rural areas. Accordingly, it is important
 317 to pay attention to how we can increase their participation and involvement in a development
 318 process, especially because of past research efforts, so often ignored, or misrepresented them
 319 Most of the women are illiterate or less educated and often unable to attend or continue formal
 320 training courses, social or economic services. In these conditions, rural women remain inactive
 321 with less chance to develop their own abilities [33]. As a result, this situation has caused the
 322 women to be the most vulnerable group in rural development programs. As shown in Table 8. to
 323 find a χ^2 test relationship between agriculture extension training and social obstacles. The
 324 results show a relationship between the non-participation and there were no significant
 325 correlation between the difficulty of access to agricultural extension services and lack of

participation in agriculture extension training, It was concluded that cultural norms, male dominance, and traditional belief system were the major social constraints faced by rural women as reported by the responden.

Table 8. Factors affecting the rural women's participation in Agriculture extension training with social obstacles.

Social obstacles		Agriculture extension training			x ² Test (P-Value)
		Sometimes (%)	Never (%)	Total (%)	
Bad customs and traditions	Always	64.2	35.8	100.0	0.161
	Sometimes	67.6	32.4	100.0	(0.852)
Patriarchy and disagreeing	Always	66.7	33.3	100.0	3.207
	Sometimes	50.0	50.0	100.0	(0.058)
Low women's access	Sometimes	79.2	20.8	100.0	2.444
	Never	63.1	36.9	100.0	(0.087)
The difficulty of access to agricultural extension services.	Always	68.7	31.3	100.0	10.836
	Sometimes	40.0	60.0	100.0	(0.02)
Limited number females	Sometimes	62.2	37.8	100.0	2.348
	Never	73.6	26.4	100.0	(0.146)
Problem so f access	Sometimes	64.5	35.5	100.0	0.09
	Never	65.1	34.9	100.0	(1.000)
Low extent of rural women's	Always	63.4	36.6	100.0	1.084
	Sometimes	72.7	27.3	100.0	(0.334)
Low attendance of women	Always	67.0	33.0	100.0	2.625 (0.125)

The major constraints in agriculture are women's access, the difficulty of access to agricultural extension and limited number female's services. [18] report that women, when asked about the causes of labor constraints, cited the time they spent looking after their families, working in their husbands' gardens and producing food for their households as reasons for their inability to expand production in the market. Married women's movement may be restricted in certain circumstances [34]. When discussing gender issues, literature and actors in the development tend to distinguish the concept of men and women as two separate categories, but none of the two is a homogeneous group, can be found on the homogeneity across the levels of the economic situation or social status, ethnicity, age, origin or religion, and so on [16, 35]. The analysis of cultural factors that can be divided women and proved that women are not, and not a given category homogeneous and solidarity. Recent studies have suggested that rural women a full range of obstacles faced by rural women and hinder their participation further. These can be summarized obstacles as follows Cultural, Must be cultural obstacles even in the customs and traditions and religious practices. In some communities, women are prohibited from speaking directly with men outside the family. [36]

Conclusions

This research identifies and analyzes the agricultural extension role in rural women participating in agricultural development in Erbil province. the research also focuses on identifying the socioeconomic characteristics of women and identifying the constraints militating against women in agricultural activities in Erbil province.

In summary, basic barriers for extension activities to women are as follows:

- a. Absence, shortage, and insufficiencies of based knowledge among women.
- b. Lack of women's access to informational resources and educational references.
- c. Lack of performance or inadequacy of educational programs that are appropriate for rural women's need.
- d. Inattention to perform basic education programs (literacy, religious, cultural and economical-social education).

e. Lack of applying adequate schemes to assign educational and developmental agents among qualified women in villages according to the activity at villages.

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