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FEMALE AND CHILD LABOUR IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: THE CASE OF DIYARBAKIR

SUMMARY

Irrespective of differences in the level of development of their particular countries, women and children in some areas are in disadvantageous position. This gender issue is strongly influenced by sociocultural factors. It is important for individuals to function independently in their communities. This is in direct correlation with economic power. There is a need for complete inclusion of women in the society, although in some sectors that is not promising at the moment. Agriculture is the major economic sector that is including women and children, and has the highest rate of female and child workers. According to 2010 data, 42.4% of Turkish women are employed in the agricultural sector, and 79% are working in their households and farms not receiving the imbursement (KSSGM, 2011).

Furthermore, 5.9% of children aged 6–17 years of age are employed, and 69% are employed in the agricultural sector. This study investigated the areas in the province of Diyarbakir in which vegetable production is rapidly increasing, where women and children participate in the production process. A total of 84.4% of workers in this sector were women and children.

Discrimination against women in male-dominated societies is institutionalised as a dominant ideology. Under such conditions, women lag behind men both socially and economically and therefore benefit less from their participation in the labour force.

Keywords: Agricultural, Female, Child Labour

INTRODUCTION

The participation of women in economic and social relationships is usually directly related to buying patterns. According to the gender-based division of labour in Turkey, women are supposed to serve as wives, housewives, and mothers (Akbay, 1998).

It appears that the employment rate among women increases as a function of development. The employment rate among women is highest in Denmark, where 71% of women are employed. This is followed by Sweden, where the

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comparable figure is 70%, the Netherlands (66%), Finland (66%), and the UK (62%). Among EU countries, Turkey has the lowest rate of employment by women, at 24% (KSSGM, 2011).

Women in countries that are less socially and economically developed are exploited more than men because such countries adopt a male-dominated social structure that institutionalises discrimination against women as a dominant ideology (Eyüboğlu, 1998). A female workforce provides cheap labour for labour-intensive industries, such as textiles, food, clothing, tobacco, and so on. Indeed, compared with the female share of the labour force in these sectors, their share of the agricultural sector is quite low.

In rural areas, domestic and agricultural activities are closely related, and some domestic activities support agricultural ones. This connection devalues woman's work and makes it invisible. In this context, "men's work" is considered less valuable than "women's work" (Hablemitoğlu, 2001). The use of women as "cheap labour" "helps" the family economy. However, a large part of the activities involved in housework is not considered to be "real" in the sense that it is viewed as part of the natural order of daily life, which leads to the devaluing of such work. Women's domestic responsibilities remain within the family economy; they occur inside the home and have little economic exchange value (Sirman, 1991). Women's labour- and time-intensive agricultural activities in small family businesses include hoeing, harvesting vegetables, gathering cotton, and pulling weeds. Such work is not easy, and for the outside workforce available for running on time at no cost (Ertürk, 1996). Few women working agriculture can convert their labour into cash by marketing the yields of their gardens and vineyards. Moreover, women's jobs tend to be seasonal, part-time, home-based, and unpaid. As the products of their labour, such as food and clothing, are usually consumed by family members, they are not considered valuable in economic terms.

In the context of the social structure in rural areas in Turkey, women do not have access to education and many social rights because of their second-class status. In addition to the monopoly of the State agricultural extension work in the social structure, development of production resources and management-related studies conducted for men farmers. As for women, the non-agricultural publication components such as house, family and child care is addressed in the development of resource use issues (Özçatalbaş, 1995). Most women do not generate revenue because they are unpaid family workers and, even though it is legally permitted, they do not get social security benefits. In other countries, however, women employed in the agricultural sector have become the most recent group to obtain social security benefits. Indeed, after reaching a certain level of economic development, countries allow workers in the agricultural sector to obtain social security (Akpınar, 2008). In Turkey, nearly 40–50% of children work in agriculture, and about 350,000–400,000 of these work under the worst conditions. These children, working in different regions of Turkey, engage in labour-intensive farming, especially for cotton, nuts, citrus fruit, rice, sugar beets,

and tobacco, by serving as anchors and harvesting. The majority of these children are working in the worst jobs in agriculture and are younger than 15 years, which is considered too young to work at undesirable jobs according to International Labour Organization (ILO) conventions. There is also a shortage of training facilities, and most children are unable to continue their education, difficulty running, or there cannot start these kids are experiencing, especially Southeast and East Anatolia regions, where they are out of place, 4–7 months in tents as the basic requirements. According to the Child Labour Survey conducted by the Turkey Statistical Institute (TÜİK) in 2006, 84.7% of working children attend school, whereas 15.3% (2,491,000) do not. Moreover, 58.8% (1,464,708) of girls do not attend school (<http://www.tuik.gov.tr/PreHaberBultenleri>).

This study aimed to determine the role of female labour in the Turkish region of Diyarbakır, where women labourers are used extensively in the labour-intensive sector of vegetable agriculture. It is known that women labourers are preferred in this sector because of their interest in it and work habits. This situation is even more widespread in the greenhouses and open-area vegetable fields in the region, especially those involving intensive vegetable growing, such as family farms. Determination of the role and location of women's employment in mixed-vegetable growing and application of this information to other agricultural sectors will enhance the role of women in the economy. Greenhouse vegetable growing constitutes an increasingly important new business in this region. As the use of female labour is preferred in this sector, we must underscore the importance of issues related to female workers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Production data were obtained from agricultural businesses in the vegetable-growing districts of Diyarbakır as well as from the governmental offices of cities and counties that benefit from Diyarbakır agriculture.

City Centre and district numbers of farmers in Central and district number using simple anchored tanning rates calculated by poll numbers. This study obtained data from farmers in Diyarbakır province and the districts of vegetable production. According to the city and country agricultural offices in Diyarbakır, 789 farmers in the central village and district engaged in mixed-vegetable growing. According to these data, the following formula was applied:

$$n = Z^2 * N * P * Q / (N * D^2 + Z^2 * P * Q).$$

Using our simple random sampling survey design, the odds of selecting all farmers for inclusion in this questionnaire study was equal to chance. The data obtained were analysed using multivariate techniques with the computer program, SPSS. *Chi-square* tests were used to the analyse relationships between the distributions of certain variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data on imports formed the basis of questions about vegetable production. Our results indicated that 29.4% of the vegetables produced were used for domestic consumption, 9.4% were used for commercial purposes, and 61.3% were used for both domestic consumption and commercial purposes. The vegetables produced by participants in each of the three counties were used for both domestic consumption and commercial purposes. In Ergani District, 31% of participants produced vegetables for family consumption only; this figure was 21.2% in Çınar County, and it was 42.9% in the central village (Table 1).

Table 1: Research on the Scope of that Vegetable Production According to the Purpose Of Distribution

What is the purpose of your vegetable production?	Ergani		Çınar		Centre		General	
	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)
For domestic consumption	27	31.0	11	21.2	9	42.9	47	29.4
For commercial	8	9.2	3	5.8	4	19.0	15	9.4
Both of them	52	59.8	38	73.1	8	38.1	98	61.3
Total	87	100	52	100	21	100	160	100

Notes: $\chi^2=8.454$, $sd=4$, $p=0.076$ (non-significant). According to the participating farmers vegetable production objectives that districts incidences are not statistically significant difference between commercial

According to participating farmers, vegetable production objectives that districts incidences are not statistically significant difference between commercial. While the rate of experienced labour force taking from another country is 10%, the unnecessary labour force is 90% rate. Ergani district, plane that 8% of the subjects that subjects in 15.4%, 4.8% of respondents. The other for experienced workforce brought from vegetable production have been identified. The rate of the obtained respondents those take labour force from abroad are respectively; 8% Ergani, 15.4% Çınar and 4.8% Centre. The rates of the obtained respondents those do not require labour force from abroad are respectively; 92% Ergani, 84.6% Çınar and 95.2%. Center Table 2). This is the indirect way of using family labour. The subjects of Ergani, Çınar and the central villages those do not take experienced labour from abroad for vegetable production and the rates are respectively; 92%, 84.6% and 95.2% (Table 2). And this is indirect sign of using family labour. According to participants of villages, farmers vegetable production districts taking experienced labour force that is not a statistically significant difference between the incidences.

Questions about the use of female and child labourers in the production of vegetables revealed that 6.3% of respondents did not use these groups, 9.4% sometimes used them, and 84.4% regularly used them. In Ergani district, 88.5% of participants relied on these groups; 80.8% of participants in Çınar and 76.2% in the Central village did so (Table 3).

Table 2. Research on the scope of the Use of experienced labour force for the production of Vegetables

	Ergani		Çınar		Centre		General	
	Freq	(%)	Freq.	(%)	Freq.	(%)	Freq	(%)
Yes	7	8.0	8	15.4	1	4.8	16	10.0
No	80	92.0	44	84.6	20	95.2	144	90.0
Total	87	100	52	100	21	100	160	100

Notes: $\chi^2=2.685$, $sd=2$, $p=0.261$ (non-significant). According to participants of villages, farmers vegetable production districts taking experienced labour force that is not a statistically significant difference between the incidences.

Table 3. Diversity of using women and children labour for the research on the scope of those vegetable productions.

	Ergani		Çınar		Centre		General	
	Freq.	(%)	Freq.	(%)	Freq.	(%)	Freq.	(%)
Yes	77	88.5	42	80.8	16	76.2	135	84.4
No	4	4.6	3	5.8	3	14.3	10	6.3
Sometimes	6	6.9	7	13.5	2	9.5	15	9.4
Total	87	100	52	100	21	100	160	100

Notes: $\chi^2=4.489$, $sd=4$, $p=0.344$ (non-significant) According to the participating farmers vegetable production districts on women and child labour has crucial implications that are not statistically significant differences between the incidences.

According to the participating farmers, vegetable production districts on women and child labour has crucial implications that are not statistically significant differences between the incidences. As shown in Table 3, the vast majority of vegetables growers (70%) produce more vegetables than can be used domestically. Despite the large scale of production participant (70%) do not pay any charge to family labour force (women and children) as shown in Table 4. The maximum domestic (% 71.4) labour charge has been seen in the Central District of the County because of its proximity to the market and also women are has main role in marketing.

Table 4: Charges for domestic workers.

Do you give fee to domestic labour?	Ergani		Çınar		Centre		General	
	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq.	(%)
Yes	9	10.3	3	5.8	15	71.4	27	16.8
No	62	71.3	47	90.4	3	14.3	112	70
Little	16	18.4	2	3.8	3	14.3	21	13.2
Total	87	100	52	100	21	100	160	100

Notes: $\chi^2=44.7673$, $sd=24$, $p=0.002$ (non-significant). According to the participating of country farmers to fort he fee of domestic labour the difference s is statistically significant.

According to participating farmers, for the fees of domestic labour the differences is statistically significant. The other two districts involved in production and sales are distant from each other because of the woman's marketing deprived free of charge. A total of 76% of the women employed in agriculture work as unpaid family labourers (Kulak; 2011). In rural areas, women are not paid; although female agricultural workers in large cities are paid for their labour, they do not receive social security benefits (Arat, 1986). According to participating farmers' labour towns of jobs in which using that is not statistically significant differences between the incidences. In terms of the distribution of the female and child labour used in vegetable production, 75% pull weeds, 18.8% participate in harvesting, 0.6% are involved in pesticide spraying, and 1.2% work in sales. The participants answered as we don't use. The participant of Ergani district is 79.3%, the participant of Çınar is 73.1% and in centre village, the participants of 61.9% are used in weed selecting. In Ergani, Çınar, and Centre villages, 18.4%, 15.4%, and 28.6%, respectively, use children for harvesting. Whereas about 1.9% of those in Çınar use child labour in activities involving pesticides, none of the participants in Ergani and Centre villages use children for this purpose. A total of 9.6% of the participants in Çınar and 9.5% of those in Centre do not use child labour for any purpose (Table 5).

Table 5. Research on the scope of those vegetable production distributions of using Labour of women and children Patterns

	Ergani		Çınar		Centre		General	
	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)	Freq	(%)
Not use	-	-	5	9.6	2	9.5	7	4.4
Weed selecting	69	79.3	38	73.1	13	61.9	120	75.0
In harvest	16	18.4	8	15.4	6	28.6	30	18.8
Chemical control	-	-	1	1.9	-	-	1	0.6
sales	2	2.3	-	-	-	-	2	1.2
Total	87	100	52	100	21	100	160	100

Notes: $\chi^2=14.220$, $sd=8$, $p=0.076$ (non-significant). According to participating farmers' labour towns of jobs in which using that is not statistically significant differences between the incidences

According to Kızılaslan (2010), in Tokat, the rate of the female labourers working in family businesses for pull weeds is 74.85% and 67.84% in harvest. The distribution of female labourers in other domains is as follows: irrigation (49.71%), sowing (34.50%), fertilisation (30.99%), chemical control (20.47%), burning of agricultural rest (19.88), soil treatment (18.13), pruning (10.53%), and grafting (6.43%). Additionally, 5.85% of the female labour force is involved in sending products to markets (Kızılaslan, 2010). In both studies, women have a role in every stage, but are less involved in sales. In this way, women are trapped in inferior positions in terms of income and are therefore unable to get ahead.

CONCLUSIONS

According to our results, women participate substantially in all stages of vegetable production except sales. Thus, women make an important economic contribution, but their earnings do not match their contribution because it is difficult for women to travel to cities and sell the harvested vegetables. There is a need of increase of the training level taking into account the need in intensifying agricultural extension education for adult women producers.

Child labour is most prevalent in the agricultural sector, and the conditions under which girls work are particularly poor. Girls form an invisible part of the agricultural labour force, and they are especially disadvantaged because they have childcare and other domestic responsibilities in addition to their agricultural duties. In most cases boys are especially deprived of educational facilities, and girls work as unqualified labours. Improvement of these conditions requires the development of social security systems for children. Additionally, the use of child labour can be decreased by increasing the insurance premiums of workers.

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RAD ŽENA I DJECE U POLJOPRIVREDNOM SEKTORU: SLUČAJ DIJARBAKIR

SAŽETAK

Bez obzira na razlike u nivou razvijenosti zemlje, žene i djeca su u velikom dijelu svijeta u nepovoljnom položaju. Ova situacija je posljedica ne samo "prirodnih" karakteristika ove dvije grupe, već i niza sociokulturnih faktora. Veoma je važno da svaki pojedinac funkcioniše samostalno u svojoj zajednici. To je moguće samo direktnom vezom sa "ekonomskom moći", kao i adekvatnom obezbjedjenju učešća žena u društvu, iako je to u nekim sektorima teže izvodljivo. Poljoprivreda je prvi veliki ekonomski sektor koji uključuje žene i djecu, i trenutno ima najveću stopu žena i djece radnika. Prema podacima iz 2010. godine, u Turskoj je 42,4% žena zaposleno u poljoprivrednom sektoru, a 79% su angažovane u domaćinstvu, pri tom bez plaće (KSSGM, 2011).

Pored toga, 5.9% djece uzrasta od 6-17 godina je zaposleno, a 69% je zaposleno u poljoprivrednom sektoru. Predmet ove studije su oblasti u provinciji Diyarbakir u kojoj se proizvodnja povrća naglo povećava, te smo istraživali načine i obim u kojem žene i djeca učestvuju u procesu proizvodnje. Ukupno 84,4% radnika u ovom sektoru su bili žene i djeca.

Diskriminacija žena u društvima u kojima dominiraju muškarci je institucionalizovana kao dominantna ideologija. U takvim uslovima, žene zaostaju za muškaracima i socijalno i ekonomski i zato bilježe manje učešće u ostvarenim prihodima angažovane radne snage.

Ključne riječi: poljoprivreda, ženska i dječija radna snaga