

Impact of Women Work Participation and Empowerment on Household Poverty in Southern Punjab: An Econometric Analysis

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Abstract

The study is aimed at investigating the impact of women work participation and women empowerment on household poverty of Southern Punjab. For that purpose, primary data is collected in 2015 from three divisions of southern Punjab i.e. Multan, Bahawalpur and DG Khan. The study uses logistic regression analysis for econometric results. Econometric results propose that age of respondent and household size appear to be significant causes of increasing poverty in Southern Punjab. Moreover, education of respondent, married marital status, women work participation, good sanitation facility, no. of earners, urban residence, women economic empowerment, women social empowerment and women familial/ interpersonal empowerment are significantly turned out to reduce poverty from Southern Punjab.

Keywords: Women work participation, Women Empowerment, Poverty, Age, Education, Sanitation facility, Household Size, Southern Punjab

I. Introduction

Changing the balance of this work is a particularly complex undertaking because in many societies these hierarchies are not only produced by men but also reproduced by women (DeVault, 1994). For example, in many South Asian societies age, marriage status, and socio-economic position of the family determine responsibility and decision-making on different tasks (Sen and Sen, 1985). Research from India and Nepal finds women aged 15–29 doing the most amount of care work, followed by those aged 60 and higher (Choe et al., 2005; Sen and Sen, 1985). Similar findings from Mexico show that half of girls over 17 years of age perform more than 20 h of care work compared to 10 per cent of boys of any age doing similar work (Levison et al., 2001). Care work is thus reflective of status, with young (especially newly married) women often pressured by mother-in-laws and themselves to ‘prove their worth’ by performing more arduous tasks (Chorghade et al., 2006).

Unless these gendered norms are changed in a way which accords all women higher status, redistributive efforts are likely to fall on other female members therein perpetuating the cycle of illiteracy, and low participation in economic and political spheres (Marphatia, 2003). Prevailing ideologies, norms and practices may paradoxically increase perceptions of a woman's own feminine worth but not necessarily that of their daughter (Bourne and Walker, 1991), who may be expected to take on more care work. For example, when women are over-burdened, especially in times of financial crises, illness, or drought, these tasks are often shifted onto girls, who like their mothers, experience similar challenges in attaining their rights (e.g. to education) whilst balancing personal development with family-well-being (Dorman, 2008; Levison and Moe, 1998; World Bank, 2011). Fulfilling this 'mother substitute' role (Amin et al., 2006; Ilahi, 2001; Jones et al., 2010; Lloyd and Blanc, 1996) is also likely to influence family and self-perception about purpose and capability (Admassie, 2003; Vlassoff, 1994). As a result, families, and also girls themselves may not see the value of education if the expectation remains that they will continue in their roles as caregivers and secondary breadwinners (Dodson and Dickert, 2004).

Few definitions of women empowerment are given above which are related to women's authority to make decisions and utilization of their material and intellectual resources for betterment of their own and their intimates. According to Roy and Niranjana, 2004, women's empowerment, women's autonomy, women's status and gender equality are related terms. If we see total number of women in the world so it is explored that half of the population of the world is based on women but rest of 50 percent is men which is ultimately dependent upon women directly or indirectly. Women significantly contribute in development of the society, but women are not considered as equal as men they are less privileged by civilized society even (Rahman and Naoroze, 2007). Normally, there are very limited chances that women can have land, property, credit, education, skill and paid job in their ownership.

Among two billion poor people of the world two third is belonging to women (ESCAP, 2002). Even than women is equally participating in economic activities but still they are paid 60 percent less as compared to men (UN, 2007). In the world, approximately one percent assets of the total are in the ownership of women (Al Mughairy, 2004). It is also observed that male members of households are provided better education and health facilities as compared to that of women. If we see count of out of school children so most of them would be girls as compare to boys. (Turquet, et al. 2008). In reality, two third of the total illiterate in the world are women (UNESCO, 2006). Apart from all these things, women have less access to good education and health services they are total ignored in our societies. Every year, it is observed that half million of women die due to complications in pregnancy or pregnancy related diseases that can be cured (WHO, 2005). In every second, it is seen that one woman dies due to pregnancy related complications or at childbirth (UN, 2007). On the other side, it is also analyzed that HIV is becoming positive among women worldwide since 1990 (UN, 2008).

If scenario of world is examined so there is 32 percent drop out ratio in Nepal which is caused by poor academic performance as it may be linked with irregular attendance. Female labor force participation rate is not chances from last two decades. Female labor force participation is declined among working age population 15+ from 52.2 percent to 51.4 percent (ILO, 2012). In last two decades, two millions are added in current labor force participation, but still it accounts for 39.8 percent of total labor force. Fortunately, participation rate gaps are becoming narrow down among men and women as it is narrow down from 27.8 percent to 26 percent in 2012. Female enrollment rates are also improving now and more females are getting good education in this decade. In the world, female labor force participation in increased from 53.1 percent to 54.2 percent in 2012. On the other side, a significant decline in gender gap may be analyzed as from 32.5 percent to 29.5 percent in 2012.

Female participation rates are ranging from 20 percent in Pakistan, 80 percent in Nepal due to differences in social and economic factors. There are less social constraints in Nepal as most of them work in agriculture. In Bangladesh, rapid rise in women participation in economic activities may be seen that is associated with garments industry, livestock and microcredit. Sri Lanka is also improved regarding female labor force participation rates in which this rate is approximately 33 percent in current decade. If numbers are assigned to regions, so South Asia is at second lowest score according to Global Gender Gap Index. In India and Bangladesh, the gender gaps are 68 and 70 percent respectively. In Pakistan and Bhutan, the gender gap is 56 and 64 percent overall. This gender gap in education almost exists in every country similarly in context of health we can conclude the same. Pakistan is at 143 number which remains the region's lowest-ranked country and second-to-last ranked overall. It records progress on closing the secondary education enrolment gender gap, and on women's estimated earned income, but this is partly offset by reversals on wage equality and female-to-male literacy ratios.

The labor force of Pakistan has been at 10th number in the world. In Pakistan, the labor force has increased from 50 million to 59.7 million in current decade. The total number of employed labor force also increased from 46.95 million to 56.0 million during this period. This means that all the increase in labour force could not be adjusted in employment sector and therefore unemployed people increased from 3.10 million to 3.73 million during the same period.

The objective of the study is to investigate the impact of women work participation and women empowerment on household poverty in Southern Punjab. The study is organized as follows: Introduction is given in section I, literature review is provided in section II, data and methodology is explained in section III, results are reported in section IV, conclusions and policies are described in section V.

II. Literature Review

The concept of women empowerment with the relationship of poverty alleviation of women in the political and socioeconomic conditions in Pakistan looks

complex. There has been increasing emphasis on the impact of poverty and socioeconomic status on empowerment of women since the last many years. A lot of rationales and approaches have been discussed in literature about this issue.

Beston and Gaag (1984) in their study showed that how distribution of total household income influenced by the earnings of working married women. Data is based on Current Population Survey for the years from 1968 to 1980. By using the measure of inequality they found that increase in married women participation rate significantly reduce the income inequality.

Chinen (1984) explored the relationship between gender, ethnicity and social status in Hawaii using the data from Office of Economic Opportunity (O.E.O) 1975. For indicator of social status, family income was used and variations among ethnic groups on this variable were examined. Employment status of wives was studied because participation rate of females was very high in that state and effects the variation in family income levels. It was found that income levels of wives were varied among different ethnic groups at different levels of income. It was founded that civilian versus military status creates complicating effect on many critical variables especially on Caucasian ethnic group. It was concluded that analysis of ethnic stratification would be beneficial for atleast two important variables; economic configuration of communities (influences of external forces like transnational capital and military in Hawaii) and the work of wives (both unpaid and paid).

Felty (1991) explained the extent of general factors which was used in counting the differences in poverty for female headed households. He used the data of twenty eight variable models using the data of 1960 census data which helped in explaining the variation in the poverty in general for female headed households. For analysis, standard regression is applied for all states n the USA. The model that reveals the differences between female headed families and general families had not defined the differences among different communities in term of poverty for households. Due to presence of black population and due to high dependency of youth, poverty rates among female headed households and households in general were increased. So, the factors which were associated with the poverty of minority were also linked with migration patterns, joblessness and social transformation of the society.

Sathar and Lolyd (1993) found a discriminating attitude of parents in favor of their male children and against their female children in case of their primary education. Education of parents, poverty level and income of household appeared to be most significant factor in this gender biasness in terms of primary level of education. Due to low level of enrollment of female children at primary level the extremely low level of enrolment at professional level was also reflected at professional level in male children. Due to the shortage of vocational and technical institutions, especially in remote urban and rural areas, the majority of women prefer to adopt education as a profession or to stay home.

Rafiq (1996) observed that in rural regions of Pakistan various schools of girls are under-utilized due to different economic and social reasons as; higher incidence of poverty level, lack of female teachers, bad or no facility of transport and long distance between school and home. Girl's drop out ratio is more specially at primary level in rural areas. It was also found in the analysis that shortage of schools of primary education had negative effect on the education of girls and this was the main reason for the big gender gap not only in the enrollment at school level but also in the cognitive development of children in rural regions. He had particularly analyzed the education problems of Pakistani rural areas.

Azid et al. (2001) explored the women labor supply in cottage industry by using the primary data. It was found that the poverty was the main reason and determinant which enforce women to become the part of the labor of cottage industry. It was emphasized that poverty was statistically strong and significant and proved the efforts of females to pull their homes out of the poverty. Number of women spends on work and age of the worker gave significant and positive relationship. In their study, hours of female work according to their income level and it was observed that labor supply of female decreases with the number of adults of five years of the age in the household. The final effect of female education on their supply of labor is found to be indeterminate due to constant wages, increase in the level of education of women and allocation of time in market production.

Premchander (2003) in his study dealt with the importance of women's micro-enterprise for poverty reduction in India. The main focus of study was on the functioning of financial institutions like NGO's and MFIs that provide the facility of saving, credit and insurance to poor people especially poor females because females can play an important role alleviating poverty. It was suggested that NGO's should work as facilitators to MFIs in order to alleviate poverty and empower women in India.

Chaudhry et al. (2006) has undertaken a study with the purpose of finding out the determinants of rural poverty in Pakistan. Their research covers the time span from 1963 to 1999. OLS regression analysis has been made to estimate the macro determinants of rural poverty. They revealed that inflation, unemployment and economic growth played an important role to alleviate poverty. At the end they also made some suggestion to eliminate rural poverty by increasing investment opportunities, entrepreneurship and job creation.

Bastos et al. (2009) made an effort to provide better understanding of poverty based on gender-sensitive conceptualization among women in Portugal. The data used in this paper has been taken from European community household panel (ECHP) for the time period of 1995 to 2001. This data base covers all the socio demographic, socio professional and social indicators of poverty among women. The static and dynamic analysis reveals the fact that female experienced more poverty with high rates of intensity and severity as compare to men. The results demonstrates that poverty was strongly associated to specific events in women's life such as lone

motherhood, divorce, widowhood and old age especially low participation in labor market, old isolated women and lone mothers are found to be most vulnerable to poverty.

Chaudhry and Rahman (2009) investigated the impact of gender inequality in education on rural poverty in Pakistan using logit regression analysis on primary data sets. It is concluded that gender inequality in education has adverse impact on rural poverty. The empirical findings suggested that female-male enrolment ratio, female-male literacy ratio, Female-male ratio of total years of schooling, female-male ratio of earners and education of household head had significant negative impact on rural poverty. The results indicated that household size and female-male ratio (members) had strong positive association with the probability of poverty. The inverse relation between variables of gender inequality in education and rural poverty suggested that education provides more employment opportunities and rejects poverty in developing countries like Pakistan. It was concluded that the incidence of poverty was higher in households with lesser number of enrolled or literate females, low educational qualification of females, greater number of females, low or no female participation in earning activity, illiterate household head and large household size. Poverty was also influenced by physical asset and landholding. These findings of the study suggested the importance of a set of policies helpful for poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

Alam (2011) focused on gender discrimination and its impact on development and poverty alleviation. There were selected 50 (25 male and 25 female) respondents in Hazar Khuani Peshawar on purposive sampling basis from the targeted respondents. Questionnaire was used for educated respondents and interview schedule for uneducated respondents as the tool of data collection. The study indicated that disparity exists in targeted area, which on many grounds affects poverty alleviation and development. The study also indicated that women had no or low share in income or earnings of the family, that there was no equal status of women, female were not allowed to work out side home, women were more vulnerable to poverty, women share more burden of productive and household work, if household and productive burden share equally it could help in poverty alleviation, household poverty could be reduced when both male and female members earn. Male members were the decision makers in their houses, there was no equal opportunity in higher education for women, women were facing difficulties in labor market, quality education can help in poverty alleviation.

Gounder and Xing (2012) tried to find out the economic (Income) and social (schooling, age, gender, children, ethnicity, young parents and disability, rural and urban areas) influence of health and education on poverty reduction in Fiji. Research is based on household income and expenditure survey for the year of 2012-13. They concluded that education affects positively and significantly monetary earnings as well as non-monetary basic needs of an individual. It also positively affects health activities which in turn reduce poverty as a whole.

Trommlerova et al. (2015) by using household level data from Gambia and advanced econometric techniques tried to find out the factors that empower individual at both communal and individual level. They found that age, gender, marital status, nationality was the important variables that determine the empowerment at individual and community level which is essential to escape poverty. The study also concluded that individual empowerment is strongly associated with younger people, foreigners and people with good health. Lastly they focused on the need of political representation at both individual and communal level to enhance empowerment and alleviate poverty.

Shaheen et al. (2015) have also found the positive association of FLFP with age, number of completed years of education, marital status, number of children above the age of 10 years, number of dependants on female and negative association of FLFP with children below 10 years of age, ownership of assets, major disease and family size. They recommended the need for huge investment for the provision of facilities relating to education and health.

III. Data and Methodology

A. Data and Method

This study utilizes primary source of data from three divisions of Southern Punjab i.e. Multan, Bahawalpur and Dera Ghazi Khan in 2015. For data collection, simple random sampling technique is followed. The data is collected through simple questionnaire from urban and rural areas of Southern Punjab but respondents were only female by sex. From Multan division, data is collected from urban and rural areas of Multan district. In Bahawalpur division, four tehsils are surveyed for data collection like Bahawalnagar, Chishtian, Fortabas and Haroonabad. Data is also gathered from rural and urban areas of DG Khan like Jampur, Kotadu, Kotchita, Rajanpur and Tunsa Sharif. Almost 600 women respondents are interviewed from rural and urban areas their distribution is provided. Various qualitative questions are formed into quantitative by assigning value '1' or '0'. To be more convenient for respondent, the questions were asked in Urdu, Punjabi and Saraiki languages. Analysis is made at various stages i.e. descriptive, correlation and econometric. Logistic regression is applied having qualitative dependent variable as poverty.

B. Operational model

To examine the effect of women work participation and women empowerment on household poverty, the following operational model is specified as below in functional;

$$POVERTY = f \left(\begin{array}{l} AGE, AGE^2, EDUR, MS, WWPART, SANI, FJOB, WORK, \\ HHSZ, AREA, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, PERSONAL \end{array} \right)$$

The above functional form is given in econometric form as;

$$POVERTY = \left[\begin{array}{l} \lambda_0 + \lambda_1 AGE + \lambda_2 AGE^2 + \lambda_3 EDUR + \lambda_4 MS + \lambda_5 WWPART + \\ \lambda_6 SANI + \lambda_7 FJOB + \lambda_8 WORK + \lambda_9 HHSZ + \lambda_{10} AREA + \\ \lambda_{11} ECONOMIC + \lambda_{12} SOCIAL + \lambda_{13} PERSONAL + v_i \end{array} \right]$$

Table 1: List of the Variables

Variables		Description of Variables
Dependent variable		
POVERTY	Poverty Status	=1 if women is poor having per capita income less than \$1.90 per day =0 if women is not poor having per capita income less than \$1.90 per day
Explanatory or independent variables		
AGE	Age of Respondent	It is age of respondents in completed years.
EDUR	Education of Respondent	It is education of respondents in completed years.
MS	Marital Status	=1 if woman is married =0 if woman is unmarried
WWPART	Women Work Participation	=1 if woman participates in economic activities =0 if woman does not participate in economic activities.
SANI	Sanitation Facility	=1 if household is provided sanitation facility =0 if household is not provided sanitation facility
FJOB	Father's Job	=1 if father is participating in economic activities =0 if father is not participating in economic activities
WORK	No. of Earners	It is number of working people in a household.
HHSZ	Household's Size	It is total number of household members living in a household.
AREA	Residence	=1 if woman belongs to urban area =0 if woman belongs to rural area
ECONOMIC	Economic Women's Empowerment	It is women's empowerment based on economic indicators.
SOCIAL	Social Women's Empowerment	It is women's empowerment considering some social variables.
PERSONAL	Familial/ Interpersonal Women's Empowerment	It is women's empowerment based on familial or interpersonal indicators.

IV. Results and Discussion

A. Descriptive Statistics

An average and variation behavior of variables may be analyzed using descriptive statistics. Table 2 shows the results of descriptive analysis of household poverty correlates. The average per capita income, age, education, workplace distance, household size, no. of earners, participation ratio, dependency ratio, economic empowerment, interpersonal empowerment and social empowerment are respectively Rs. 10983, 35.987 years, 9.263, 3.168 km, 5.655 persons, 1.932 persons, 0.397, 0.363, 0.543, 0.558 and 0.619. Approximately, 48.2 percent respondents are belonging to urban areas, 40 percent respondents are poor, 79 percent women are married, 83.2 women have access to sanitation system, 37.7 percent fathers of

women have job, 49.7 percent women are living in joint family system and 59 percent women are participation in economic activities.

A large deviation from the mean value is seen in per capita income, age of women, education of women, marital status, sanitation, workplace distance, household size, economic empowerment, interpersonal empowerment and social empowerment. There is small deviation of poverty, father's job, no. of earners, participation ratio, dependency ratio, family setup, women's work participation and area variables form their mean values.

Table 2: Results of Descriptive Statistics of Household Poverty

Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation
POVERTY	0.400	0.490
AGE	35.987	10.263
Education	9.263	6.329
Marital Status	0.790	0.408
Sanitation	0.832	0.374
Household Size	5.655	2.485
Father's Job	0.377	0.485
No. of Earners	1.932	1.239
Women's Work Participation	0.590	0.492
Economic Empowerment	0.543	0.310
Interpersonal Empowerment	0.558	0.216
Social Empowerment	0.619	0.213
Area	0.482	0.500

B. Econometric Analysis

Table 3 reports the econometric results of impact of work participation and empowerment with respondents and households' characteristics on Household poverty. In the table, poverty is taken as dependent variable which is a dummy variable. In the table, first column shows names of explanatory variables, second column provides value of coefficients, third column gives respective standard errors, z – statistics are stated in forth column, probability values are presented in fifth column. Marginal effects are portrayed in column six.

With regard to Age of younger women, it is examined that lower age of women is increasing poverty in southern Punjab. The value of z – statistics is 0.56 showing its insignificance. It may be due to increasing household size or change in expenditure or lowering total income of household. To check the effect of old age women, the analysis incorporates square of age. The sign of age square is negative denoting that as age of women increases, poverty reduces. It may be due to higher

income or due to no change in household size but age square is statistically insignificant. These findings are reconciled with earlier studies conducted by Chaudhry et al. (2009).

Regarding education of respondent, it is realized to be a factor of lowering poverty in southern Punjab. Statistically, it is concluded to be significant at 1 percent level of significance. If woman is 1 year more educated, there is 1.33 percent probability of lowering poverty. The reason may be that more education gives women a confidence to have good job that would increase income of households and reduce poverty level. Similar results are also concluded by Felty (1991), Alam (2011), Abdulsalam (2013), and Chaudhry et al. (2009) in their studies.

The sign of marital status variable is negative in the results indicating that married women may reduce poverty level of households but results are statistically insignificant. Married women can play an important role in reducing poverty or raising income of household. If she is contributing in economic activities so she may be helpful in raising socioeconomic status of households.

Women's work participation is exposed to be negative with poverty level specifying that women's active participation in economic activities may reduce poverty in Southern Punjab. If women are participating in working activities, there is 2.67 percent probability that poverty will reduce. The value of coefficient is statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. Similar findings are also concluded by Alam (2011).

The study shows that availability of sanitation facility is negatively correlated with poverty level which is statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance. On the average, there is 25.55 percent probability that poverty level reduce due to availability of sanitation facility in Southern Punjab. Availability of sanitation facility is an indicator of good health. If households are provided healthy facilities so they may struggle for raising income or reducing poverty level.

Concerning father's job, it is examined that it has negative effect on poverty level of household but with insignificant coefficient value. If father is employed, his earning will increase total income and reduce poverty of household.

In this study, no. of earners is verified to be statistically significant at 1 percent level of significance. No. of earners are the most essential factors for raising total income of household which may significantly reduce poverty of households as well. The sign of the variable is also negative indicating that more earning persons in house will decrease poverty level in Southern Punjab. On the average, due to 1 additional earner in household, there is 23.36 percent probability that poverty will reduce.

In the results, the coefficient value of household size is positive with statistically significant z – statistics at 1 percent level of significance [Chaudhry et al. (2009)]. There would be positive influence of household size on poverty because

more household members have to share the same total income which will increase poverty of households. On the average, there is 7.27 percent probability of increasing poverty due to one additional person in households.

In urban areas, more employment opportunities are available to male and females for raising total income of household and reducing poverty. Urban area is revealed to be negative with poverty of households. The coefficient is estimated to be statistically significant at 1 percent of level of significance. There is 13.21 percent probability of lowering poverty if women are residing in urban areas of Southern Punjab.

Women economic empowerment plays vital role in eliminating poverty of households. If women are given permission to control household spending or they have control over their income or they have their own bank account so they may utilize the available resources optimally which will lower their poverty levels in Southern Punjab. Negative relationship of women economic empowerment with poverty status is established in the present study having statistically significant z – statistics value. It suggests that there is 2.25 percent probability of reducing poverty if women are given economic empowerment by 1 point in Southern Punjab. Same findings are concluded by Abdulssalam (2013) and Makombe et al. (1999).

With reference to women social empowerment, it is understood that there would be negative effect on poverty of households. If women are given access to media/ internet to know about employment opportunities or if women have permission to go for shopping or visit park or community services or visit family members to have confidence to interact with society, they may eliminate their poverty level. Women social empowerment appears to be negative with poverty with statistically significant coefficient at 10 percent level of significance. On the average, there is 9.39 percent probability of lowering poverty if women social empowerment increases by 1 point in Southern Punjab. Same findings are concluded by Abdulssalam (2013) and Makombe et al. (1999).

Another important variable is women familial/ interpersonal empowerment which is determined to be negatively linked with poverty in Southern Punjab. It is found to be statistically significant at 5 percent level of significance. On the average, the probability of lowering poverty is 4.62 percent if women familial/ interpersonal empowerment rises by 1 point in Southern Punjab. If women can decide about their family size, they can decide about their child health care, they don't have any fear of violence from husband/ father, they can decide about their health; women may reduce their poverty level by having such empowerment. Same findings are concluded by Abdulssalam (2013) and Makombe et al. (1999).

Constant shows the effect of the variables which are not included in the study but have an effect on poverty. Constant has significant and positive effect on per capita income. McFadden R – square demonstrates the proportion of explained variations in per capita income which is due to variations in independent variables considered in the current model. On the basis, 21.23 percent variations in per capita

income are explained by the considered independent variables in the model. The value of LR – statistics is 176.56 and probability value is 0.00 revealing that overall regression model is significant at 1 percent level of significance.

Table 3: Logistic Regression results of Household Poverty

Dependent Variable: Poverty (If poor = 1, otherwise = 0 based on \$1.90 per day poverty line)

Explanatory Variables	Coefficients	Standard Errors	t-Statistic	Prob.	Marginal Effects
Constant	1.3442	1.1154	1.2050	0.2282	----
Women's Own Characteristics					
AGE	0.0308	0.0544	0.5665	0.5710	0.0077
AGE ²	-0.0006	0.0006	-0.9304	0.3522	-0.0002
Education	-0.0531	0.0177	-2.9976	0.0027	-0.0133
Marital Status	-0.2465	0.3111	-0.7923	0.4282	-0.0616
Women Work Participation	-0.1070	0.0524	-2.0406	0.0386	-0.0267
Households' Characteristics					
Sanitation	-1.0222	0.2858	-3.5757	0.0003	-0.2555
Father's Job	-0.1489	0.2192	-0.6794	0.4968	-0.0372
No. of Earners	-0.9346	0.1144	-8.1651	0.0000	-0.2336
Household Size	0.2909	0.0479	6.0635	0.0000	0.0727
Residence	-0.5287	0.2073	-2.5503	0.0108	-0.1321
Women's Empowerment Variables					
Women Economic Empowerment	-0.0900	0.0370	-2.4292	0.0131	-0.0225
Women Social Empowerment	-0.3757	0.1882	-1.9954	0.0621	-0.0939
Women Interpersonal Empowerment	-0.1848	0.0806	-2.2925	0.0297	-0.0462
McFadden R-squared		0.2123	Mean dependent var		0.4900
LR Statistic		176.5683	Prob. (LR Statistic)		0.0000

V. Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

The objective of the study is to examine the influence of women work participation and women empowerment on household poverty of Southern Punjab. For that purpose, data is collected from three divisions of southern Punjab i.e. Multan, Bahawalpur and DG Khan. Primary source of data is utilized in the current study and technique to collected data is simple random sampling technique. Simple questions were asked to women of these areas living in urban as well as rural areas

of Southern Punjab. There are few personal questions regarding their family. Quantifiable method is chosen for each variable means responses are converted into dummy variable form and in numbers. For ease of data collection, questions were asked in local language i.e. Urdu, Punjab or Saraiki.

The problem of Multicollinearity is detected using correlation matrix in the current analysis. It reveals that the values of correlation coefficients for each set of independent variables are less than 0.80. It signifies that there is no problem of exact linear relationships among independent variables means Multicollinearity in the poverty models.

On the other side, age of respondent and household size appear to be significant causes of increasing poverty in Southern Punjab. Moreover, square of age, education of respondent, married marital status, women work participation, good sanitation facility, no. of earners, urban residence, women economic empowerment, women social empowerment and women familial/ interpersonal empowerment are significantly turned out to reduce poverty from Southern Punjab.

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