



## The Activities of Rural Women in Home Economy



David Alejandro Navarrete Solórzano<sup>a</sup>, Silvia Vanessa Paz Zambrano<sup>b</sup>

Manuscript submitted: 27 April 2020, Manuscript revised: 18 May 2020, Accepted for publication: 09 June 2020

### Corresponding Author <sup>a</sup>



### Keywords

*activities of rural women;  
the home economy;  
the reality of the peasant  
woman;  
women in agriculture;*

### Abstract

A study was carried out on the rural women and the daily activities that they carry out in their homes and the work of agriculture and livestock; as a producer and participates in the home economy; even though she feels unproductive and the community reinforces that false and cruel mental stereotype. To value the activities of rural women in the home; It is intended to give human and economic value to all the activities carried out by it and to combat the mental stereotype that it is the only man, who intervened in the home economy. Quantitative research, bibliographic review, statistical analysis is carried out by tabulation of the results obtained through the survey applied to rural women. From the researchers' perspective, the role of the peasant woman must be observed and reconsidered as a productive entity to discard ideas outside of what she represents as a thinking human being, free and owner of her decisions.

*International Journal of Life Sciences © 2020.  
This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license  
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).*

### Contents

Abstract.....	1
1 Introduction .....	2
2 Materials and Methods.....	3
3 Results and Discussions.....	3
3.1 The peasant woman.....	3
3.2 Daily activities of rural women.....	3
3.3 Peasant women and the economy.....	4
3.4 Statistical Analysis.....	5
4 Conclusion.....	6
Acknowledgments.....	6
References.....	7
Biography of Authors.....	8

<sup>a</sup> Instituto Superior Tecnológico de Ciencias Religiosas y Educación en Valores San Pedro, Portoviejo, Ecuador

<sup>b</sup> Instituto Superior Tecnológico de Ciencias Religiosas y Educación en Valores San Pedro, Portoviejo, Ecuador

---

---

## 1 Introduction

The peasant woman is an entity that works hard from her home to the hard land where she grows products and raises consumer animals human-like chickens, pigs ... The paradoxical or even incompressible of the case is that when the peasant woman is asked about her work; she is labeled as not working, not counting the feelings of uselessness and contempt for her work, which she does not value and her immediate context either. In Mexico, the fundamental role of rural women stands out in the monitoring of family health and nutrition. An alternative project focused on agricultural activities is proposed, considering them as producers, landowners ... and as income generators that strengthen their standard of living and that of their children (Espinoza & Diez-Urdanivia, 2006). In Guadalajara, the will of Mrs. Micaela García gives a particular and different perspective to the modality of rural inheritance allows the recognition of the peasant woman as an heiress (Arias, 2015; Risholt *et al.*, 2013; Mansoorian & Myers, 1993)

In Cuba, the peasant woman has managed to develop activities in agriculture and is investigated in matters of land inheritance law (Martínez & Baeza, 2017; Mora *et al.*, 2018). On the other hand, men are still favored with productive roles, while these roles are alien to women (Verde *et al.*, 2003). In Brazil, the increase in female participation in the sectors of agroecology, food sovereignty, and highlighting the struggle and permanence in the land was evident (Vilela & Aparecida, 2019). In Argentina, rural women play a fundamental role in the economy in both their reproductive and productive activities (Torres, 2004; Zhao *et al.*, 2009; Anthopoulou, 2010). Also, it is proven to be "a sociologist in a practical state" where "reality" is described by her, described and constituted from dialogue (Silla, 2009). On the other hand, the regional interest in the agricultural education of rural women is evident (Peirano, 2006).

In Paraguay, the workforce available in agriculture contemplates the presence of rural women (Cano *et al.*, 2014). In Chile, there are limitations in productive capacities in agriculture, with the case of women operating heads being accentuated (Boza *et al.*, 2016; Henn, 1983). In Ecuador, 61% of women in rural areas are engaged in agro-production activities in the country, through the contribution of skilled, unskilled labor and unpaid productive work (National Women's Agenda and Equality of Gender 2014-2017). According to this information, women are the ones who contribute the most to food sovereignty, not only for the production of agricultural goods, raising of small animals and poultry, but also for the contribution they make with unpaid labor. in productive processes and unpaid domestic work and of (National Agenda for Women and Gender Equality 2014-2017).

In the Barragán commune of the Ricaurte parish, province of Manabí del Ecuador, the activities of the peasant women are not alien to the above; It can be affirmed that she prays as she has said, she being an important part of the home takes away value when she feels productive in the home and fails to see that she has always been and is a solvent part of the economy of the house. That way of thinking is a constant presence in the mental scheme of women in the rural context; that is devalued and the means or place in which it unfolds does not help, rather the submissive or the shore to reaffirm this thought induced, acquired, but completely false, wrong, cruel, far from reality and truth. Taking into account that beyond the typical tasks of a home to cook, wash, raise children ... the peasant woman develops other activities that contribute to the sustainability and economic solvency of the home, but she does not realize the importance of her being and work in the execution of such tasks as: sowing and cultivating essential products (fruits and vegetables); raise poultry, pigs and cattle for marketing them and their derivatives (meat, milk, eggs, cheese ...); having day laborers and preparing food for them ... are activities that, due to the passage of time and a sexist context, have devalued the work and being of women in the rural sector.

There is a close relationship between the daily activities of rural women with the economy and solvency of the household; to the point that when the marketing activities of large products are low or unprofitable; it is the activities of women that sustain the home in difficult times; Through the sale of the products she develops, she sustains the home economically. Analyzing the instruments for collecting information, it was detected that the role or role of women in the life of the community is unnoticed. Then the peasant woman was surveyed again to learn her thoughts or opinions; The analysis of this other instrument showed that the woman considers herself as a non-productive being.

The problem addressed in this project was concretized through a problem tree and objective tree; in which two of the causes were low self-esteem of women for not being an entrepreneur and exclusion of women in

the home economy; Following these causes, the authors decided to work with this aspect of the rural women. To value the activities that women carry out day by day in the rural context to strengthen the household economy, it implies echoing the women and inhabitants of the Barragán sector to give the value and esteem necessary to the activities carried out to achieve their integral development as being and productive and important person in the solvency of household expenses.

## 2 Materials and Methods

This research is located within the non-experimental quantitative methods (Hernández *et al.*, 2010) (IEACH, 2009). Specifically, it is a descriptive survey-type study, of an exploratory nature conducted with a structured questionnaire that was applied to 50 rural women from the Barragán site of the Ricaurte-Chone Parish, in the province of Manabí.

## 3 Results and Discussions

### 3.1 The peasant woman

Figure 1 generalizes aspects that surround peasant women.

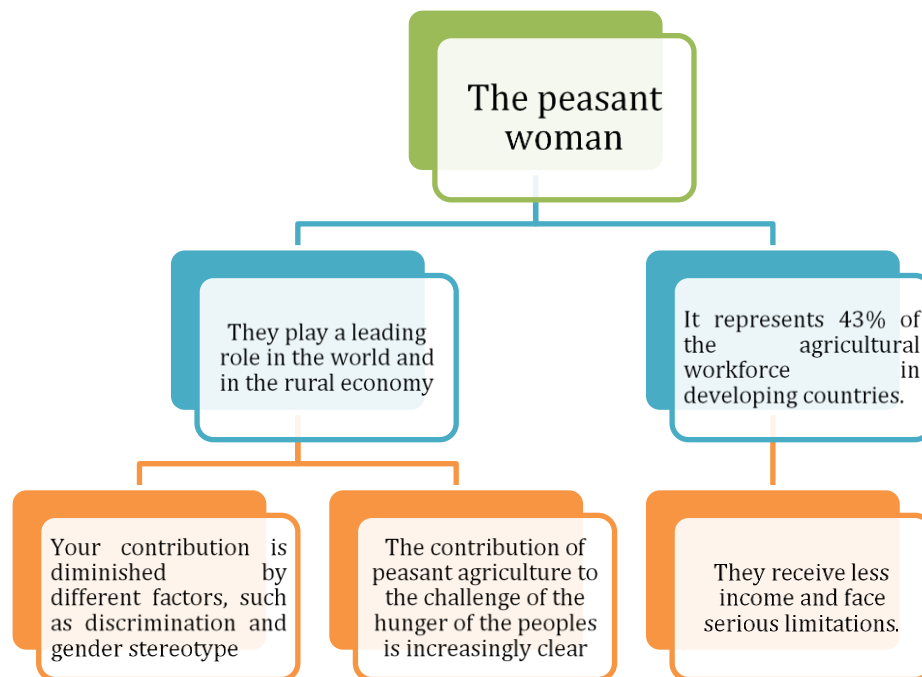


Figure 1. Generalities of rural women  
Source: (IEACH, 2009)

### 3.2 Daily activities of rural women

Figure 2 details the daily activities of rural women.

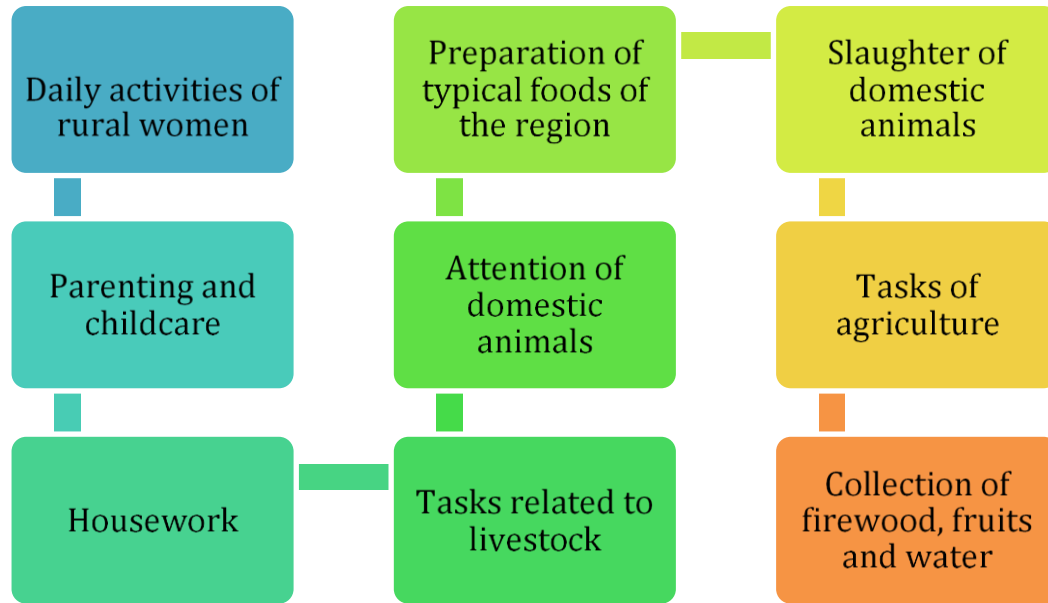


Figure 2. *Daily activities of peasant women*  
Source: (Torres, 2004)

### 3.3 Peasant women and the economy

In Figure 3, peasant women and their impact on the economy are addressed

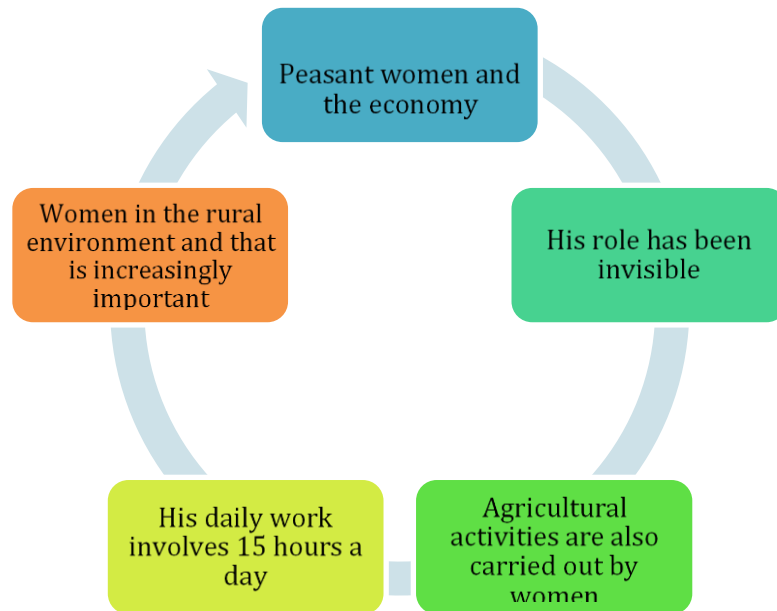


Figure 3. *Peasant women and the economy*  
Source: (Párraga, 2009)

### 3.4 Statistical Analysis

The questionnaire was given to 50 peasant women, with a detailed explanation of it, to know their opinions. After being collected, we proceeded to tabulate and analyze the results. The following figures show the results obtained. 4 shows the perception of women as a worker to generate money for their home.

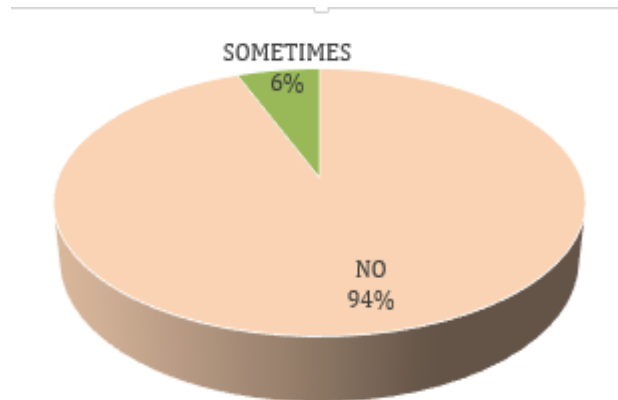


Figure 4. Perception of women as a worker  
Source: Peasant women from the Barragán site

As observed, 94% representing 47 women farmers are defined as "non-workers" and 6% equivalent to 3 women farmers say that "sometimes they are workers." It can be seen how the woman does not feel that she contributes, even though she is immersed in all the activities of the home, agriculture, livestock, receiving feelings of invisibility before her being and work.

In figure 5 they show how in their daily activities, some generate money

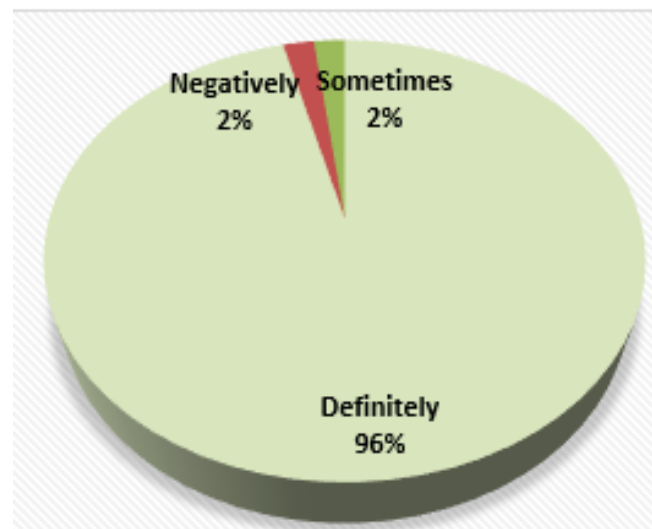


Figure 5. Some of their activities generate money  
Source: Rural women of the Barragán site

As it is observed 96% representing 48 rural women realize that there are activities that develop and generate money. Being able to appreciate that the peasant woman does generate income in the household economy, but, she has not yet realized her value as a being, and her protagonist work in the rural context.

Figure 6 shows the action to be taken at the time of specifying money to provide a solution to your needs.



Figure 6. Action to take at the time to specify money for  
Source: Peasant women from the Barragán site

In the event of an emergency or need for money, 94% representing 47 women farmers, solve the difficulty selling the breeding animals that they raise themselves, it is shown that their being and work give solutions to the economic problems that arise. Peasant women play an essential role in rural areas, but they or realize the contributions they make not only to the economy of their home but also to the area where they cooperate

#### 4 Conclusion

The attitudes of esteem that women reflect towards her and her routine tasks play an important and vital role in the development of her being and work; these directly affect the economic solvency of the household through its daily activities (agriculture, livestock, raising animals for human consumption ...) gives economic stability to the home with the marketing of products; As for the organization of his role, he provides the human and material value of his dedication and effort.

#### *Acknowledgments*



We are grateful to two anonymous reviewers for their valuable comments on the earlier version of this paper.

## References

- Anthopoulou, T. (2010). Rural women in local agrofood production: Between entrepreneurial initiatives and family strategies. A case study in Greece. *Journal of rural studies*, 26(4), 394-403. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2010.03.004>
- Arias, P. (2015). The will of Micaela García. The inheritance in a domestic group in Totatiche, Jalisco. 1905-1920. *Relations. Studies of history and society*, 36(143), 279-316.
- Boza, S., Cortés, M., & Muñoz, T. (2016). Rural development strategies with a gender focus in Chile: the case of the "Training and training for rural women" program. *Civilize Social and Human Sciences*, 16(30), 63-76.
- Cano, E., Salas, V., Garay, J., Garay, E., & Cipriano, R. (2014). The agricultural capital in farms of the peasant family agriculture: case studies. *Agricultural Research*, 16(1), 56-63.
- Espinoza, L., & Diez-Urdanivia, S. (2006). Notes on the contribution of women to the food security of the peasant domestic unit. *New anthropology*, 20(66), 12-31.
- Henn, J. K. (1983). Feeding the cities and feeding the peasants: What role for Africa's women farmers?. *World Development*, 11(12), 1043-1055. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X\(83\)90099-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X(83)90099-2)
- Hernández, R., Collado, C., & Baptista, P. (2010). *Investigation methodology*. Printed in Peru: McGRAW - HILL / INTERAMERICANA EDITORES, SA DE CV
- IEACH. (2009). *The role of rural women in the rural world*. Obtained from the Institute of Studies on Conflict and Humanitarian Action: <https://iecah.org/index.php/boletiniecah/analisis/1523-el-papel-de-la-mujer-en-el-mundo-rural>
- Mansoorian, A., & Myers, G. M. (1993). Attachment to home and efficient purchases of population in a fiscal externality economy. *Journal of public Economics*, 52(1), 117-132. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2727\(93\)90108-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/0047-2727(93)90108-6)
- Martínez, I., & Baeza, M. (2017). Gender Approaches in the Role of Rural Women in Cuban Agriculture. *Prolegata me*, 20(39), 29-38. doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.18359/prole.2721>
- Mora, M. M., Espinosa, M. R., & Delgado, M. R. (2018). Approach of Processes for the Distribution of Economic Resources in Public University of Ecuador. *International Research Journal of Management, IT and Social Sciences*, 5(1), 25-35.
- National Agenda for Women and Gender Equality 2014-2017*. (sf). Retrieved on February 10, 2020, from <https://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/09/Agenda-Nacional-de-Mujeres-y-Igualdad-de-Genero.pdf>
- Párraga, F. (2009). *Rural women and the economy*. Retrieved from [http://www.nasdap.ejgv.euskadi.eus/r50mruralc/es/contenidos/informacion/mrural\\_participacion/es\\_agripes/adjuntos/Mujeres%20rurales%20y%20economia.pdf](http://www.nasdap.ejgv.euskadi.eus/r50mruralc/es/contenidos/informacion/mrural_participacion/es_agripes/adjuntos/Mujeres%20rurales%20y%20economia.pdf)
- Peirano, N. (2006). The education of rural women in the National Territory of La Pampa during the first Peronist governments (1946-1955). *The quiver*, 10, 109-122.
- Risholt, B., Time, B., & Hestnes, A. G. (2013). Sustainability assessment of nearly zero energy renovation of dwellings based on energy, economy and home quality indicators. *Energy and Buildings*, 60, 217-224. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2012.12.017>
- Silla, R. (2009). Building Power in Alto Neuquén: The story of a Peasant Woman. *Magallania (Punta Arenas)*, 37(2), 149-163. doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4067/S0718-22442009000200009>
- Torres, G. (2004). Its role in the productive and reproductive activity of the Calchaquí Valleys. *Andes*, 15(0).
- Verde, G., Ríos, H., Martín, L., Acosta, R., Ponce, M., Ortiz, R., . . . Martínez, M. (2003). Peasants and Peasants participating in the selection of varieties. A gender perspective. *Tropical Crops*, 24(4), 89-93.
- Vilela, C., & Aparecida, R. (2019). Protagonism of mulheres assented no Território Rural do Bolsão-MS: genre, território e resistência camponesa. *Cuadernos de Geografía: Colombian Journal of Geography*, 28(2), 241-254. doi: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15446/rcdg.v28n2.72946>.
- Zhao, J., Li, Y., Wu, Y., Zhou, J., Ba, L., Gu, X., ... & Xu, L. (2009). Impact of different contraceptive methods on quality of life in rural women of the Jiangsu province in China. *Contraception*, 80(2), 180-186. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2009.02.002>



## Biography of Authors

	<p>David Alejandro, Teacher in Innovation in Education, Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador. Bachelor of Science in English Mention Education, Lay University "Eloy Alfaro de Manabí". Social Promoter "Higher Technological Institute" San Pedro". Professor in Basic Education, Higher Pedagogical Institute "Eugenio Espejo". Teacher of English and Language and Literature of the Educational Unit "June 5 N ° 34" (7 years of experience). Teacher of the Higher Technological Institute "San Pedro" (Nov, 2017 - Actuality) Email: <a href="mailto:david_ans@hotmail.com">david_ans@hotmail.com</a></p>
	<p>Silvia Vanessa Social Promoter graduated from the "Superior Technological Institute" San Pedro". She works as Social Promoter of the GAD of Ricaurte in the program with older adults (2016 - Actuality) Email: <a href="mailto:silviavanessapaz80@outlook.com">silviavanessapaz80@outlook.com</a></p>