Rural Women's Empowerment in Improving Household Food Security in the Divandarreh County

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Extended Abstract

1. INTRODUCTIONS
In developing countries, the share of income from economic activities in rural non-farming has grown considerably each year. Therefore, the development of economic activities in rural non-farming due to its increasing importance as a source of income and employment across the developing world is good. The advantage of a handicraft is that it can be a good tool for the diversification of the rural economy, increase revenues, balancing rural living standards and ultimately provide the basis for achieving sustainable development. A handicraft, sometimes more precisely expressed as artisanal handicraft, is any of a wide variety of types of work where useful and decorative objects are made completely by hand or by using only simple tools. It is a traditional main sector of craft, and applies to a wide range of creative and design activities that are related to making things with one's hands and skill, including work with textiles, moldable and rigid materials, paper, plant fibers, etc.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Usually the term is applied to traditional techniques of creating items (whether for personal use or as products) that are both practical and aesthetic. Collective terms for handicrafts include artisan, handcrafting, crafting, and handicraftsmanship. The term arts and crafts is also applied, especially in the United States and mostly to hobbyists' and children's output rather than items crafted for daily use, but this distinction is not formal, and the term is easily confused with the Arts and Crafts design movement, which is in fact as practical as it is aesthetic. Handcrafting has its roots in the rural crafts—the material-goods necessities—of ancient civilizations, and many specific crafts have been practiced for centuries, while others are modern inventions, or popularizations of crafts which were originally practiced in a limited geographic area. Many handcrafters use natural, even entirely indigenous, materials while others may prefer modern, non-traditional materials, and even up cycle industrial materials. The individual artisanship of a handcrafted item is the paramount criterion; those made by mass production or machines are not handicraft goods. Seen as developing the skills and creative interests of students, generally and sometimes towards a particular craft or trade, handicrafts are often integrated into educational systems, both informally and formally. Most crafts require the development of skill and the application of patience, but can be learned by virtually anyone. Like folk art, handicraft output often has cultural and/or religious significance, and increasingly may have a political message as well, as in crativism. Many crafts become very popular for brief periods of time (a few months, or a few years), spreading rapidly among the crafting population as everyone emulates the first examples, then their popularity wanes until a later resurgence.

3. METHODOLOGY
The research data was collected through questionnaires filled out by rural married women in Divandareh County. Based on random sampling, 213 of them were selected. The validity of questionnaire was confirmed by the panel of food security experts and faculty members of management and agricultural development department in university of Tehran, and its reliability was confirmed by Cronbach's Alpha coefficient and composite reliability.

4. DISCUSSION
The results can be concluded that the rural households have not been in suitable conditions in terms of food security. Also the results of correlation analysis showed that among all dimensions of rural women’s empowerment (economic, social & psychological) in terms of food security of their household were significantly

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correlated. In addition, results of structural equation modeling showed that dimension of rural women’s empowerment with the coefficient of determination 0.83 (γ=0.72, t=7.12) had positive and significant effect on the food security of household.

5.CONCLUSION
Given the attitude of rural women after attending classes have changed significantly, it is strongly recommended that training in rural areas - promoted by advocates of women qualified. Given the importance and the role of communication channels is the recommended approach for rural women through communication media such as radio and television on coverage at the community level are being attempting to teach a variety of crafts and related occupations truly income and cultural values are important for rural women during certain times and to take action.

Keywords: Food security, empowerment women, nutritional status, rural women, Divandarreh County.

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