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The Long-term Impact of Women's Engagement in Poultry Farming on Economic Empowerment, Well-being, and Community Development

A. Parkavi

*Ph.D., Research Scholar, Department of Economics
Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India*

V. Vaithianathan

*Assistant Professor, Department of Economics
Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India*
 <https://orcid.org/0009-0005-6116-7087>

E. Uma Maheshwari

*Assistant Professor, Department of English
K.S.R College of Arts and Science for Women, Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu, India*

Abstract

This comprehensive review paper examines the enduring influence of women's involvement in poultry farming on economic empowerment, well-being, and community development. Drawing from a wide array of academic sources, the study explores the sustained economic impact of women's participation, the evolving well-being outcomes, and the community development initiatives driven by empowered women in poultry farming. The Resource-Based Theory emerges as a pivotal framework, elucidating how access to resources enhances economic empowerment. The findings indicate a positive trajectory in income generation, access to resources, physical and mental health improvements, social connectedness, and community infrastructure development. This research underscores the importance of supporting women in poultry farming through targeted policies and programs to leverage the long-term benefits for individuals and communities.

Keywords: Women in Agriculture, Poultry Farming, Economic Empowerment, Well-being Outcomes, Sustainable Livelihoods

Introduction

Women's engagement in poultry farming has garnered increasing attention in recent years as a powerful avenue for fostering economic empowerment, enhancing well-being, and driving community development in various regions (Patel, 2012). Poultry farming represents a multifaceted opportunity for women, not only offering a sustainable source of nutrition but also empowering them economically through income generation and providing avenues for skill development and entrepreneurship (Coyle et al., 2020). This study seeks to delve into the long-term consequences of women's active participation in poultry farming, examining how it influences their economic status, overall well-being, and the development of their communities (Jones et al., 2018). By understanding the sustained impact of women's involvement in this agricultural sector, we can identify pathways for promoting gender equality, economic growth, and community resilience. In recent years, women's engagement in poultry farming has emerged as a noteworthy driver of economic empowerment improved well-being, and enhanced community development in various region.

Poultry farming represents a multifaceted opportunity for women, offering not only a sustainable source of nutrition but also a pathway to economic empowerment through income generation and the development of entrepreneurial skills (Smith, et al., 2023). As a sector ripe with opportunities, this study aims to explore the long-term consequences of women's active involvement in poultry farming and to investigate how it affects their economic status, overall well-being, and the development of their communities. The empowerment of women in poultry farming resonates deeply with broader societal goals of gender equality and economic growth. It is well-documented that when women are economically empowered, their households tend to experience improved living standards, including better access to education, healthcare, and nutrition (Bhardwaj 2021). Additionally, women who engage in poultry farming often find themselves in roles of leadership within their communities, advocating for equitable access to resources and opportunities (Nhung et al., 2022 & Baye et al., 2022). However, the long-term implications of women's participation in poultry farming are not only limited to individual and household outcomes. Poultry farming initiatives often foster the formation of women's cooperatives and self-help groups, which serve as platforms for resource pooling, access to financial services, and collective advocacy (Leight et al., 2022). These collectives frequently lead to the establishment of communal infrastructure, such as processing units and marketing facilities, which generate employment opportunities, stimulate local economies, and promote sustainable practices (Sattar et al., 2021; Landman & Van Eck, 2015). In light of these multifaceted dimensions, this study integrates a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, empirical data, and case studies to illuminate the complex dynamics and long-term outcomes associated with women's participation in poultry farming. By understanding the sustained impact of women's involvement in this agricultural sector, we can identify pathways for promoting gender equality, economic growth, and community resilience.

Literature Review

The literature on women's engagement in poultry

farming underscores its multifaceted significance. Numerous studies have highlighted how women's participation in poultry farming provides a reliable source of income, contributing significantly to economic empowerment. This economic independence often translates into improved decision-making power within households, ultimately benefitting overall well-being (Dupas 2023). Moreover, women's involvement in poultry farming is intertwined with their social and community roles. Research consistently shows that women in poultry farming often form cooperative groups, facilitating resource-sharing and access to credit and training. These collectives also empower women to advocate for community-level improvements, thus contributing to broader community development (Khan & Bibi, 2011). However, the literature also underscores challenges, such as limited access to resources, gender-based constraints, and market dynamics (Kumar et al., 2021; Yount et al., 2018). Additionally, the long-term sustainability and scalability of women's engagement in poultry farming warrant further exploration. As such, this study aims to build on this body of research by conducting a comprehensive analysis of the long-term impact of women's participation in poultry farming, with a specific focus on economic empowerment, well-being, and community development.

Objective

1. To assess the sustained economic impact
Determine how women's participation in poultry farming influences their economic empowerment over an extended period.
2. To examine the evolving well-being and outcomes of women engagement on the poultry work.

Research Problem

Despite a growing body of research highlighting the positive impact of women's engagement in poultry farming on economic empowerment and well-being, there remains a significant gap in understanding the long-term sustainability and the influence of these benefits on broader community development. Women's participation in poultry farming has shown promise in contributing to their economic empowerment and well-being in various

contexts. Existing research has established that engaging in poultry farming can lead to increased income, improved access to resources, and enhanced decision-making power for women. Moreover, it has been observed that participation in poultry farming can positively influence their overall well-being, including physical health, mental health, and social connectedness. However, while there is a substantial body of literature that focuses on these short-term benefits, there exists a critical research gap concerning the long-term sustainability and broader implications of women's involvement in poultry farming, especially within the context of community development. The research problem, therefore, revolves around the following key aspects:

1. Sustainability of Economic Empowerment:

While it is established that women can experience increased income and economic empowerment through poultry farming, there is a lack of understanding regarding the sustainability of these economic benefits over an extended period. Questions arise about whether women can maintain their economic gains, adapt to changing market conditions, and continue to access resources that contribute to their empowerment over time.

2. Evolving Well-being Outcomes: While short-term improvements in well-being have been documented, there is limited research that explores how these well-being outcomes evolve for women engaged in poultry farming over the long term. It is crucial to investigate whether initial improvements in physical and mental health persist and whether social networks and support systems continue to strengthen.

3. Community Development Impact: The research problem extends to understanding the broader impact of women's participation in poultry farming on the communities in which they reside. Do empowered women engaged in poultry farming play active roles in community development initiatives, and if so, what is the nature and scale of their contributions? Furthermore, how do these community-level changes, if any, affect the overall development trajectory of the regions in question? In summary, the research problem centers on the

sustainability of economic empowerment and well-being outcomes for women involved in poultry farming and the potential ripple effects on community development. Addressing this problem is crucial for developing comprehensive strategies that leverage the long-term benefits of women's engagement in poultry farming to drive economic growth, enhance well-being, and foster sustainable community development.

Methodology

In this review paper, we adopt a systematic approach to comprehensively assess the long-term impact of women's engagement in poultry farming on economic empowerment, well-being, and community development. Our methodology centers on an extensive and systematic search of academic databases, including PubMed, Google Scholar, and Scopus, to identify peer-reviewed articles, research reports, and studies relevant to the subject matter. To ensure the relevance of the selected literature, we employ specific keywords such as "women in agriculture," "poultry farming," "economic empowerment," "well-being," and "community development." Our inclusion criteria are explicitly defined to select studies that align with the research objectives. These criteria encompass studies that focus on women's roles in poultry farming, those that examine long-term outcomes related to economic empowerment and well-being, and studies that discuss the broader impacts at the community level. In contrast, exclusion criteria involve studies unrelated to the primary research questions or those not published in the English language. Subsequently, we meticulously extract essential information from the selected literature, including key findings, methodologies employed in the original research, and any theoretical frameworks underpinning the studies. This information is systematically categorized into thematic areas related to economic empowerment, well-being, and community development. Quality assessment plays a crucial role in ensuring the rigor of the selected studies. We utilize established quality assessment tools and checklists, such as the PRISMA guidelines for systematic reviews and critical appraisal tools, to evaluate the methodological soundness and research

quality of each included study. Following data extraction and quality assessment, we synthesize the key findings and trends from the selected literature. This synthesis aims to highlight the long-term impact of women's participation in poultry farming, with a particular emphasis on economic empowerment, well-being outcomes, and community development. Through this process, we identify common themes, variations, and gaps within the existing literature. In the subsequent discussion section, we contextualize and interpret the synthesized findings within the framework of our research objectives. We explore the implications of the long-term effects of women's engagement in poultry farming, addressing any limitations or methodological challenges encountered during the review process. Ultimately, the review paper concludes by summarizing the key insights gained from the literature review and underscores the significance of understanding the sustained impact of women's involvement in poultry farming. Furthermore, we provide recommendations for future research directions and offer insights for policymakers and practitioners based on the comprehensive synthesis of existing literature.

Research Gap

While existing studies have explored the short-term economic and well-being effects of women's involvement in poultry farming, there is a lack of comprehensive research examining the enduring impact and the inter connectedness of economic empowerment, well-being, and community development over an extended timeframe. Additionally, few studies have investigated the factors that contribute to the sustainability of these benefits, which is crucial for informed policy and program development aimed at supporting women in poultry farming. This research aims to bridge this gap by providing a nuanced understanding of the long-term implications of women's engagement in poultry farming on multiple dimensions, shedding light on sustainable pathways to empowerment and community development.

Important of this Study

The importance of the study on "The Long-term Impact of Women's Engagement in Poultry

Farming on Economic Empowerment, Well-being, and Community Development" lies in its potential to contribute significantly to various aspects of society, agriculture, and gender equality:

- 1. Empowering Women:** The study sheds light on how women's participation in poultry farming can lead to sustained economic empowerment. This is crucial in addressing gender disparities, promoting financial independence, and enhancing the status of women within households and communities.
- 2. Enhancing Well-being:** Understanding the long-term effects of poultry farming on well-being, including physical and mental health, helps identify strategies to improve the overall quality of life for women in agriculture. This knowledge is valuable for public health initiatives and community development programs.
- 3. Community Development:** The study explores the broader implications of women's involvement in poultry farming at the community level. It highlights how empowered women can contribute to local development through collective actions, fostering stronger and more resilient communities.
- 4. Agricultural Sustainability:** Poultry farming often represents a sustainable agricultural practice. By focusing on the long-term impact, the study promotes sustainable farming models that can benefit both women and the environment.
- 5. Policy and Program Development:** Findings from this research can inform the development of policies and programs aimed at supporting women in agriculture. Policymakers and organizations can use the insights to create targeted interventions that promote gender equality, economic growth, and community well-being.
- 6. Knowledge Advancement:** The study contributes to the academic body of knowledge by providing a comprehensive review of existing research. It identifies gaps in the literature and offers a foundation for future research in this field.
- 7. Global Food Security:** Poultry farming is a significant contributor to food security. Understanding the long-term dynamics of women's engagement in this sector can have

implications for global food production and access to nutritious food.

- 8. Gender Equality:** By emphasizing the empowerment of women, this study aligns with global efforts to achieve gender equality (UN Sustainable Development Goal 5). Empowered women in agriculture can serve as role models and advocates for gender equity. In summary, the study's importance lies in its potential to promote gender equality, improve the well-being of women, strengthen communities, and inform policies and programs that contribute to sustainable agricultural practices and broader socio-economic development.



Chart 1 Theoretical background

Explanations with Research Objectives

- 1. Income Generation:** Women's active engagement in poultry farming leads to increased income. This is vital for achieving Research Objective 1, which is to assess the sustained economic impact of women's participation in poultry farming.
- 2. Resource Acquisition:** Underpinned by the Resource-Based Theory, this concept highlights that women in poultry farming gain access to resources such as land, loans, and training. This aligns with Research Objective 2, which aims to examine the evolving well-being outcomes for

women engaged in poultry farming.

- 3. Access to Resources:** Access to resources enhances economic empowerment, contributing to Research Objective 1 by examining the sustained economic impact of women's participation in poultry farming.
- 4. Improved Physical Health:** The improved economic status resulting from poultry farming can lead to better access to healthcare, aligning with Research Objective 2 by exploring the evolving well-being outcomes.
- 5. Capability Approach:** This theory emphasizes that economic empowerment enhances mental well-being, supporting Research Objective 2 by investigating the evolving well-being outcomes, particularly mental health.
- 6. Social Connectedness:** Enhanced well-being, including mental health, promotes social interactions and community engagement.
- 7. Women's Collectives:** Empowered women often form collectives and self-help groups, contributing to Research Objective 3 by examining how women's groups engage in community development initiatives.
- 8. Collective Action:** Women's groups engage in collective action, which fosters community development, aligning with Research Objective 3.
- 9. Communal Infrastructure:** Women-led initiatives result in the establishment of communal infrastructure, contributing to Research Objective 3, which explores the broader community development impact.

By explaining each key point in the flowchart, we can see how they relate to the research objectives, highlighting the interconnectedness of economic empowerment, well-being, and community development in the context of women's engagement in poultry farming.

Conclusions

- 1. Sustained Economic Empowerment:** The study reveals that women's participation in poultry farming can lead to sustained economic empowerment. Over the long term, increased income and improved access to resources contribute significantly to women's financial stability and decision-making power within households.

2. **Evolving Well-being Outcomes:** It is evident that the well-being outcomes of women engaged in poultry farming continue to evolve positively. Improved economic status leads to better access to healthcare, enhanced mental well-being, and increased social connectedness.
3. **Community Development Impact:** Empowered women often form collectives and self-help groups, engaging in collective action and contributing to community development initiatives. These initiatives result in the establishment of communal infrastructure, enhancing the overall development of the regions where poultry farming is prevalent.
4. **Resource-Based I Theory:** The Resource-Based Theory plays a significant role in explaining how access to resources, including land, loans, and training, enhances economic empowerment. This theory provides a valuable framework for understanding the sustained economic impact of women's engagement in poultry farming.
5. **Infrastructure Development:** Women-led initiatives have a positive effect on communal infrastructure. Governments and organizations should invest in the development of infrastructure projects initiated by women's groups to enhance community well-being.
6. **Longitudinal Studies:** Further research should include longitudinal studies that track the progress and impact of women's engagement in poultry farming over an extended period. This will provide more comprehensive insights into the long-term effects.
7. **Extension Services:** Extension services should be made available to women involved in poultry farming, providing them with updated information and training to adapt to changing market conditions and sustainable practices.
8. **Gender Equity Education:** Promoting gender equity education in communities where poultry farming is prevalent can help challenge traditional gender roles and empower women further.

Recommendations

1. **Supportive Policies and Programs:** Policymakers should develop and implement supportive policies and programs that encourage women's participation in poultry farming. These initiatives should focus on providing access to resources, training, and financial support to sustain economic empowerment.
2. **Healthcare Access:** Improving healthcare access for women engaged in poultry farming is essential. Local healthcare facilities should be equipped to address the specific health needs of women in agriculture, ensuring better physical well-being.
3. **Mental Health Support:** Recognizing the positive impact of economic empowerment on mental well-being, mental health support programs tailored to the unique challenges faced by women in poultry farming should be developed and accessible.
4. **Community Engagement:** Encouraging women's collectives and self-help groups can lead to more significant community engagement and development. Initiatives that promote collective action and resource-sharing should be supported.

In conclusion, the study highlights the enduring positive impact of women's engagement in poultry farming on economic empowerment, well-being, and community development. Implementing the recommendations can lead to more sustainable and equitable growth in regions where poultry farming is a significant livelihood option for women.

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Author Details

A. Parkavi, Ph.D., Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India, **Email ID:** parkaviphd@gmail.com

V. Vaithianathan, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu, India, **Email ID:** vvpvu@yahoo.co.in

E. Uma Maheshwari, Assistant Professor, Department of English, K.S.R College of Arts and Science for Women, Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu, India, **Email ID:** umaelango202796@gmail.com