



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**FACTORS INFLUENCING PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN  
PADZEY PROJECT IN TAIZ GOVERNORATE, YEMEN**

**BELQES MUTAHAR ABDULWAHID AL-AREQI  
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PADZEY PROJECT IN TAIZ GOVERNORATE, YEMEN**

**By**

**BELQES MUTAHAR ABDULWAHID AL-AREQI**

**Thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Universiti Putra Malaysia  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**April 2010**



## **DEDICATION**

**To those who dedicate their life in developing my beloved Yemen.**



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**April 2010**

**Chairman: Dr. Jamilah Othman**

**Institute: Institute of Social Science Studies**

The rural women in Yemen have many roles to play in their lives and are mainly responsible for livestock and cheese production. The '*Projet d'Appui au Développement des Zones d'Élevage du Yemen*' - PADZEY under the auspices of the AFD Group (Agence Française de Développement) which was a project under the French Ministry for Cooperation with the Government of Yemen under the PFD – Partnership Framework Document for the period 2007-2011, spearheaded to increase the income generated from livestock production of small farmers in the project areas. This study was designed to examine rural women's participation in the PADZEY project and determine the factors that affect variation level of participation in the PADZEY project. The research employed quantitative data collection through administered interview by using a questionnaire. The respondents comprised of 172 of rural women who were stratified random sampling from three districts in Taiz government in Yemen. A Descriptive Analysis, Pearson Product Moment Correlation, and Multiple Regression Analyses were used to analyse the data. Rural women's



participation in PADZEY project was measured using the composite score for participation in decision-making, participation in implementation, participation in evaluation and participation in benefits.

The findings of this study showed that the level of respondent's participation was moderately low in the PADZEY project, illustrating moderately low level of rural women's knowledge in the PADZEY project and skills of livestock production. However, they indicated positive and moderately high level of attitude towards the PADZEY project. The rural women's participation in the PADZEY project was significantly correlated with monthly income, knowledge in the PADZEY project, skills of livestock production, and attitude towards the PADZEY project. Meanwhile age, number of family member, and experience of livestock production showed no significant correlation with participation. However, regression analyses showed that the variance, in the rural women's participation in the PADZEY project explained by the independent variables, was moderately high (68.8%). This moderately high result may be due to the fact that these variables (skills of livestock production and attitudes towards the PADZEY project) were the main factors affecting participation. The result of this study provided practical implications and recommendation to increase the level of participation in the PADZEY project.

Abstrak tesis dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi sebahagian keperluan untuk Ijazah Master Sains

**FAKTOR MEMPENGARUHI PARTISIPASI PEREMPUAN DI PEDESAAN  
PROYEK DI PADZEY PENTADBIAAN TAIZ, YEMEN**

Oleh

**BELQES MUTAHAR ABDULWAHID AL-AREQI**

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Wanita luarbandar di Yemen memainkan pelbagai peranan dalam kehidupan mereka dan mempunyai tanggung jawab utama untuk menjaga ternakan dan pembuatan keju. Projek *PADZEY - Projet d'Appui au Développement des Zones d'Élevage du Yemen* iaitu projek di bawah tajaan dan penyelenggaraan serta pengurusan kumpulan AFD (*Agence Française de Développement*) yang mana projek ini adalah di bawah usahasama perjanjian di antara Kementerian Usahasama Negara Perancis dan Kerajaan Yemen yang dimeterai di bawah PFD - *Partnership Framework Document* (Dokumen Kerangka Rakaniaga) untuk jangkamasa 2007-2011, telah dipacukan untuk menambah penjanaan pendapatan daripada hasil ternakan kaum petani kecil di kawasan projek tersebut.

Kajian ini telah dirangka untuk mengkaji penglibatan kaum wanita luarbandar(desa) di dalam projek *PADZEY* dan untuk mengenal pasti faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi aras/tahap variasi penglibatan di dalam projek *PADZEY*. Kajian ini

menggunakan pengumpulan data kuantitatif melalui temuramah menggunakan kaedah soalan kaji selidik. Para responden terdiri daripada 172 wanita luarbandar yang dipilih secara rawak daripada tiga daerah di jajahan Taiz di Yemen. Suatu analisa deskriptif telah dijalankan bersamaan Korelasi Masa Produk/Keberhasilan Perseorangan dan Analisa Regresi Berganda telah digunakan untuk menganalisa data. Penglibatan kaum wanita luarbandar di dalam projek PADZEY telah diukur menggunakan skor gubahan untuk mengkaji penglibatan mereka di dalam membuat keputusan, penglibatan di dalam implimentasi, penglibatan di dalam penilaian dan penglibatan mendapat keuntungan.

Dapatan kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa tahap penglibatan responden adalah sederhana rendah di dalam projek PADZEY tersebut dan juga menunjukkan tahap yang sederhana rendah dalam pengetahuan tentang projek PADZEY serta kemahiran keberhasilan ternakan. Walaubagaimana sekalipun kaum wanita tersebut telah menunjukkan sikap positif pada tahap sederhana tinggi terhadap terhadap projek PADZEY. Penglibatan kaum wanita luarbandar di dalam projek PADZEY telah dikorelasi secara signifikan dengan pendapatan bulanan, pengetahuan tentang projek PADZEY, kemahiran dalam keberhasilan ternakan dan sikap terhadap projek PADZEY.

Manakala usia, jumlah bilangan ahli keluarga dan pengalaman dalam pengeluaran ternakan tidak menunjukkan korelasi signifikan dengan penglibatan. Walaubagaimana pun, analisa regresi telah menunjukkan bahawa varians dalam penglibatan kaum wanita luarbandar yang diterangkan oleh pembolehubah tak bersandar adalah sederhana tinggi (68.8%). Dapatan kajian yang sederhana tinggi ini berkemungkinan mempunyai kaitan dengan fakta bahawa pembolehubah-

pembolehubah (kemahiran dalam keberhasilan ternakan dan sikap terhadap projek PADZEY) adalah faktor utama yang mempengaruhi penglibatan. Keputusan kajian ini mempunyai implikasi munasabah dan cadangan-cadangan untuk meningkatkan penglibatan dalam projek PADZEY.



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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on **21 April 2010** to conduct the final examination of **Belqes Mutaheer AL-areqi** on her Master thesis entitled **factors influence participation of rural women in PADZEY project in Taiz governorate, Yemen” in accordance with universiti** and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the University Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A)] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the Student be awarded the relevant Master of Science.

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Date: 12 August 2010

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or currently submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or other institutions.

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**Belqes Mutaher AL-Areqi**

**Date : 17/6/2010**



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADP	Agricultural Development Project
AFD	Agency Franchise Development
AFPPF	Agricultural and Fisheries Production Promotion Fund
DRF	Drug Revolving Fund
GDAR	Directorate General of Animal Resources
FDB	French Development Bank
GDAR	General Directorate of Animal Resources
MAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
NWDpra	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area.
PADZEY	project supports the development of livestock production areas in the Republic of Yemen
RY	Republic of Yemen
TDA	Tihama Development Authority
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
VIE	Valence-Instrumentality- Expectancy theory



## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Rural women's participation in the development process has been the focus of intensive debates by most international forums in the past years (Abud Alstar, 1999). According to the philosophy of these forums, each member state should promote women's economic independence, which includes the creation of employment, access to resources and credit, the eradication of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty, malnutrition, poor health and illiteracy (Kongolo, 2002). Although such declarations have been able to increase an awareness and understanding of the problems facing women and their needs, they have not yet resulted in significant development priorities for rural women (Albee, 1994).

Agricultural family enterprise is where each member plays an important role in production and postproduction activities. Women play the most vital role in postproduction stage beside her role as a keeper of the home, caretaker of the livestock and consistent helper to the farmer in farm related tasks. Cleaning and storage of grains have always been considered a part of the domestic chores, however, never acknowledged (Sandangi et al. 1996). Women over the centuries still are productive in their work, whether at home (child-rearing and care of the house) or in various economic fields patterns such as grazing, fishing, farming, industry and so on. They take responsibility for their role as mothers and wives. They work outside the home together with the men and sometimes they exceed men productivity functions. In general, we find that rural women are working in agriculture full



branches although their work in the area of plant production and animal husbandry exceeds their work in forestry and fishing (Ganokendras, 2006).

Like the rest of the rural women in the world, the Yemeni women are no exception and they represent nearly half the population in their country (Abud Alstar, 1999). Yemeni rural women play a crucial role in rural life. They are involved in all stages of agricultural production and, whatever their age, they continue to participate in different agricultural activities under difficult conditions and using traditional technology. In addition, rural women are also involved in trade, handicraft, providers of animals care and all other aspects of household life which do not have a market or monetary value. They also play a major role in the agriculture sector, which includes plant and animal production (Abud Alstar, 1999). It was estimated that 70% to 75 % of economic activities in the Republic of Yemen are in agricultural sectors. Agricultural work heavily relies on women where 87% of the women are involved in economic activity in agricultural production. The women workforce contributes between 20% and 40% of agricultural labour, which represents 67% of the total workforce (Hamid & Nadia, 2001). According to Hamid and Nadia, most of the women in the country live and work in rural areas with little rain fall where the yield is low. This affects their income. Besides, many opportunities that may be obtained by urban women such as education and self-improvement and care development are not provided for the women in the rural area (Albee, 1994).

## **Background of PADZEY Project**

Women's participation in on-going development helps to increase income for the country. It also helps in the understanding and commitment toward the importance of empowerment of rural women in the agricultural workforce by implementing projects and enforcing policies to increase their participation (Ganokendras, 2006).

The PADZEY (Projet d'Appui au Développement des Zones d'Elevage du Yémen) supports the development of livestock production areas in the Republic of Yemen (RY). It was launched in February 2005. It is presently funded by (FDB) French Development Bank, the project resulting from the cooperation between French and Yemeni government. The project is implemented and supervised by the GDAR (General Directorate of Animal Resources) of the (MAI) Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The general goal of PADZEY is to increase the income generated from livestock production of small farmers in the project areas (Benzhaf, 2006).

The PADZEY project is governed by Taiz governorate and Wadi Moor where the local extension agents in each governorate are working with local communities or farmers across the governorates. The PADZEY project works in ten districts in Taiz governorate: Maqbanah, Mawzae, Mokha, AL-Maafer, Jabal Habashi, Demnah Khadir, Hayfan, AL-Mawaset. Presently, only Taiz governorate is actively involved in this project.

The first component which is related to the improvement of animal production aims at increasing economical techniques used by small farmers through the reduction of the constraints and obstacles limiting the development of their livestock activities. These include (1) improving animal health of small farmers' livestock, (2) optimizing small farmers' animals fed through intensified integration of livestock and agriculture, (3) improving herd management of small farmers, and (4) improving sustainable management of open range resources (Benzhaf, 2006). These can be detailed as follows:

The objective of this component is to improve animal production for small farmers through the activities belowmentioned:

1. Providing continuous training and support for farmers in basic information about animal health care, hygiene, and appropriate animal husbandry techniques.
2. Vaccinating sheep and goat against PPR and sheep pox.
3. Developing a simple chaff cutter for cutting sorghum or other forage into small pieces to be given to the animals instead of large parts. This technique reduces fodder losses that are usually estimated between 30% and 50% of the fodder that is given to the animals every day.
4. Working to improve the conditions of animal barn which helps to improve health and fertility of the animals; hence, in turns, improve public health of the farmers.
5. Producing posters on animal management, animal health, nutrition and cheese making to be distributed to the farmers.

6. Introducing feeders to reduce animal fodder losses.
7. Training rural women in basic husbandry techniques such as the administration of drug to animals and providing animals with drugs at a cheaper rate through the use of DRF (Drug Revolving Fund).
8. Training rural women farmers about animal management and feeding which was done in extension meetings and workshops.
9. Providing normal or emergency treatment for animals and preventive measures for animals that were suffering from mineral and vitamin deficiencies, bloating enteritis, diarrhea, mastitis, ecthyma ando & ecto parasites and respiratory diseases.
10. Introducing concentrated feed to show farmers its benefit for their animals such as gaining weight and increasing daily milk production.
11. Distributing tools such as cheese box, feeders, chaff cutter, drencher, castrator, and test tray for mastitis to the farmers.
12. Providing hoof trimming and castration service.

The second component related to the improvement of food processing and marketing of animal-products aims at increasing the added value of small farmers' animal products. These include (1) improving cheese processing and marketing in Taiz area, and (2) improving profitability of sheep fattening (Benzhaf, 2006). This component can be detailed as follows:

The objective of this component is to improve food processing for dairy and marketing via the following activities:

1. Training female farmers in rennet making in a healthy way for making cheese.
2. Training the female leaders (Training of Trainers) in making yogurt so that they could train other women in their localities.
3. Training the rural women in making the healthy cheese in a more productive manner to increase monthly income.
4. Distributing cheese boxes to the beneficiaries to keep the cheese clean and away from flies.

The PADZEY project aims at achieving this goal by supporting sustainable improvements in rural animal production and market expansion. The PADZEY activities assist the farmers in introducing feeding of concentrated feeds by the use of animal feeders and drinkers, and new techniques on animal management and nutrition; coordinating with the agriculture offices in treating animals against endoparasites and ectoparasites and vaccinating animals against common diseases; introducing drought resistant forage and improving animal breeds; training in basic animal health, particularly for women, as they are the main providers of animal care in the Republic of Yemen; introducing cheese box technique to reduce the exposure and contamination of local-made cheese; and converting milk into cheese, yogurt and curd for home and market consumption.

The target population of the PADZEY project is all small farmers inclusive of men and women (Benzhaf, 2006). In this study, participation in PADZEY project is



focused on rural women because they are mainly responsible for livestock production and cheese production.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Rural development projects contribute to the reduction of poverty by increasing the income of household. This can be done through improving the production activities of the peasants (rural people). Most of these projects try to increase the participation of rural women because they are considered as the main engine in the development of rural area in the Republic of Yemen (Ganokendras, 2006).

The very significant factor of any successful rural development projects is participation because active participation is aimed at increasing the income generated from agricultural production of small farmers (Soheir, 1996). Moreover, active participation coupled with the improvement in knowledge and skills could help them in managing their problems to overcome problems that hinder production. In order to bring improvement to these farmers, they need to be involved in program formulation, implementation, and possibly evaluation (Bahaman, 1992). According to Bahaman, participation is important to obtain information about local conditions, need, and attitudes, without which development programs and projects are likely to fail. Besides, people are more likely to be committed to a development program if they are involved in its planning and preparation. In most countries, participation is considered a basic principle, that people should be involved in their own development efforts.