

MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY ROHTAK
Department of Economics

No. Eco/16/.....

Dated

To

Head/Director
Department of
M.D. University, Rohtak

Sub: Students' workshop on "Gender and Food Security: Current Issues and Concerns" on 23rd November, 2016.

Sir/Madam

It is for your kind information that the Department of Economics is organizing one day students' workshop on "Gender and Food Security: Current Issues and Concerns" on 23rd November, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Kautilaya Hall, New Arts Building, M.D. University, Rohtak. You are kindly requested to circulate it among the bonafide students of your department. Further it is also requested that the students may be motivated and encouraged to participate in the workshop. A copy of the brochure containing details of the workshop along with the registration form is enclosed.

Dr. Anita Dagar
(Convener)

Dr. Shobha Chaudhary
(Co-convener)

Prof. Santosh Nandal
(HOD)

Encl:

1. Brochure
2. Registration Form

GENDER AND FOOD SECURITY: CURRENT ISSUES AND CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION

Food security is the basis for social, political, and economic development. Food is a basic human entitlement and no effort to educate, employ, empower or govern can be sustained in the absence of sufficient availability of food. A recent report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that approximately 925 million people in the world are undernourished (FAO, 2010). Women around the world are extensively involved in all aspects related to food security. However, due to socially-constructed gender inequalities ingrained in the society, they are usually the first ones to sacrifice and the last to benefit. Work done by women is often statistically invisible and therefore unseen by policy makers. It is therefore, extremely important to make the gendered aspects of food security visible in order to make development projects successful.

DEFINITION OF FOOD SECURITY

The definition of food security has evolved over time. Early definitions of food security focused on the availability of food at the national level (Athreya et al., 2008). Over time, other factors have been added to this basic understanding which include the ability of households to access the food available, the amount of food consumed by an individual, intra-household distribution of food, and nutritional quality of food. The most recent addition has been sustainability (ibid). Currently, the widely-cited standard definition of food security, as adopted by the FAO in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security in 1996 is the condition that *“exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious foods to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”*

Food security is traditionally conceptualized as having only three dimensions: availability of food, access to food, and utilization or consumption of food (Dietchel et al., 2010). The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project (FANTA-II), funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), succinctly elaborates on these three dimensions of food security:

“Food availability is derived from domestic agricultural output and net food imports at the national level. Food access is the ability of a household to acquire sufficient quality and quantity of food to meet all household members’ nutritional requirements for productive lives.

Food utilization/consumption is determined by how much a person eats and how well a person converts food to nutrients, all of which affect proper biological use of food, nutritional status and growth.” (Dietchel et al., 2010)

GENDER AND FOOD SECURITY

Women are inextricably linked to the issue of food security, both through supply-side linkages as food producers and through demand-side linkages as food consumers. Women are guarantors of food security at the household- and societal-level.

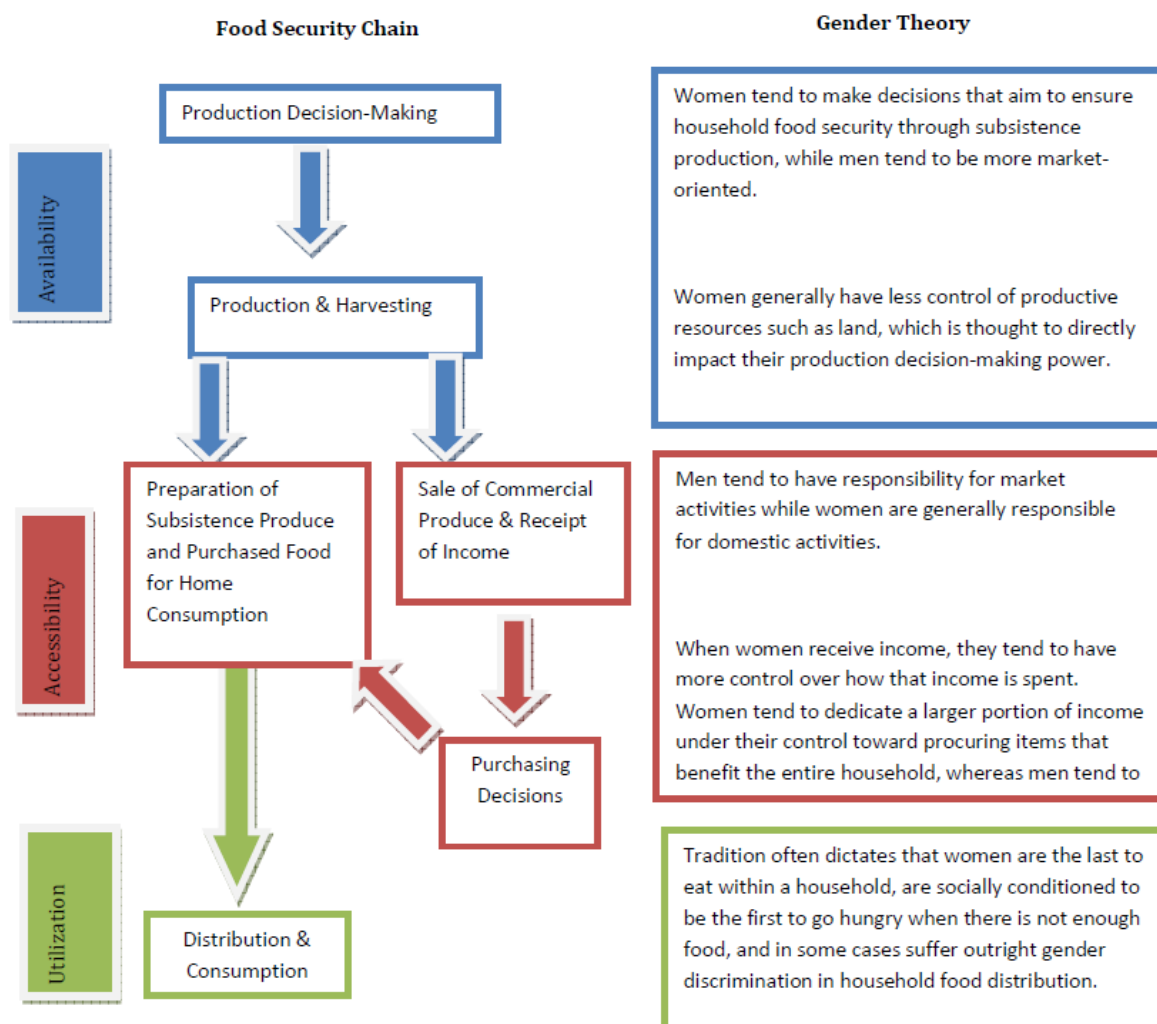
Gender inequality manifests itself as a discriminating ground in several ways along the food security chain. In their gendered roles as primary providers and processors of families' subsistence, the importance of labour done by women in the fields and at home is difficult to overstate. As increasing number of men in the rural areas migrate to urban locales or take up wage labour, agricultural responsibilities progressively fall on the shoulders of women. This phenomenon has been termed the “**feminization**” of agriculture. Several studies have confirmed that when unpaid labour is factored into the equation, women work longer hours than men, both in general terms and in terms of food production and preparation. However, in areas where gender roles prescribe work inside the home for women and work outside the home for men (known as the public-private divide), women's labour is generally considered a mere extension of their domestic chores (Kabeer, 2003). This attitude, combined with widespread gender inequality, sustains an unequal balance of power in gender relations that perpetuates systems in which women's contribution to food security is not valued, is unacknowledged, and continues to be hidden as subsistence agricultural activities do not reach the formal markets. Due to this gender inequality that exists in several regions of the world, a cruel irony exists. Women are the first to go hungry when there is not enough food.

Cultural norms that place women in a subordinate status may require that women are the last to eat in a household and may condition them to sacrifice food for men based on ideas of gender superiority.

The discrimination on the basis of gender enforces unequal, conditioned gender roles, perpetuating gender inequality and creating a vicious cycle that sustains food systems in which women put in much more than they get out of it. Women face discrimination in accessing land, income, credit and extension services (Krishnaraj, 2005).

The following diagram (Figure-1) summarizes the linkages between gender and food security.

Figure 1: Theoretical Linkages between Gender and Food Security



SUB THEMES

- Right to Food, Gender Equality and Economic Policy
- Gender Equality and Food Security: Women's Empowerment as a Tool against Hunger
- State of Food Insecurity in Rural India
- Rural Women and Food Security: Prospects and Paradoxes
- Food Security: How and for Whom?

- Role of Women in Providing and Improving Household Food Security: Implications for Reducing Hunger and Malnutrition.
- Impact of Food and Economic Crisis on Women
- Gender and Food –Prices Crisis
- Gender and Urban Agriculture: Emerging Trends
- Gender, Food Security and Land Rights

D. Eligibility of Students:

Bonafide P.G. Students, M.Phil. students and Research Scholars of M.D. University, Rohtak.

Last date of submission of Registration Form is 18 November, 2016. The Registration Form can be forwarded to Email ID:- hod.economics@mdurohtak.ac.in , anitadagar.2010@gmail.com, dahiyashobha12@yahoo.co.in

Workshop
On
Gender and Food Security: Current Issues and Concerns
(November 23, 2016)

Registration Form

Name:-

Father's Name:-

Class:-

Roll No./ Regd. No.

Department:-

Contact Details:- Mobile No.

Email Id-

Date:-

Signature of Candidate