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"Women, rural environment and entrepreneurship"

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Abstract

The work raises the question about the employability of women to achieve an output to situations of violence and social exclusion generally do not consider any of the characteristics of rural areas. At least we can talk about three social problems that must be addressed from a gender perspective: rural exodus and consequently, depopulation, masculinization and aging.

Law 45 /2007 for the Sustainable Development of Rural tried to recognize the importance of rural development in the country and address the lack of economic opportunities that have favored the depopulation and marginality. However, except in regard to equal treatment between men and women, did not provide specific mechanisms for women.

The proposed work is to analyze the socio-economic situation of women in rural municipalities in Spanish now and, from initial diagnosis, try to make proposals for improving employability and economic conditions of women through entrepreneurship in certain activities and sectors.

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Keywords: "Female, social exclusion, labor market, entrepreneurship"

1. Introduction

The social exclusion of women in the rural areas is not a current phenomenon. Rural areas suffer from specific problems that must be taken into account in order to understand the real dimension of the phenomenon: the depopulation due to rural exodus during the second half of the last century has led to a large dispersion of the population, which has hampered access to basic services; the population ageing creates new social needs which are ignored due to the lack of social services and economic and human resources; a clear masculinization of the rural

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environment, up until the age of 65 the proportion of men exceeds that of women by approximately 7 percentage points (around 53.5% are men compared to 46.5% women) and the difference is particularly significant in the age range of 40 to 59. This phenomenon has been decisively influenced by the primary sector's loss of economic weight, which has forced a displacement of women to urban areas in the hope of a better labor market integration. Other issues that make social exclusion clearly visible are the lack of infrastructure and equipment and the insufficient or non-existent social services. Women's position in the labor market is closely related to the aspects mentioned above since they are mostly destined to household tasks, education or transport, but it is also linked with the lack of or disappearance of labor integration agencies enabled for organizing training and job placement workshops -Millán. (2002)-.

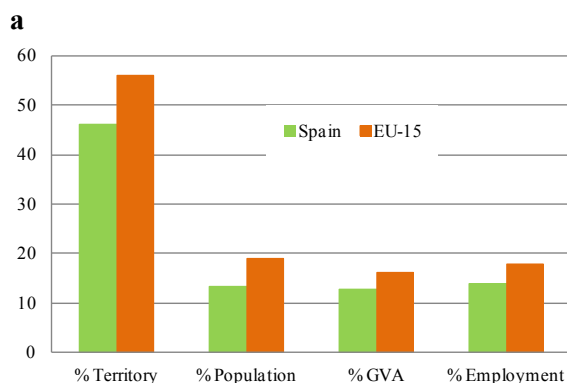
Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment Law 45/2007 sought to recognize the importance that the rural environment plays in the country's development and make up for the lack of economic opportunities that have favored depopulation and marginality. However, except for the points referring to the equal treatment between men and women, it did not establish any specific mechanisms for women.

This paper attempts to explain the socio-economic situation of women in the Spanish rural municipalities and based on the initial analysis, aims at making proposals for employability and improvement of women's economic conditions, encouraging entrepreneurial orientation in certain sectors and activities.

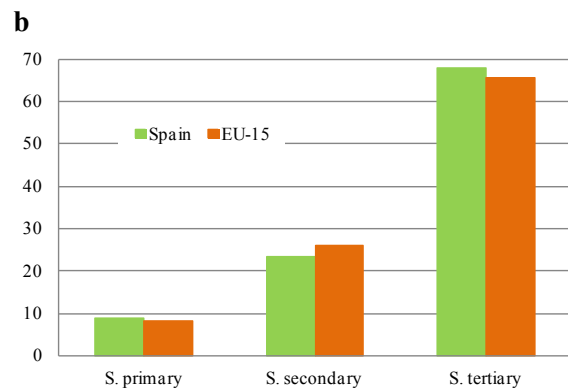
2. Quantifying the size of the rural environment

The socio-economic analysis of the life in the rural environment presents two major problems: the limited availability of data, only recent statistics are available from the division of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission, and the actual definition of rural environment that has different meanings depending on the agency that defines it – Brezzi, Dijkstra and Ruiz (2011)-. In our case we will take into account the classification established by the European Union and the Sustainable Development of Rural Areas Law 45/2007, where the following definitions are set up in article 3:

- Rural Areas: the geographical space formed by aggregating municipalities or minor local entities defined by the competent authorities, with a population inferior to 30,000 inhabitants and a density of less than 100 inhabitants per km².
- Rural Area: area of applicability of measures derived from the Program of Sustainable Rural Development regulated by this law, with a regional or sub-provincial range, delimited and qualified by the competent autonomous region.
- Small size rural municipality: with a resident population of less than 5,000 inhabitants and integrated in the rural environment.



Source: European Commission



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