

# Analysis of the Mechanism of the Role, Willingness and Influencing Factors of Rural Women Left Behind to Participate in Rural Revitalization

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**Abstract:** With the rapid development of urban-rural integration, the population in rural areas has decreased significantly, and the role of rural women in rural revitalization strategy has become more prominent. Based on the analysis of the mechanism of rural women's participation in rural revitalization, this paper further explores their willingness to participate and the constraints. Taking some areas in Shizuishan City, Ningxia Province, as an example, the data were collected by questionnaires and field surveys. A Probit regression model was used to empirically analyze the willingness and factors influencing rural women left behind to participate in rural revitalization. The study results showed that the regression coefficients of factors such as political outlook, health status and knowledge of rural revitalization strategy were positive and positively influenced the willingness of rural women left behind to participate in rural revitalization. Based on this, the countermeasure suggestions that rural left-behind women should change traditional concepts, strengthen the awareness of independent subjects and improve comprehensive quality, to enhance the power of rural left-behind women to promote rural revitalization, consolidate the foundation of rural women left behind to help revitalize the countryside.


## 1 INTRODUCTION

The implementation of the rural revitalization strategy is a major strategic plan made by the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core of the overall situation of the Party and the state, focusing on the realization of the "two hundred years" goal and the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, which is a requirement to meet the expectations of hundreds of millions of people for a better life and to solve the major social contradictions in the new era and is an essential embodiment of people-centeredness. The Opinions on the Implementation of "Women's Action for Rural Revitalization" issued by the All-China Women's Federation in 2018 pointed out that "women are an important force in promoting the modernization of agriculture and rural areas, and are the enjoyers and beneficiaries of rural revitalization, as well as the promoters and builders." This document provides the

basis and direction for rural women to participate in rural revitalization. According to the relevant data, rural women have exceeded half of the total rural population. In the context of the rural revitalization strategy, rural women are rooted in the countryside and have accumulated rich planting experience and life experience. Therefore, they are more capable of participating in rural revitalization than other left-behind groups in rural areas. More importantly, the unique advantages of women also play an essential role in improving the level of rural construction.

Rapid urbanization has also accelerated the transfer of rural male labor to the cities, leaving rural women to care for the elderly and children (Tang, Luo 2019). This has prompted rural women to become the main force of family production and life. The work shared initially by husband and wife has all put on the shoulders of rural women alone, who are not only responsible for caring for the elderly and educating their children but also burdened with heavy

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agricultural production activities, which makes them face the heavier burden of care, marital crisis, and disease (Wang, Ye 2020). A search of the literature search platform shows that there have been thousands of articles on the rural revitalization strategy in recent years but very few on the role of rural women in rural revitalization. (Hai 2019) pointed out that rural women's gender advantages play a unique role in rural regeneration. (Xiao 2020) took a western stay-at-home village as an example to study the implementation of a rural revitalization strategy, which should provide a platform and opportunities for rural women to show. (Zhang, Dong 2019, Ye 2021) analyzed the dilemmas faced by rural women's participation in rural revitalization and explored the path to discover its realization. Based on the existing studies, the author believes that paying attention to rural women and solving the real difficulties they face so that they can have the energy to actively participate in rural construction has become an important issue to be solved for the successful implementation of the rural revitalization strategy.

## 2 THE MECHANISM OF RURAL WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN RURAL REVITALIZATION

Domestic scholars have reached a consensus on the elaboration of the concept of rural left-behind women, generally referring to rural married women whose husbands are engaged in work, business or other production and business activities outside the country and whose husbands have been away for more than half a year (Zhu 2008). According to statistics from the All-China Women's Federation, Chinese women, who account for more than 60 percent of the rural labor force, have become the main force in new rural construction and rural revitalization and cannot be ignored in deepening the rural revitalization strategy. General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that women are essential in promoting social development and progress (Xiao 2019). In the real-time process of rural revitalization strategy, rural left-behind women have advantages that other left-behind groups do not have. Their role is vital in improving the construction level of rural revitalization. Exploring the mechanism of the part of rural left-behind women's participation in rural

revitalization strategy will help enrich the rural theory of rural revitalization strategy will be enhanced.

First, rural women are the foundation of industrial prosperity. Survey data show that rural women have significantly improved their technical skills (Table 1), with about 50% of rural women already knowing "at least two planting or breeding techniques" in addition, the increase of new self-media and other Internet means has further expanded the path of income generation for rural women left behind. Second, rural women play an important role in ecological accommodation. Survey data show that due to the advantage of women's environmental awareness, they are bound to actively participate in household hygiene, waste treatment and toilet reform in rural areas, which to a certain extent, lays the foundation for rural women's participation in rural environmental governance (Qi 2019). Thirdly, rural women are the promoters of rural-style civilization. In the context of implementing the rural revitalization strategy, rural women, facing the new task of helping rural development, gradually have an awareness of accepting new knowledge and actively improving their comprehensive quality (Yan 2018), so rural women are not only an important force in rural construction, but also the promoters of rural style civilization, and only by continuously learning and improving their comprehensive quality can they play a role in driving the civilization of the whole family and the countryside. Fourth, rural women are practical and active participants in governance. Relevant data from the China Women's Development Program (2011-2020) show that the proportion of women among village committee directors and the balance of women among village committee members is rising (Shui, Liu 2020). Although their participation is still low, women's awareness of village governance is gradually increasing, which is an essential part of rural revitalization. Fifth, the affluence of rural women is a prerequisite for a prosperous life. Rural women left behind are the main constituents of the rural poor and a vital force for poverty eradication (Cheng 2019). To achieve women's affluence, the community should provide precise poverty eradication for rural women and provide support and assistance in terms of health, culture, and political participation to give full play to rural women left behind to help the rural revitalization strategy.

Table 1: Survey of the technical skills acquired by rural women.

Type	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Master only one farming or cultivation technique	33	16.5
Master at least two farming or planting techniques	100	50
Master three or more breeding or planting techniques	46	23
There is no farming or cultivation technology	21	10.5
Total	200	100

Data source: Questionnaire

### 3 ANALYSIS OF RURAL WOMEN'S WILLINGNESS AND CONSTRAINTS TO PARTICIPATE IN RURAL REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES

#### 3.1 Analysis of the Willingness of Rural Women to Participate in Rural Revitalization Strategies

Rural women in some areas of Shizuishan City, Ningxia Province, were selected as study subjects. Through questionnaires and interviews (Table 2), a comprehensive understanding of rural women's

willingness to participate in rural revitalization was obtained through questions such as whether they actively participate in village elections, whether they are willing to participate in rural governance affairs, and whether they actively participate in the activities of women's federations. According to the survey, 37.5% of the respondents indicated that they actively participated in the village elections. In comparison, nearly 60% of the respondents who did not participate in the village elections stated that they were "willing to participate in the affairs of rural governance." Meanwhile, "actively participating in activities organized by women's federations is also important to promote rural women's participation in rural revitalization." 45.5% of the respondents said they would actively participate in the activities organized by women's federations.

Table 2: Descriptive analysis of rural women's willingness to participate in rural revitalization.

Variable	Options	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Actively participate in village elections	Very much in line	7	3.5
	Relatively compliant	41	34
	Uncertainty	25	25
	Relative inconformity	57	57
	Very non-conforming	43	43
Willing to participate in the countryside Govern the transaction	Very much in line	7	3.5
	Relatively compliant	41	20.5
	Uncertainty	81	40.5
	Relative inconformity	41	20.5
	Very non-conforming	30	15
Actively participate in activities organized by the Women's Federation	Very much in line	6	3
	Relatively compliant	91	45.5
	Uncertainty	12	12
	Relative inconformity	73	36.5
	Very non-conforming	18	9

Data source: Questionnaire

### 3.2 Analysis of Constraints to Rural Women's Participation in Rural Revitalization Strategies

This study identified using a Probit regression model for validation, supported by the existing theoretical foundation. A Probit regression analysis was conducted using stata15.0 on various factors for 200 rural women to explore and analyze the influence of rural women's age, educational level, political appearance, and health status on their willingness to participate. The model was set as follows:

$$Y^* = c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n + \varepsilon, \varepsilon \sim N(0,1) \quad (1)$$

Where y is the dependent variable, which in this paper indicates rural women's willingness to participate in the rural revitalization and takes the value of 0 or 1, n indicates the number of influencing factors;  $x_n$  is the independent variable, which indicates the nth influencing factor;  $c_1, c_2 \dots c_n$  are the coefficients of the independent variables  $x_1, x_2 \dots x_n$ ;  $\varepsilon$  is the random error.

#### 3.2.1 Selection and Specific Setting of Variables

Table 3: The specific definition of variables.

The variable name	Variable meaning and specific settings
Dependent variable	
Whether they are willing to participate in rural revitalization	Yes=1, No=0
Independent variables	
Age	20-29 years old = 1, 30-39 years old = 2, 40-49 years old = 3, 50-59 years old = 4
Literacy	Illiterate or literate = 1, elementary school = 2, middle school = 3, high school (including junior college) = 4, college and above = 5
The political landscape	Crowd = 1, Party members = 2
Stay-behind time	5 years and below = 1, 6-10 years = 2, 11-14 years = 3, 15 years and above = 4
Health status	Not very good=1, fair=2, better=3, very good=4

Income level	Less than 10,000 yuan = 1, 10,000 yuan to 30,000 yuan = 2, 30,000 yuan to 50,000 yuan = 3, 50,000 yuan or more = 4
Whether you know about rural revitalization	Yes=1, No=0
Actively participate in village elections	Very unconforming = 1, Comparatively unconforming = 2, Uncertain = 3, Comparatively conforming = 4, Very conforming = 5
Actively participate in training activities organized by the Women's Federation	Very unconforming = 1, Comparatively unconforming = 2, Uncertain = 3, Comparatively conforming = 4, Very conforming = 5
Local developments are clearly changing	Very unconforming = 1, Comparatively unconforming = 2, Uncertain = 3, Comparatively conforming = 4, Very conforming = 5

Data source: Questionnaire

#### 3.2.2 Probit Model Regression Results and Analysis

The regression results of the binary Probit model and its analysis were analyzed by orderly Probit regression of the factors influencing rural women's willingness to participate in rural revitalization through stata15 statistical software. The variables were introduced into the model for correlation tests, and the regression results were differentiated for the analysis, and the results are shown in Table 4:

Table 4: Regression analysis of influencing factors of rural women's participation in rural revitalization.

Variable	Regression coefficient	Standard error	Z value	P value	A confidence space with a regression	
Age	-0.244	0.325	-0.750	0.454	-0.882	0.394
Literacy	-0.253	0.127	-2.000	0.046**	-0.502	-0.005
The political landscape	1.276	0.763	1.670	0.094*	-0.219	2.771
Stay-behind time	0.348	0.342	1.020	0.310	-0.324	1.020
Health status	0.550	0.216	2.550	0.011**	0.128	0.973
Income level	-0.011	0.296	-0.040	0.969	-0.591	0.569
Whether you know about rural revitalization	0.875	0.359	2.43	0.015**	0.170	1.579
Actively participate in village elections	0.401	0.146	2.750	0.006***	0.115	0.687
Actively participate in training activities organized by the Women's Federation	0.291	0.146	1.990	0.047**	0.004	0.578
Local developments are clearly changing	0.246	0.182	1.35	0.178	-0.112	0.603

The results showed that among the many independent variables, education level, political outlook, health status, whether or not to understand the rural revitalization strategy, concern for public affairs and whether or not to actively participate in the activities of women's federations passed the significance test and had a statistically significant effect on rural women's willingness to participate in rural revitalization.

The regression coefficients of political outlook, health status, whether they know the rural revitalization strategy, their concern about public affairs and whether they actively participate in the activities organized by women's federations are positive, which positively influence rural women's willingness to participate in rural revitalization. The culture level variable has a significant adverse effect at the 5% level, which may be attributed to the hollowing out of rural areas and aging.

## 4 COUNTERMEASURES AND SUGGESTIONS TO HELP RURAL WOMEN PLAY A ROLE IN RURAL REVITALIZATION

### 4.1 Actively Improve Their Comprehensive Quality and Enhance Their Ability to Participate in Rural Revitalization

First, we should strengthen ideological leadership and raise the independent subject awareness of rural women. The government conducts propaganda and

education through lectures and other forms to cultivate and enhance their understanding of participating in rural governance and raise the awareness of the main body. Second, we should increase education and training to improve the cultural level of rural women. Targeted teaching and training, good teaching content and appropriate teaching methods are formulated to enhance the enthusiasm and initiative of rural women's participation so that they can better participate in rural revitalization. Third, pay attention to rural women's health while providing mental health services. Pay further attention to rural women's physical and mental health problems, continuously reduce the gap between urban and rural medical levels, and promote the continuous improvement of rural women's health, which fundamentally changes health behaviors by influencing rural women's health concepts, thus health behaviors.

### 4.2 Improve Relevant Policies to Ensure Rural Women's Participation in Rural Governance

First, the establishment of relevant policies to protect the rights of rural women. On the one hand, it is necessary to establish relevant systems to guarantee the rights of rural women in terms of policies and regulations, and on the other hand, in terms of social security, to strengthen the construction of systems and the government's capacity to guarantee management, to improve the rural social security policy system, especially in terms of medical security, to enhance the social security of rural women left behind, and at the same time, to fully consider the current situation and the interests of rural

women's needs, and to strive to solve the worries of rural women. The second is to strengthen the leadership of women's federations. Second, strengthen the leadership of women's federations. On the one hand, strengthen the construction of women's federation organizations; on the other hand, improve the overall quality level of women's federation organizations. The government should regularly conduct some training and education lectures at the same time, attract rural women with high education levels and comprehensive ability to join women's federation organizations to mobilize the enthusiasm and initiative of rural women and make them play the leading role in rural revitalization.

### 4.3 Strengthen the Construction of Organizations Themselves and Establish a Rural Social Service System

First, the construction of social service facilities in rural areas should be strengthened. Problems such as the loss of a young and robust rural labor force and aging have, to some extent, highlighted the importance of the rural women left behind. Small libraries, elderly support centers and trusteeship centers should be established (Zhang, Zhou et al. 2021) to liberate rural women's labor force further and give rural women more energy and time to participate in social activities. The second is to improve rural social security and enhance rural women's sense of security. Creating good social security in rural areas, on the other hand, is the prerequisite foundation for rural women's participation in rural revitalization: firstly, legal literacy through publicity, education, and training to enhance rural women's legal awareness; secondly, supporting legal aid to improve the rule of law in rural governance; and finally, strengthening the construction of grassroots rule of law teams to enable rural women to receive the most effective guidance.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out that women are essential in promoting social development and progress. In the context of rural revitalization strategy, the value of women in rural revitalization strategy should be effectively brought into play, and rural women left at home should become the promoters and implementers of rural revitalization strategy. Although rural women left at home

encounter many problems in rural revitalization, rural women left at home, as the prominent participants in implementing the rural revitalization strategy, play a significant role in the construction of the countryside. Therefore, to better enable rural women left behind to participate in rural revitalization, we need to take some practical measures, such as strengthening ideological leadership, raising the awareness of rural women as independent subjects, improving relevant policies to ensure rural women's participation in rural governance, improving the construction of organizations and building a complete rural social service system, etc., increasing the enthusiasm of rural women left behind to participate in rural revitalization strategy and help the development of rural revitalization.

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