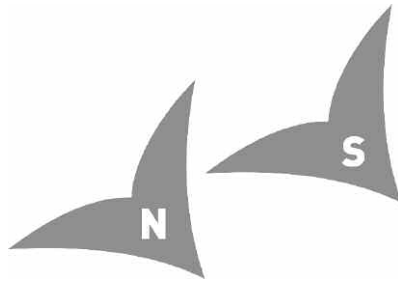


Extended abstract

Methodical proposal to value the integration of women in the rural medium. Aragón essay (Spain)



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Highlights:

1. Methodological proposal to learn about the socio-economic reality of women in rural area (VIMUR).
2. A pilot study to validate the methodology and his potential for decision-making processes.
3. The participatory process allows us to incorporate the gender perspective into territorial governance.
4. Workshops are structured by fundamental themes for the integration of women in rural areas.
5. Composition of qualitative information into an indicator (VIMUR), an integration measuring tool.

Abstract: This paper deals with the proposal of a new qualitative methodology, and the creation of a new territorial analysis tool, to assess the integration of women in the rural world (VIMUR). Lack of statistical information and visibility, has driven us to develop an index that allows valuing the participation of women in the primary sector, their employment, their identity, co-responsibility and governance, through the involvement and cooperation of those women.

In this paper we test the operability of both the methodology and the index, through a field work focused in a number of towns, representative of different realities in the rural medium from Aragon. The results show that a methodology based in surveys and interviews in open meetings, and the proposed index, are suitable to appreciate women's incorporation to the rural environment, and to develop proposals to improve the quality of life in the territory.

Therefore, we consider the development of a working methodology that reinforces the processes of local participation relevant, and that it can lead a territorial and social higher coherence to the different regulations and programs that deal with the rural world.

Keywords: Integration methodology, woman, rural, Aragon (Spain).

Extended summary

This paper addresses the proposal for a qualitative methodology and the construction of a territorial analysis tool to assess the integration of women into rural areas. The lack of statistical information and visibility suffered has led us to the development of an index that allows us to assess the participation of women in agricultural activities, employment and entrepreneurship, identity, co-responsibility and governance, through the intervention and cooperation of women themselves.

The objective is twofold: on the one hand, to propose a working methodology for the construction of our territorial analysis tool; a synthetic index that allows us to know and assess the situation of women in the rural environment, which can be replicable in any territory, at the local level, in order to compare the situation among several places or to track the evolution of the situation over time. To obtain qualitative information, we have opted for two widely used techniques: conducting surveys and, to complete them, semi-structured interviews.

On the other hand, we plan to carry out a pilot test in the Autonomous Community of Aragon. To do this, we chose 3 territories as case studies, in the Shire of Jacetania (Ansó), as a Pyrenean mountain area; in Maestrazgo (Castellote), as part of the Iberian System, and in the region of Valdejalón (Ricla), in the area near Zaragoza, all of them belonging to Aragon. We chose these three municipalities because of their different socioeconomic characteristics and their different rural typology within the Aragonese territory.

The ultimate purpose of this methodological proposal goes beyond knowing the needs, concerns and satisfaction of rural women, being to use this information to make proposals to improve the quality of life of rural women and therefore of rural women territories as a whole (Hernández and ot. 2019).

Despite the progress made by some institutions and agencies, which provide statistical information, it is still difficult to know the living conditions of women in rural areas and, above all, it is not easy to carry out local studies. Not enough statistical data are available disaggregated by sex, age, educational level or municipality.

Official statistics are necessary as they are an important information tool that makes the intensity of inequality between men and women relevant; provide answers

to specific problems affecting men and women differently; provide estimates of the contribution of men and women in specific sectors, making many of rural women's tasks more vocal without their recognition, and help identify the underlying causes that may be affecting rural women's gender equality, allowing action to be taken to promote the necessary changes.

If quantitative information is insufficient, qualitative information is no less so. Gender studies conducted from Geography and other social sciences necessarily resort to obtaining their own qualitative information (García Sanz, 2004; Alario y ot, 2008; Cassals and ot, 2013; Porto y ot., 2015; Alario y Morales, 2016; Tulla and ot, 2018; Baylina and ot. 2019) for two main reasons: firstly because statistical information is insufficient, as we have just said; and secondly because if we want the conclusions of the studies to be final, it is necessary to give the voice to the protagonists, that is to, rural women, understanding as such those who live in the rural environment, since there are many models of women living rural area (Hervás, 2015).

To obtain qualitative information we have opted for two widely used techniques: conducting surveys and, to complete them, semi-structured interviews

For the arrangement of the survey, we first identified and selected the study elements and indicators necessary for its definition. These elements are relevant objectives, strategies and work areas found in the documentary review on gender equality in the rural world, contained in both the national and regional regulations, plans, programmes and measures consulted. Other indicators that are considered relevant to the situation of rural women have been added.

Six elements of analysis have been defined: incorporation of women into agriculture and livestock; Employment and entrepreneurship opportunities; Conciliation and co-responsibility promotion; Women's participation in the rural environment; Identity with the rural environment and Governance. An index called Evaluation of the Integration of Women in Rural World (VIMUR) has been designed with them.

This VIMUR is a synthetic index composed of the combination of several elements of analysis and its indicators, and which aims last to measure the territorial and human development impact of women's integration plans, programmes and measures in the rural world, through the perception of its own protagonists, that is, rural women.

However, not all the elements that make it up must have the same weight in its calculation. Our starting hypothesis was to estimate that employment and job placement could be the key element for women's best living conditions.

To assign the weighting values of each element of VIMUR, we have chosen the *experts working group* technique according to the *Delphi* method, assigning the highest value to employment opportunities, followed by work/life balance and ties with the rural environment. Primary sector was considered the least value.

Weighting values of VIMUR elements

Elements	W
lagp= Incorporation of women into agriculture, livestock and fisheries	0,05 (wiagp)
loee= Insertion into employment and entrepreneurship opportunities	0,3 (wioee)
Pcc= Promoting conciliation and co-responsibility	0,2 (wpcc)
Pmzr= Women's participation in rural areas	0,125 (wpmzr)
Imr = Identity of women with rural environment	0,2 (wimr)
Gob = Governance	0,125 (wgob)
$\sum w = 1$	

The mathematical expression of the Integrated Valuation of the Inclusion of Women in the Rural World is as follows:

$$\text{VIMUR} = \left[(Iagp \times wiagp) + (Ioee \times wioee) + (Pcc \times wpcc) + (Pmzr \times wpmzr) + (Imr \times wimr) + (Gob \times wgob) \right]$$

The results are as follows

Indicator	w	indicator value	
Incorporation of women into agriculture, livestock and fisheries (IAGP)	0,05	1,85P	oor
Insertion into employment and entrepreneurship opportunities (IOEE)	0,3	2,14	Improved
Promoting conciliation and co-responsibility (PCC)	0,2	2,23	Improved
Women's participation in rural areas (PMZR)	0,125	2,19	Improved
Identity of women with rural environment (IMZR)	0,2	3,66	Good
Governance(Gob)	0,125	1,80	Poor
VIMUR		2.42	Mejorable

The results have noticed that this working methodology is a good way to engage rural women and to include and make visible their perception, opinion and proposals in territorial planning processes.

One of the key aspects is the difference in the results obtained depending on the rural type. In this sense, a priori, the importance of entrepreneurship will not be the same for rural women in the Ebro Valley, where employed work will be the key element, than for women in the Pyrenees and the Iberian System, where entrepreneurship is a need to remain in the villages. In general, infrastructure, services and equipment are one of the most claimed aspects. It seems more urgent than ever to bet on the polycentric systems of rural areas in order to shielden them.

We get another set of key ideas and insights such as the need to further enhance women's employability in new activities, for which a capital aspect is improving internet access. Also the need for greater support by institutions to be able to embark on vital entrepreneurship projects and even small businesses, especially related to the agri-food and/or tertiary sector.

Finally, VIMUR is revealed as a very interesting territorial analysis tool to assess this integration of women into the rural world. It allows us to quantify the perception of rural women, which allows us to establish interterritorial, intergroup and intertemporal comparisons of great utility for the realization of multiple analyses. Not forgetting that this information is completed with that obtained through the open answers.

Therefore, we see how the methodology and the territorial analysis tool have great potential for the management of the territory and how this testing process serves to reorient and improve them for a second fieldwork process.

In short, through this working methodology it is possible to provide greater coherence and efficiency to the various regulations and programmes dealing with the rural environment, the guidelines for improving quality of life and the financial fund management programmes together with the actions and objectives of the different public administrations involved in the process.