

# Exploring Gender Dimension of Water: A Case Study of Mewat

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# Background

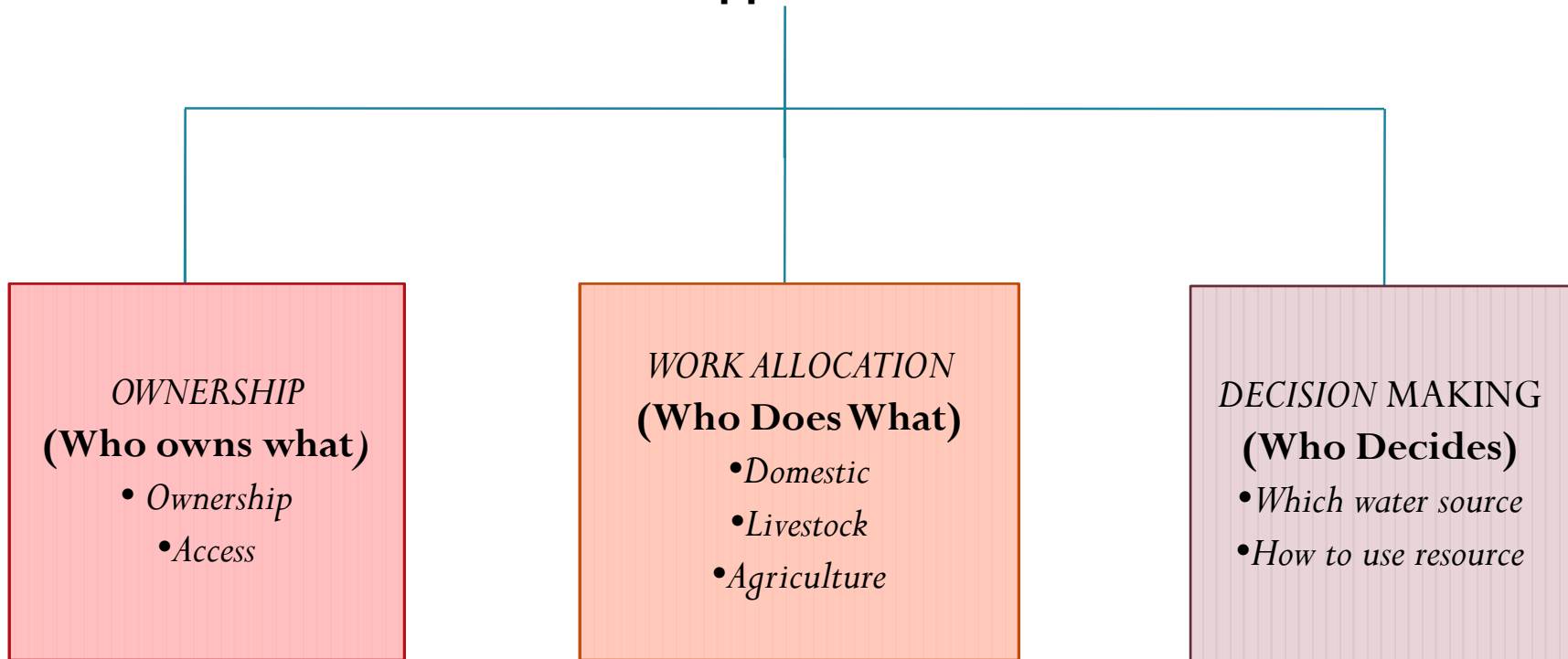
- Multiple uses of Water
  - Food and livelihood (agriculture, livestock)
  - People (drinking water, domestic use, hygiene and sanitation)
  - Environment (nature and wildlife)
- Men and women have different tasks, rights, and knowledge about water for different uses
- In the context of developing countries, women and water are closely inter-related as women are the main users of local water sources
- Women have a greater responsibility and suffer more than man from water scarcity

# Gender and Water

- Gender points to relation between men and women as a social construction through which they organize their work, rights, and responsibilities
- Gender approach to water means that all decisions regarding the design, management and use of water resources must take into account the needs of both men and women through an equitable approach.
- Gender differs across culture, time and place

# Framework

## Gender Approach to Water

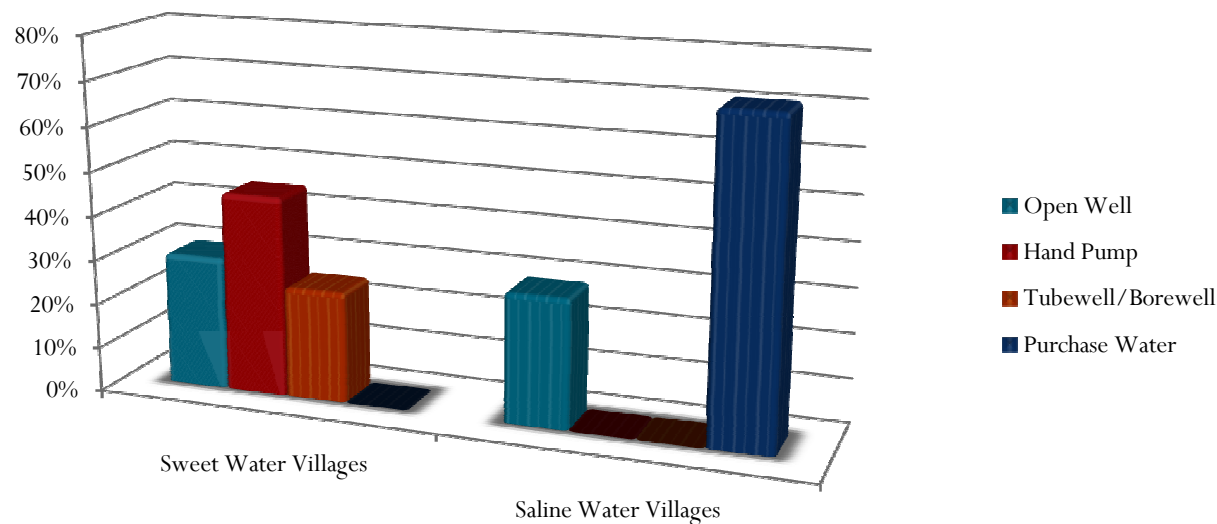


# Objectives and Methodology of the Study

- Objectives
  - Extent and nature of women participation in water related issues in Mewat district of Haryana
- Methodology
  - Sweet and Saline Villages
  - 180 respondents (90-male and 90-female)

# Water Sources and its cost

## Distribution of Water Sources



## Economics of Water

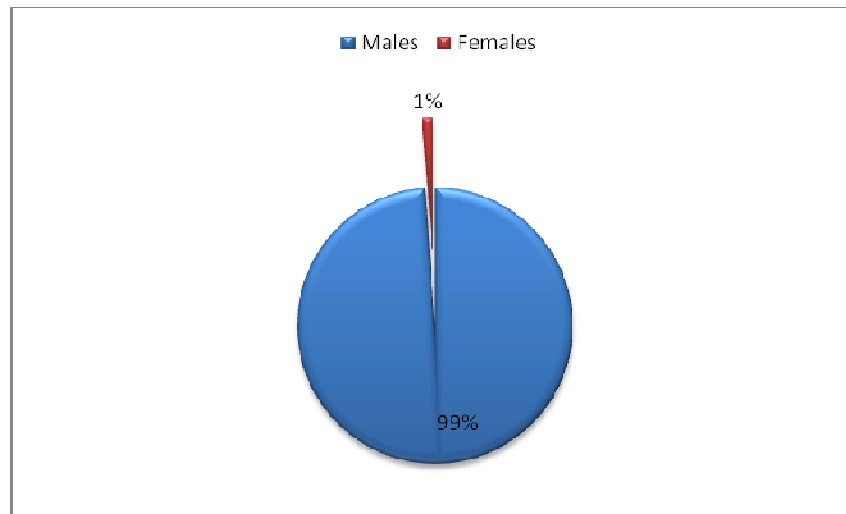
Aspect	
Annual Expenditure on purchasing water	Rs. 6476
Expenditure on Water as a proportion of total family expenditure	10 % – 18 %
Cost of Construction of Water source (Hand pump/Tubewell)	Rs 30,000-50,000

# Women Drudgery in Mewat

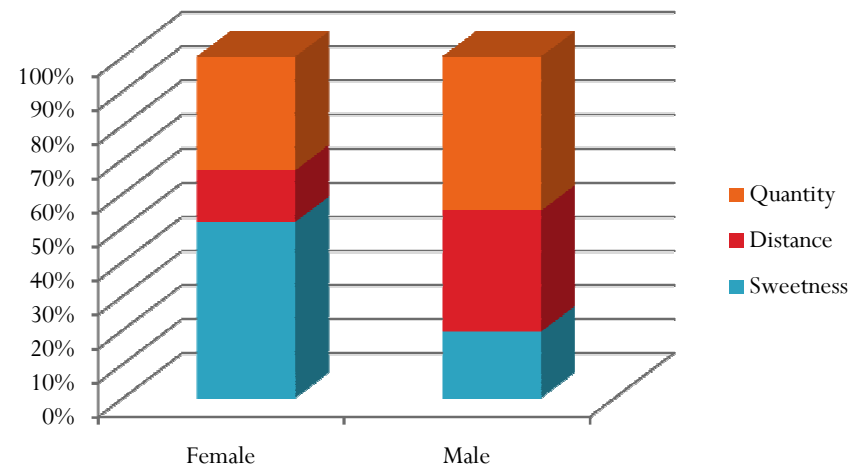
- 88% of the women above 6 years are involved in water fetching activities
- Women drudgery does not only depend on distance to water source but also on water supply, family size and number of women at home
- On an average, a women spends 2 to 5 hours per day on fetching water for domestic purposes
- No ownership of assets by women

# Women role in Water Activities

**Decision Making Powers related to choice of Water Source**



**Priorities in Choice of Water Source**



**Allocation of Water Related Tasks**

Involvement of	Sweet Water villages		Saline Water Villages	
	Drinking water	Livestock related tasks	Drinking water	Livestock related tasks
<b>Males</b>	1	5	1	16
<b>Females</b>	161	155	140	121



# Impact on Diseases and Education

## *Incidence of Water borne diseases*

	Sweet Water Villages	Saline Water Villages
Incidence of Water borne diseases*	5.8%	8.8%

\* Statistically significant at 0.05% level of confidence

- No direct link between drop-out among girls with their involvement in water-related activities, but link with rate of absenteeism : in 28% of the households, school going girl child are also involved in water-fetching activities that also takes place during school hours.

# Major Conclusions

- Women drudgery is massive as they spend around 6-8 hours in a day in water-related activities
- Major chunk of domestic water related activities are performed by women but women are not involved in its decision making
- Women are more concerned about water quality but overlooking their preferences by men resulted in high incidence of water-borne diseases
- Water scarcity has an adverse impact on women's education in the region