

Women's engagement in small ruminant farming

Somia Memon





Why focus on women in small ruminant farming?

Women are heavily involved in small ruminant production

BUT

They have little decision-making power

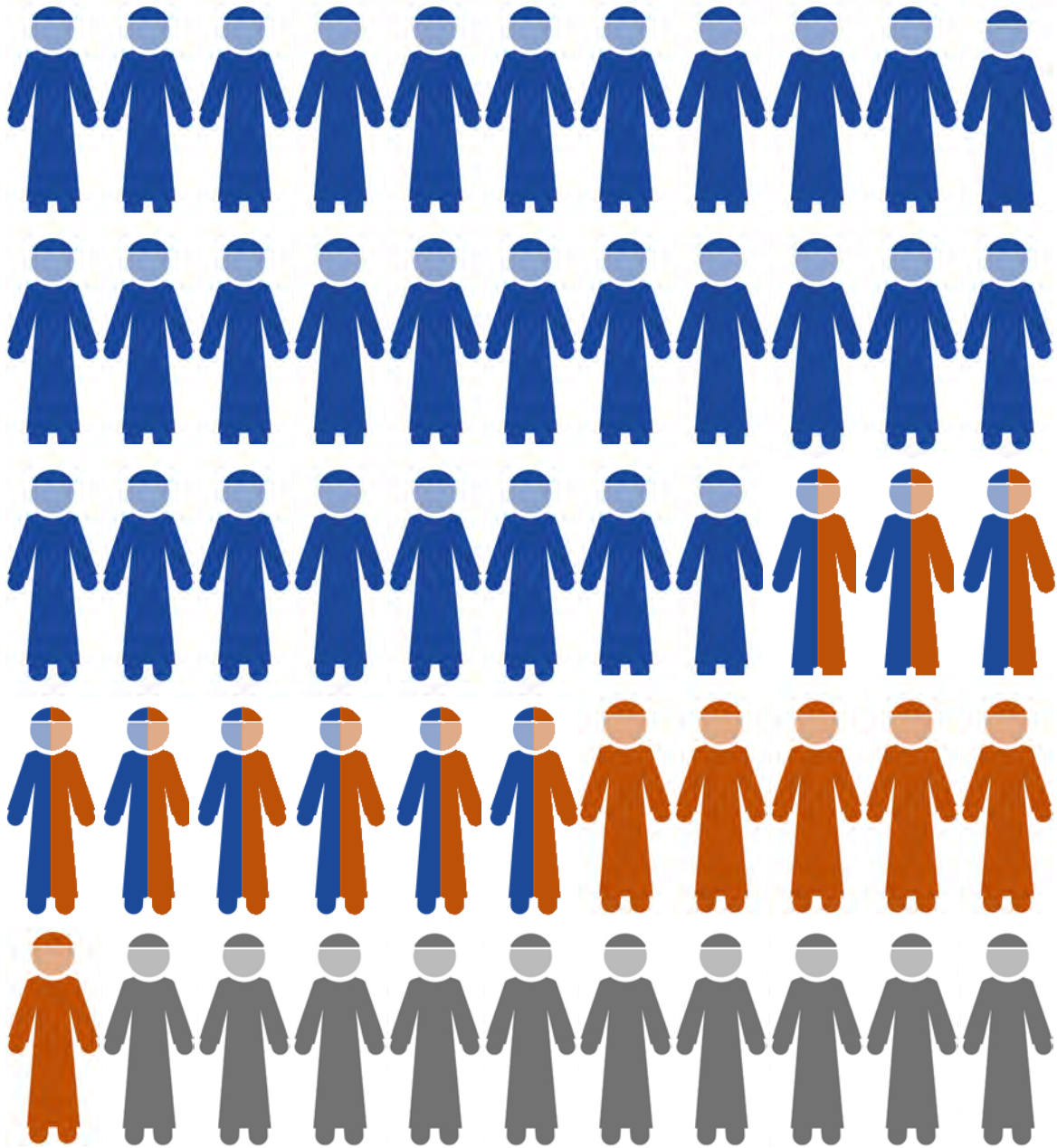


cutting fodder
watering animals
fodder feeding
decision making
home remedies
care for kids
milking birthing
health grazing
shed cleaning

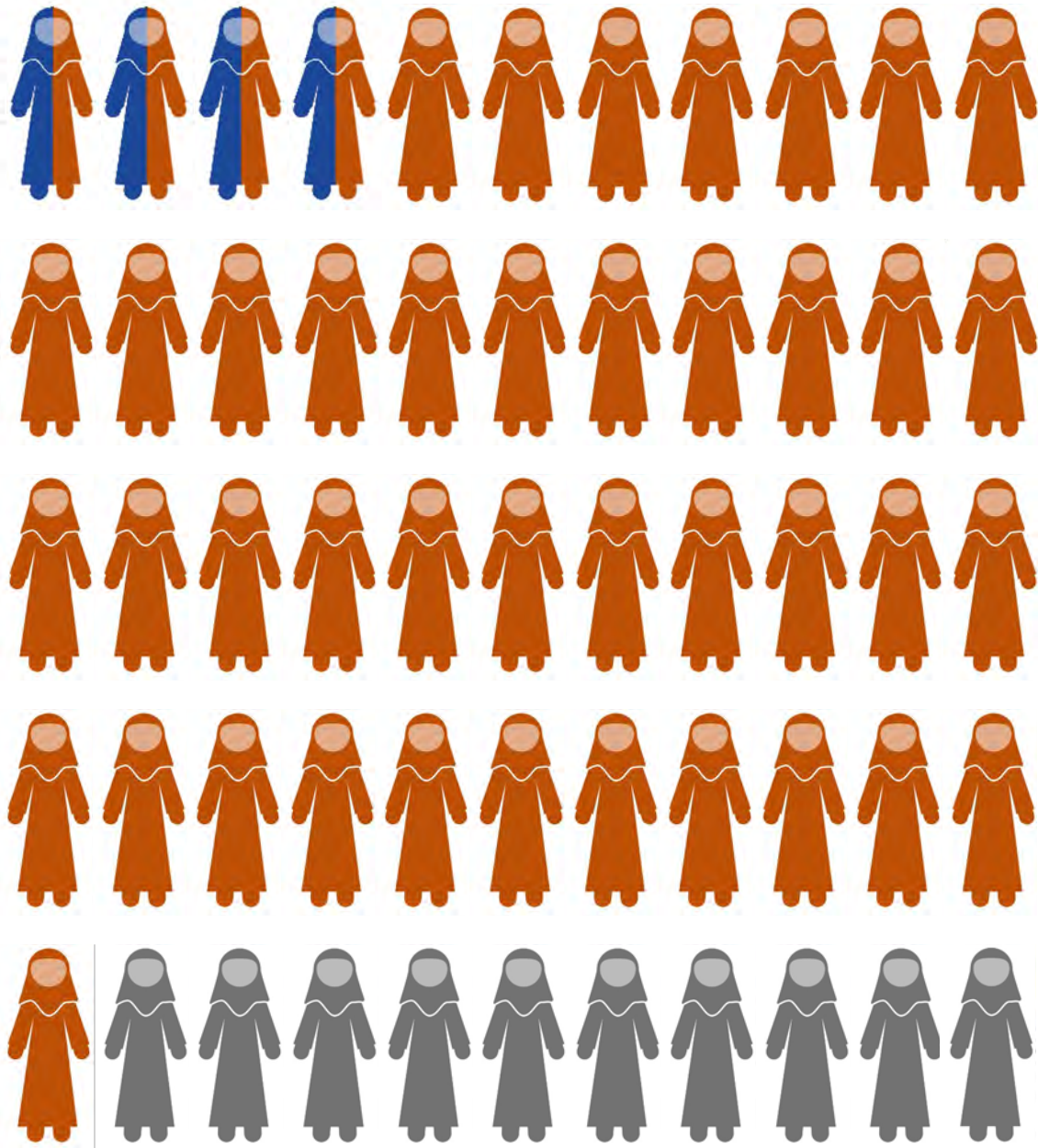


grazing
shed cleaning
cleaning health care for kids
birthing breeding
watering animals
decision making
cutting fodder feeding providing shade
milking
fodder feeding





Makes the decisions



Does the labour

Women can generate **extra household income**

Small ruminants are a promising livelihood for **women at risk**

BUT

Women face structural barriers to participation in value chains



- Travelling to markets
- Engaging with male-dominated sectors



Women care for sick animals, and encounter zoonotic diseases

BUT

They have limited access to knowledge resources



Low literacy

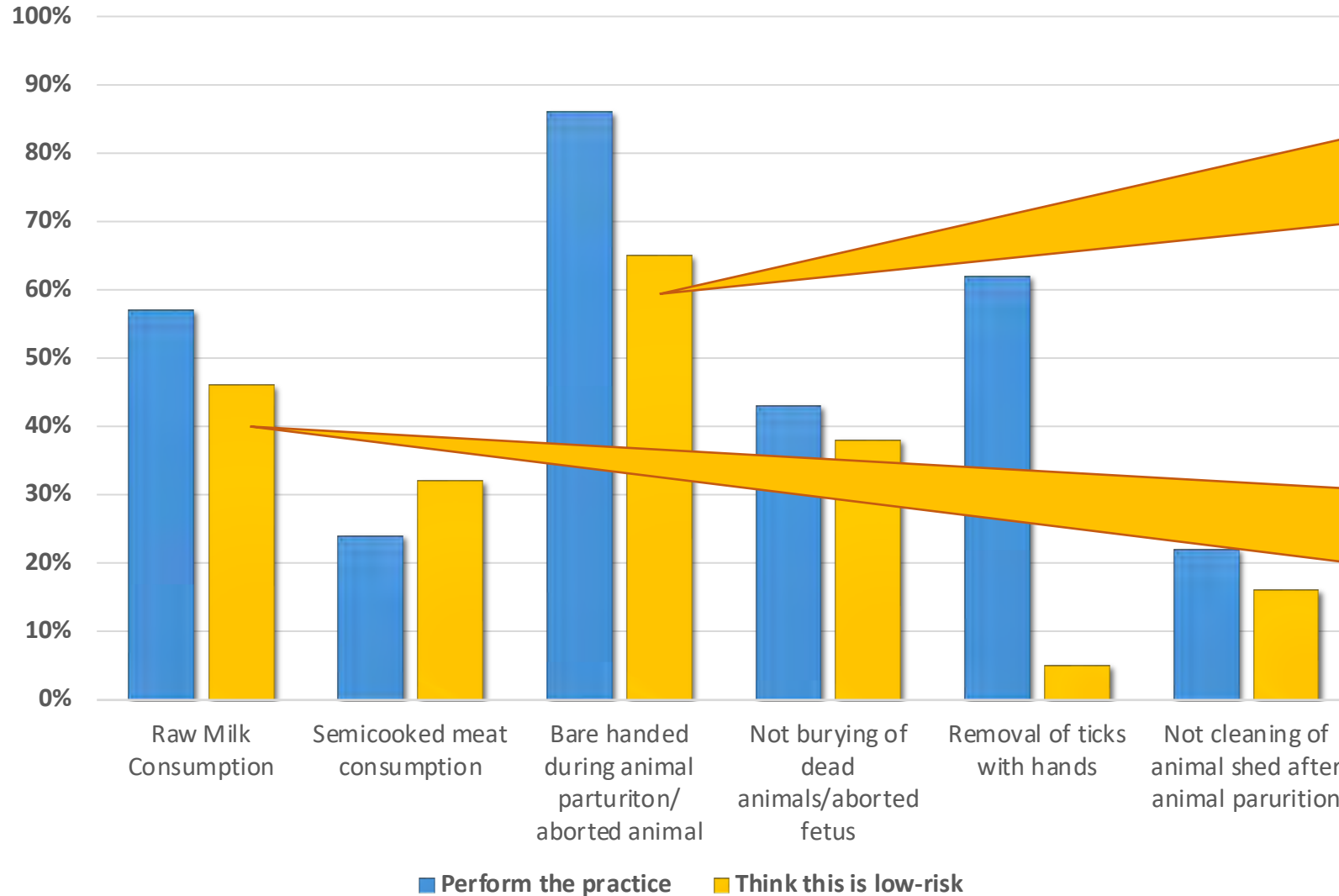
They face structural barriers to education & services



Travelling to services and education
Mixing with other groups of women



Zoonotic disease survey



“We work with animals even we have cuts/bruises on hands and we don’t have any bad experience yet. There is no risk of any disease, even working with cuts on hand”

“We have been using raw milk since years and it has no harm on human health. It is full of nutrition and healthy”

Women tend to be excellent disseminators of information

BUT

Women's organisations ToT

Animal management messages are shared with men...



Most animal health workers are men

...and not passed on to women



“Nutrition is the basic need for kids’ health and growth, yet here I learnt this technique for the first time”

Farmer, female, ToT participant

...which all
contribute to a lack
of confidence





What helps?

Modelling gender
inclusion

Team staffing and
training

Data collection

- men and women from each household
- female-headed households





Direct communication
with women, by women

Repeat farm visits

One-to-one
communication

Responsiveness

Relevant training for women, by women

Practical

Close to home

Relevant topics

- requests from women
- observation of local, on-farm issues affecting women





“I appreciated the efforts of your team that provide us the best technique **at our doorstep** as we don't have idea of rearing kids by creep feeding... I usually sold my kids in 10,000 before this technique but now I sold my kids 25000.”

Farmer, female, Sindh



Accessible extension materials

Relevant topics

Develop and test with women

Low literacy

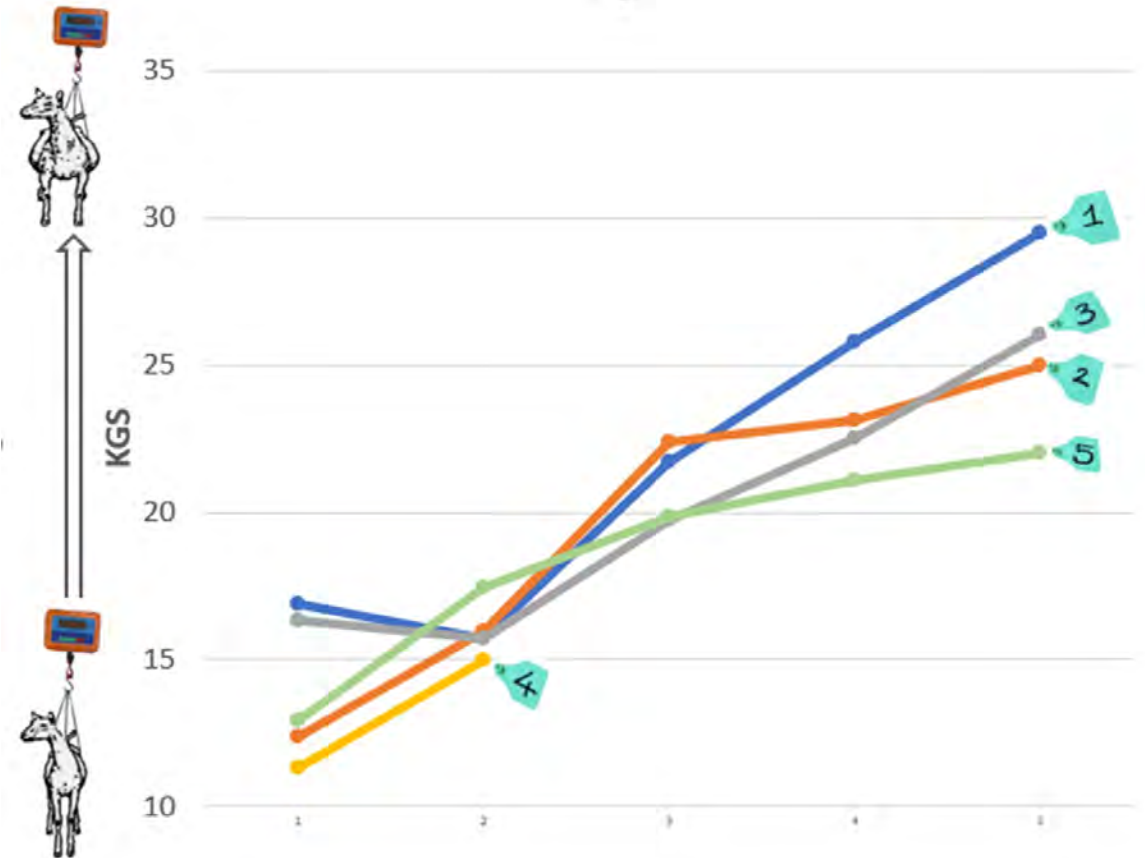
Provide feedback on progress

Personally relevant

- Progress of own animals

Different formats

- Written feedback sheets
- Farmer workshops



Check for impacts on women

Positive AND negative

Gender disaggregated data analysis

Impacts on labour, other gender roles

Knowledge/skill gains

Economic impacts



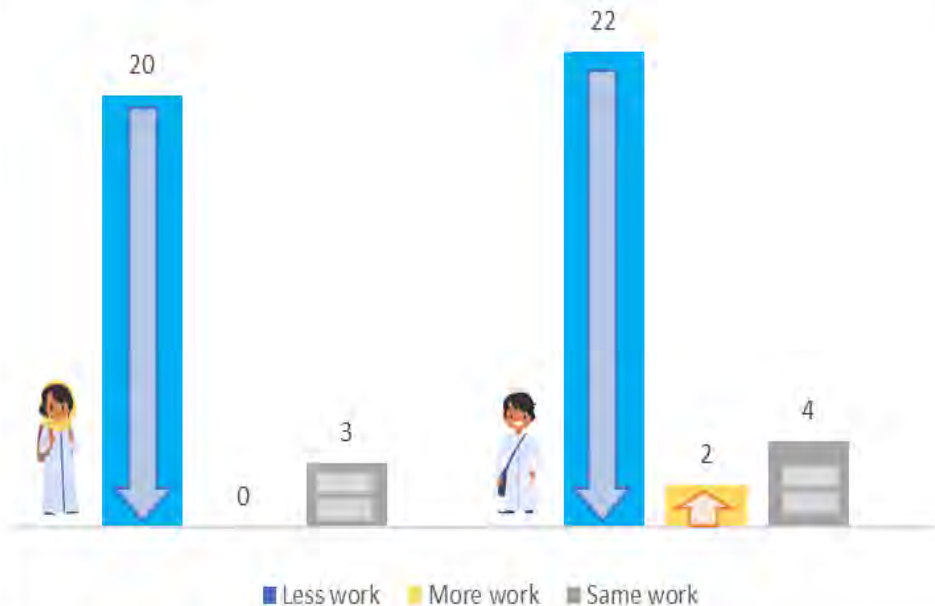


**Awareness
raising for men
and boys**

Don't
forget
children!



milking
 cleaning
 combine grazing fodder feeding
 cutting fodder
grazing
 health
 watering animals
 shed cleaning
 care for kids



Thank You
For Your Attention