

Female empowerment: main idea of social change in the colombian countryside

Empoderamiento femenino: idea central del cambio social en el campo colombiano

Empoderamento feminino: ideia principal da mudança social no campo colombiano

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Abstract

Objective: This article examines the process of female empowerment in rural areas of Colombia, analyzing its impact on the reduction of social identity and equity gaps, as well as on the promotion of social cohesion. **Methodology:** The study employs analytical and descriptive methodologies. A multiple regression model incorporating several factors is used to explore the direct and indirect relationships between the variables and to evaluate their dependence on employment status. The independent variables considered include culture, housing and education. **Results:** The results indicate that a person's job role or location is significantly influenced by factors such as age, marital status, number of children, educational level and region of belonging, which are identified as the most relevant determinants. Depending on the regions and cultural contexts analyzed, the findings of this study may open new lines of research or contribute to the design of strategies for value generation.

Keywords: Cultural variables; Empowerment; Rural women; Social identity; Sociodemographic conditions; Work location

Resumen

Objetivo: Este artículo examina el proceso de empoderamiento femenino en las zonas rurales de Colombia, analizando su impacto en la reducción de brechas de identidad social y equidad, así como en la promoción de la cohesión social. **Metodología:** El estudio emplea metodologías analíticas y descriptivas. Para explorar las relaciones directas e indirectas entre las variables y evaluar su dependencia con respecto a la condición de empleo, se utiliza un modelo de regresión múltiple que incorpora diversos factores. Entre las variables independientes consideradas se encuentran la cultura, la vivienda y la educación. **Resultados:** Indican que el rol o la ubicación laboral de una persona está significativamente influenciado por factores como la edad, el estado civil, el número de hijos, el nivel educativo y la región de pertenencia, los cuales se identifican como los determinantes más relevantes. Dependiendo de las regiones y los contextos culturales analizados, los hallazgos de este estudio pueden abrir nuevas líneas de investigación o contribuir al diseño de estrategias para la generación de valor.

Palabras clave: Variables culturales; Empoderamiento; Mujeres rurales; Identidad social; Condiciones sociodemográficas; Lugar de trabajo.

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Resumo

Objetivo: Este artigo examina o processo de empoderamento feminino na Colômbia rural, analisando o seu impacto na redução das lacunas de identidade social e de equidade, bem como na promoção da coesão social. **Metodologia:** O estudo utiliza metodologias analíticas e descritivas. Utiliza-se um modelo de regressão múltipla que incorpora diversos factores para explorar as relações diretas e indirectas entre variáveis e avaliar a sua dependência da situação laboral. As variáveis independentes consideradas incluem a cultura, a habitação e a educação. **Resultados:** Os resultados indicam que a função ou a localização profissional de uma pessoa é significativamente influenciada por factores como a idade, o estado civil, o número de filhos, o nível de escolaridade e a região de pertença, que são identificados como os determinantes mais relevantes. Dependendo das regiões e dos contextos culturais analisados, os resultados deste estudo podem abrir novas linhas de investigação ou contribuir para o desenho de estratégias de geração de valor.

Palavras-chave: Variáveis culturais; Empowerment; Mulheres rurais; Identidade social; Condições sociodemográficas; Local de trabalho.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The topic is particularly interesting because Bautista-Bautista and Bedoya-Calvo (2017) found that the gaps in support for rural development in Colombia are primarily affecting women. Although the emergence of the women's movement has been gaining approval, some organizations that work in this field have existed for many years. For example, the Popular Women's Organization emerged in 1972, the National Association of Peasant and Indigenous Women of Colombia in 1986, and the National Women's Network in 1992.

This document aims to explore how empowering women in rural Colombia can contribute to closing equity and social identity gaps. Despite efforts to empower women, there are still cultural and political obstacles that hinder their progress. Hernández (2021) suggests that women need to demonstrate leadership skills, focus on achieving results, and gain citizen acceptance to overcome these challenges acceptance to overcome these challenges.

This document aims to provide an analysis of three variables. The first variable, Personal Data and Family Environment, includes information about personal data, family background, place of birth, family nucleus, and managing the growing life cycle.

The second variable, Schooling Data, analyzes characteristics of school education, type of teaching, involvement in school activities, relationship with teachers and students, and significant learning at school. This study is new for the Guasca municipality as it also analyzes a third variable, Participation and Leadership.

This variable covers the origin of leadership, the description of the experience, scenarios of participation as a community leader, achievements, and most notable learnings. The research data will focus on the equation of dependence on women's work compared to more than 10 independent variables. Additionally, the potential difficulties and strengths of female leadership in the community will also be considered. This includes purposes of leadership, limitations in leadership, and results at a personal, family, and community level.

The study's primary conclusions center on time management in community activities, community leadership, and its benefits and drawbacks. The report also outlines the community's primary problems and makes predictions for the future. Independent factors including a woman's career, number of children, and educational attainment influence the caliber of her job in the Guasca sector.

A theoretical and referential framework explaining the importance of women's empowerment and the sociodemographic circumstances surrounding rural women's engagement in the global arena is presented in the study's first section. After presenting the methodology framework, the data analysis and study conclusions are presented. A list of bibliographical references is given at the end.

Theoretical and referential framework

Sombra consulted a document that pertained to rural and peasant women in Colombia. It was revealed that the State did not have an analysis of the implementation of restitution sentences. It only kept track of the rulings or the processes. On further review, it was also found that studies on female empower-



ment have been increasing in the last decade due to the vindication of values and rights that women have, particularly in Europe.

Pallarès-Blanch et al. (2014) work on the mechanisms of women's empowerment given the challenges of the political situation with active participation in the 21st century.. Women form solidarity networks, including family and friends, that allow for a more fluid circulation of resources and the use of all survival possibilities. The authors conclude that women's participation in parliamentary representation structures and governments is an indicator of equal opportunities in society. They call on state leaders to generate policies to support women, which must be accompanied by other actions to promote their empowerment.

Liberata (2012), conclude the women's movements of the popular sector of Latin America and the Caribbean have gained greater strength since 1985. It is important to analyze how they master these resources, noting that Sarah Longwe has worked on a variety of levels of female empowerment. Access to resources and true control with all intermediate phases are differentiated for economic and human resources.

The signing of the Peace Agreement in 2016 in Colombia was a significant milestone in recognizing the role of empowered women in these aspects, highlighting their participation in the construction of peace. The agreement includes a transversal gender approach, which recognizes the differences and inequalities between men and women and establishes measures to promote the full and effective participation of women in all aspects of the peace process.

This agreement recognizes the essential role of rural women in building peace and establishes measures to promote their participation and empowerment. Among the measures included in the Agreement are the creation of a Rural Development Fund, which aims to improve the living conditions of rural communities, and the implementation of programs for the productive and economic inclusion of rural women.

Empowerment of Women and construction of social Peace

Some authors have highlighted the strong connection between empowerment and redistribution of power. Thus, for Batliwala (1997), empowerment is the "process of challenging existing power relations and gaining greater control over the sources of power... (and) manifests itself as a redistribution of power, whether between nations, classes, races, castes, genders or individuals" (p.193).

Likewise, Sen (1999) has defined women's empowerment as the alteration of power relations that reduce women's options and autonomy and negatively affect their health and well-being, considering that "although women can empower themselves themselves by gaining some control over the different aspects of their daily lives, empowerment also suggests the need to gain some control over power structures, or to change them.

Consequently, Sarmiento (2024) contributes to the environment from Cuba arguing that post-pandemic living conditions were worsened due to a shortage of products and services at all levels, which increased inequalities. The author emphasizes that the patriarchal and capitalist power that leads to the suffering of women has intensified. But the situation changes when 66% of women become a qualified force to get out of the crisis.

For his part, Polo (2022) argues that another form of empowerment is through art.

The driving motive of Motomami is to tell the life of a Rosalía in love, a friend of her friends, an artistic winner, installed in a context of international recognition that has reached its culmination during these last few years in the midst of a pandemic (p. 147).

For its part, Alonso, (2024) it states that: “Establish and promote accessible complaint mechanisms for victims and witnesses of sexual violence” (p. 3).

Additionally, Castillo et al. (2020) refers to the fact that women should be studied as key agents of change in rural areas. Since in addition to taking care of the home, he is responsible for mobilizing agricultural activity in various markets. It continues by analyzing that with the participation of women they are essential “to improve poverty levels and strengthen an environment that promotes entrepreneurial and dynamic activity that contributes to the rural economic growth of a country” (p. 39).

Castellanos and Lorenzo (2012) and Camberos Sánchez (2011) “Democracy is strengthened by the increased representation of women in politics. It can be predicted that women will play a significant role in change based on research findings and contemporary patterns” (p. 919). In this way, more stable societies are consolidated.

And later on she states that:

in this sense, it can be deduced that: “the search for economic gain as the main objective of the groups does not make it easier for the participants to conceive spaces to promote reflections, questioning and actions on unequal gender relations (Riaño & Okali, 2008, p. 137; Castellanos & Lasso, 2019).

The specific theme of “Masculinities” is framed within the perspectives of education for equity and equality and seeks to put into crisis some social behaviors attributed to men that have been crystallized and normalized and enable much of the violence against women. lesbians, gays, trans, transvestites, bisexuals, non-binary, that is presented in our society. In that sense, it is especially important to rethink feminine patterns in the face of the diversity of patterns and stereotypes of the community.

In South Asia women entrepreneurs constitute more than 50% of the total entrepreneurs (Coughlin & Thomas 2002).

All cultural revolutions have a certain abrupt attitude, and on the one hand, it was important to find a first example of connection between creative, curatorial practice and feminist politics in Spain, given that responses are generated through culture. This is in contrast to the policies in periods of crisis worked on by Alcántara (2021), who argues that the pandemic has created a context that exacerbates the vulnerabilities of women in general, since the risks go beyond the fact that getting sick or dying from Covid-19 is not the only risk. Rivas (2022), who focuses more on the nursing environment—a field that was once divided toward women—argues that paradigm shifts take place in response to these health crises.

This reported experience is in line with that presented by Araiza (2004), “given that women from the Tzeltal and indigenous communities of the country suffer the effects of the feminization of poverty” (p.142). These statements have also been addressed by Santos-Rojo (2022), which addresses the issue of

feminism from the purely North American transfer to Asian scenarios, with a culture marked by machismo and common elements towards the treatment of women.

For its part, in Ethiopia the Women's Development Initiatives Project (WDIP), a project financed by the World Bank was developed by Alsop et al. (2006) presents that "the most polarized communities, where a single powerful group dominated, were those where the project has been less effective in bringing sustainable drinking water to the community" (p. 27). In this sustainability project, women played a leading role and fortunately documentation was required.

Bacca et al. (2021) report that Gabriela Sofia's experience as a Palenquera from Medellín, provided a process of change: "when she sees that the transformation she makes to her hair does not make sense and that it is an absurd denial of her heritage, she reflects and becomes empowered" (p. 66). In this sense, Barathe (2019) shows how States need to combine several forces, including greater budget planning and better coordination of structural units at the regional and sectoral level, to promote research programs that uncover the real problems that hinder full development of women.

In this research scenario, Zaragoza (2020) analyzes how the empowerment of female knowledge reflects a transformation between myth and science, understood as the guarantor of strengthening achievements, difficulties and successes of women's updates.

Bethencourt and Carrillo (2014) show an experience in which the actions carried out by women in the State of Sucre against poverty were with "the intention of reversing the situation of material exclusion as survival strategies, but they were not found. important and organized actions to overcome their gender condition" (Para. 10). Bidegain and Llavaneras (2013) present how the links between economic, ecological and gender justice in Latin America consolidate steps towards development focused on the sustainability of life. In this way, women more directly generate alternative development for a New Era, a new beginning, with changes and innovations provided.

From these demonstrated examples, Castro (2007) sees that patterns of equal opportunities are a consequence of micro curricula or clear study plans, focused on generating direct leadership actions by women. Likewise, Chaves-Caicedo and Ruano-Coral (2020) have continued their contribution to social development factors and the European Commission (2011) joins the social entrepreneurship guideline, revitalizing the power of women, previously noted.

Already in more modern eras, visibility in environments of new communications technologies and scenarios comes in the analysis of De las Heras and Landeta (2021) A discourse is made around the care of the image, the phenomenon of sexsymbol with an increasingly younger population, patterns of image sales based on clearly mercantilist and sexist policies. Deere (2021) has analyzed the experience from Ecuador and for this purpose, state support is proposed to provide assets to unprotected women, who have always depended on the sexist area, as in other countries such as those mentioned in Ethiopia.

The scenarios from ECLAC, in line with what was argued by Deere (2021), appear previously presented by Durston (2000), moving through community social capital, an axis developed by women, assets and foundation of social and economic groups. It should be noted that the United Nations (2020) has addressed gender equality, also referring to the epistemological bases of Freire (1990) and Friedmann (1992). In that same decade of 2020, Elies (2020) reports the need for a new society, maintaining the line



of generating a new feminine paradigm.

The UN itself has accompanied, as Martínez (2020) explains, writings to rethink heritage in terms of food, as an axis of female empowerment. But we cannot forget the contribution of Martínez Beatriz (2000), who for more than two decades has been relating elements of women's actions to accompany sustainability policies, showing her experience from an indigenous example in Mexico.

The solidarity and popular economy analyzed from Ecuador also plays an important role in approaching elements of sustainability. That said, Verzosl Vargas and Carvajal (2023) analyze non-discrimination between men and women as the main principle and this is complemented by SDG5 Gender Equality, issued by the UN. Regarding the role of women, Benítez-Eyzaguirre et al. (2018) analyze Moroccan female populations in the use of technologies and communication practices to intervene as agents of local development.

Currently, the empowerment of rural women is of interest to institutions with global impacts, where it is to improve their quality of life through the execution of projects that benefit the recovery of their social identity. The municipality of Guasca is interested in projects led by rural women with the aim of "Ensuring their empowerment is not only essential for the well-being of individuals, families and rural communities, but also for general economic productivity, given the broad presence of women in the global agricultural workforce" (Valenciano et al., 2017, p. 13). Added to this is the importance of implementing public policies that strengthen the quality of life of rural women.

Uganda, an eminently rural country, has been classified by the United Nations among the countries with the worst quality of life and has agribusiness processes analyzed since Vieitez (2023) as a focus of female empowerment. However, it should be noted that emerging companies or businesses are not formalized and this translates into Uganda's backwardness and inequality gap compared to the world, although the role of women is not neglected to make it more visible.

For this decade, especially what is reported by Pallarès-Blanch et al. (2014) delve into fights between adolescents, a symbolic creation of the overflow of feminine powers, given the boom of social networks in the face of the vindication of the female gender over the male gender, intending with these acts to demonstrate strength. Not weakness. To understand how social peace in Colombia influences the prevailing evolutionary processes in local cultures that affect women and the roles that go along with them, it is vital to describe the post-conflict situations, which offer a chance to encourage role modifications. pertinent social and financial

As a result, these activities foster elements that acknowledge women's contributions as builders of peaceful community spaces amid conflict, in addition to making them visible as victims of various types of violence, including armed, domestic, and societal violence. These initiatives must also advance the understanding of women as economic agents and heads of homes with social, familial, and professional obligations who have persevered in providing for their families and helping to uphold the social fabric in spite of obstacles.

Sociodemographic Conditions of Global Contribution of Rural Women

The socioeconomic and sociodemographic conditions of rural women are different from the variables



they analyze. Although they are closely related, the money factor and its management result in the individual characterization of each one.

Alsop et al. (2006) acknowledges that “The concept of “negative power” as critiqued by Foucault critically ignores the “agency” of the individual” (p. 236)

In this context, we speak of female empowerment from the conception of Camberos (2011) as an overcoming of gender inequality. Factors directly related to discrimination and the fight against culturally defended male dominance permeate. On the other hand, Castiblanco (2022), who refers to Moreno (2020), this concept “emerges, at the Fourth World Conference on Women” (United Nations, 1995), as a proposal for the transformation of the lives of women with an emphasis on power relations, the analysis of subordination and the mechanisms that must be used for the reconfiguration of social structures (Deuster et al., 1989, p. 17).

García & Lima (2020) analyze the social reality that encompasses the process of menstruation as part of women’s sexual health continues to be loaded with stereotypes (p. 391)

The 2010 Human Development Report, presented by the United Nations Program (UNDP), states that “women are the majority in the economically inactive population (PEI) and, therefore, they are likely to be economically dependent on other people to acquire assets”. With this statement it could be preliminarily confirmed that female work depends on the participation of a companion, their employment relationship and educational level.

On the other hand, social identity includes, according to Giménez (1995) “the representation that agents (individuals or groups) have of their position in the social space and their relationships with other agents (individuals or groups) that occupy the space” (p. 42). Given the above, that identity, which has already been more than 30 years old, has been distorted with the identity on social networks, given by the various current platforms.

The cultural variables refer to the family, number of children, marital affiliation such as married, divorced or common law. The marital relationship, according to Ruiz-Vallejo (2020), has been transformed into one of free union and in it, decision-making is very particular.

Social identity is the representation that individuals or groups have of their position in the social space and their relationships with other agents who occupy the same or different positions in the same space. This identity has been distorted with the identity on social networks given by various current platforms, despite being over 30 years old. Cultural variables include family size, number of children, and marital status, such as being married, divorced, or in a common-law relationship. According to Ruiz-Vallejo (2020) and Semillas (2019), the nature of marital relationships has changed to become more like free unions, where decision-making is very individualized.



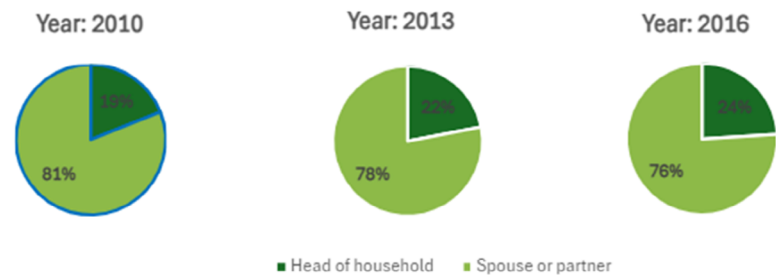
Tabla 1.
Methodology (database analysis)

Indicator	Interpretation
Work	The woman had a job in the last month
Regional Identification	Region to which the woman bellongs
Age	Years of the woman
Age 2:<	Years of the woman squared
Kinship	The woman is the head of the household or spouse
In a relationship	The marital status of the woman is married oi in a common law union
Number of children	Total number of children yhe woman has
Basic and secondary educational level	The woman has basic and/or secondary education
Higher education M	The woman has higher education, whether thetechnical, tecnological, university degree or postgraduate
Save income	The woman saves part of her income
Basic and secondary educational level H	The partner has basic and/or secondary education
Higher education H	The partner of the woman has higher education whether technical , technological, university degree of postgraduate.
Children under 5 year	Number of children the woman has less than and equal to 5 years old
Children under 10 years old	Number of children the woman has less than and equal to 10 years old
Home hours	Total number of hours that women dedicate to domestic work
Schedules	Total numbers of hours a woman spends caring for children
€	error range

Note: Own elaboration based on STATA

For the years 2010, 2013, 2016, the following results were obtained:

Figure 1.
Percentage of female heads of household and spouses (Kinship)



Note: Own elaboration with data Elca

It has been observed that the number of men serving as heads of households has decreased. According to Gongas and García study in (2020), the COVID-19 crisis had no significant impact on the labor indicators of urban women compared to rural women. Additionally, there was no significant difference between female and male markets in both geographical divisions. DANE used linear regression to strengthen the hypothesis about simultaneous relation.



The statistical averages of male and female genders are directly related in Guasca municipality as revealed in this research.

Initial descriptive statistics

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
AÑO	32	2014.5	4.683533	2007	2022
TS	32	11.4338	3.673618	0	15.89373
Genero	0				

Categorical variables were converted into numerical ones, as presented below.

Gender 0: women

Gender 1: men

Conversion from categorical to numerical variables

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
AÑO	32	2014.5	4.683533	2007	2022
TS	32	11.4338	3.673618	0	15.89373
Genero	0				

A total of 32 observations from the years 2007 to 2022 were taken as a sample.

t-student assessment for female and male genders

Group	Obs	Mean	Std. Err.	Std. Dev.	[95% Conf. Interval]	
0	16	9.057625	6.188041	24.75216	-4.131872	22.24712
1	16	2.957187	2.022432	8.089726	-1.353523	7.267898
combined	32	6.007406	3.248669	18.37725	-.6182985	12.63311
diff		6.100438	6.510152		-7.195067	19.39594

Ha: diff < 0	Ha: diff != 0	Ha: diff > 0
Pr(T < t) = 0.8219	Pr(T > t) = 0.3562	Pr(T > t) = 0.1781

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Descriptive statistics were initially carried out on the collected data, followed by a t-student test to check for differences in means. The analysis revealed that there were no significant differences between male and female variables in terms of work location in the rural environment of Guasca, Cundinamarca. The data was based on 16 observations from each gender, with a degree of freedom of 30. The value of $P_t = 0.3562$ was greater than the significance level of 0.05, which indicates that there is no significant difference between the two genders. Following this, an ANOVA test was performed, and the result table is shown below.

Figure 5.

ANOVA result

```
. anova Fuerzadetrabajopotencial GeneroP
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	Number of obs =	32	R-squared =	0.0284	
	Root MSE =	18.4135	Adj R-squared =	-0.0039	
Source	Partial SS	df	MS	F	Prob>F
Model	297.7227	1	297.7227	0.88	0.3562
GeneroP	297.7227	1	297.7227	0.88	0.3562
Residual	10171.699	30	339.05663		
Total	10469.422	31	337.72328		

Note: Own elaboration based on STATA

For the results provided, there is no direct relationship of dependence between the labor force variable and gender, female or male.

The variables used could be matched to the variables from the censuses in 2018, given that the statistics from DANE, Department of Statistics.

Figure 6.

Multiple Linear Regression Model

```
. regress Fuerzadetrabajopotencial TGP TO TD TS Ocupados Desocupados Subocupados
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Source	SS	df	MS	Number of obs =	32
Model	5749.78778	7	821.398254	F(7, 24) =	4.18
Residual	4719.63376	24	196.651407	Prob > F =	0.0039
Total	10469.4215	31	337.723275	R-squared =	0.5492
				Adj R-squared =	0.4177
				Root MSE =	14.023

Fuerzadetr~1	Coef.	Std. Err.	t	P> t	[95% Conf. Interval]
TGP	-10.79724	11.04165	-0.98	0.338	-33.58609 11.99161
TO	11.40591	11.83045	0.96	0.345	-13.01093 35.82276
TD	-2.849185	8.18502	-0.35	0.731	-19.74224 14.04387
TS	-.3738738	6.135877	-0.06	0.952	-13.0377 12.28995
Ocupados	-.1603335	.1240501	-1.29	0.208	-.4163603 .0956934
Desocupados	1.52775	.6386511	2.39	0.025	.2096387 2.845861
Subocupados	.3246231	.8344034	0.39	0.701	-1.397501 2.046747
_cons	41.23923	131.3046	0.31	0.756	-229.7602 312.2386

Note: Own elaboration based on STATA



Finally, multiple linear regression was developed with the variables:

Table 2.

Variable interpretations 3

Indicator	Interpretation
%	working age population
TGP	working age population
TO	occupancy rate
TD	potential work rate
TS	underemployed rate
Pt	Total population
Pet	Working age population
Ft	Labor force
O	Employed
D	Unemployed
Pfl	Population outside the labor force
S	Underemployed
Fde tp	Potential labor force
G	Gender
Gp	Gender-P

The results show an R2 of 0.5492, which means that only 54.92% of the variables gender, labor force, underemployed, population outside the labor force, unemployed and employed explain the % of the working-age population.

Conclusions

Within the results achieved around the statistics, it is evident that the average and standard deviation variables are very close for both men and women, not only as a labor force but also in terms of working age and employment rate. On the other hand, the acts of violence have affected women in their immediate family environment, but they have been an opportunity to empower themselves within the framework of rural development in Cundinamarca, without having to depend on anyone else but themselves.

On the other hand, there is a marked evolution in the degree of appropriation of the female gender in the economic and social development of the regions, which distorts the dependence on both factors after the analysis of the 2010 UN Human Development report.

It is also significant that the role of raising children does not depend on gender and that the strength or impulse that women give does not transcend the actions that lead them to depend on their growth to become generators of economic value within a family nucleus. .

The educational level can be understood as that factor that has given the rural women of Cundinamarca strengths and knowledge to face the challenges that everyday life shows. In that sense, the female empowerment of the women of Guasca.



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