

Cultivating Empathy: A Love-Informed Framework for Gender-Inclusive Farmer Empowerment

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While agricultural reforms have prioritized technology and productivity, such approaches often neglect the affective and relational dimensions essential for true empowerment. This study proposes a love-informed psychological framework rooted in the LUVORA model; Love, Uniformity, Virtue, Openness, Resilience, and Acceptance, to explore how empathy and emotional intelligence can drive gender equity and social inclusion within farming communities. Using a narrative synthesis of twenty-one peer-reviewed studies drawn from an initial pool of seventy-three records published between 2008 and 2024 across Scopus, AGRIS, and Web of Science, the paper integrates interdisciplinary insights from Positive Psychology, gender studies, and rural development. The synthesis reveals that emotional safety, self-worth, and communal empathy are decisive catalysts for women's agency in decision-making, leadership, and access to resources. The LUVORA framework operationalizes love not as sentimentality but as a transformative psychological force capable of nurturing shared dignity, collective resilience, and inclusive engagement. The study concludes that integrating empathy workshops, peer storytelling circles, and compassionate leadership training into agricultural extension systems could reframe farmer empowerment as a holistic pursuit of emotional justice and human flourishing rather than a purely economic or functional agenda.

Keywords: Love-informed empowerment, LUVORA framework, Gender inclusion, Emotional intelligence, Rural development

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