Recognition of Women’s work

On TV (Finance Minister speaking): This year the growth rate of GDP has been 7.5% and the main contributors to this growth have been the service sector, industrial sector and foreign direct investment...

Narpat (to his brother): See, people like myself, who work in a factory are contributing so much to the nation.

Narpat (to his brother): If I had continued farming and stayed back in village then I would have never gained ground. I would suggest you that leave farming and come along with me to the city.

Man (to Narpat): Narpat, but who will take care of the farms then?

Narpat: Aren’t there women in the house? They will take care of the farms.

Man: You are right! These days there are very few men in the farms. If other women can do it, and are doing it, then why not the women in our household?

Narpat: That’s what I am saying… these women don’t have much to do apart from cooking and taking care of children and cattle and this doesn’t bring any money… they also need to contribute to the family earnings… right?!

Radha (an elderly woman) was listening to their conversation

Radha: I am surprised that being a son of a farmer you don’t want to do farming anymore.

Narpat: No, it is not like that sister. We do want to continue farming but it is not enough to run our household, and I don’t want to commit suicide like other farmers.
Radha: I agree that, not enough importance is given to agriculture sector but that doesn't mean that farming is not important or is inferior to any other work. Actually farming work is categorised as work for which no money is received – it is represented as contributing nothing to the GDP.

Narpat: So true, it is hardly mentioned in country's budget.

Radha: So, it is not right to assume that farming work and the work done by women in the agriculture sector, and household work, doesn't contribute to national growth. Some countries in the world give value to all type of work which include work done by women.

Man: What are you saying? Women also contribute to GDP/budget?...ha ha ha

Radha: It’s not a joke, rather a fact, and you are wrong when you think that unpaid work by women has no economic impact.

Narpat: Does that mean, now we would need to pay women for doing household chores?

Radha: Don't give wages but at least value the work that they do. Household chores, taking care of children and cattle etc., this is work and requires effort.

Man: Oh! Such a thought is revolutionary!