

**Indra Gandhi National Open University**

**School of Continuing Education**

**A Study of the Extent of Social Empowerment of Rural  
Women in Legehida Woreda, Amhara Region, Ethiopia**

**By**

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**A Thesis**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement**

**For**

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**Dr.Mengistu Hulluka**

.....

.....

Advisor .

Signature

Date

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this work to my lovely Wife Nurelat Assen, to my lovely sons Seid Muhamed, Hamid Muhamed, and Murad Muhamed my daughter Mesaye Muhamed , my lovely friends, Dr. Kebede Kassa and Ebrie Seid.

## **Biographical Sketch**

The author was born on March, 8,1966 at Woyenamba. He attended his elementary education at Woynamba ,elementary and junior secondary school. He had also attended at Wereilu comprehensive secondary school from grade nine to twelve. He then joined in Jimma Collage of Agriculture and graduated with Diploma in general agriculture on November 6, 1985. After graduation he was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and has been working for more than 15 years at Leghida and Legambo districts as development agent and leader of extension program. Later he got an opportunity to join Ethiopian Civil Service College and graduated with BA degree in accounting August 2, 2002.

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## Acronyms

ANRS	Amhara National regional State.
BoFED	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CSA	Central Statistical Authority
DA	Development Agent
DPPC	Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FHH	Female Headed Household
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MHH	Male Headed Household
MoFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
LWFED	Legehida Woreda Finance and Economic development
LWOANDM	Legehida Woreda Office of Amhara Nation Democratic Movement
LWGCAO	Legehida Woreda Government Communication Affairs Office
NCTPE	National Committee for Traditional Practices Eradication
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
RO	Rank Order
SEGA	Socio Economic and Gender Analysis
SPSS	Statistical Packages for Social Sciences
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

UNESC	United Nations' Economic and Social Council
WARDO	Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office
WOANDM	Woreda Office of Amhara Nation Democratic Movement
WOWA	Woreda Office of Women Affairs

## **Abstract**

*Despite the necessity of utilization untapped potential of men and women, failure to address gender based differences bring about disparities in development in general and in Agricultural extension in particular. Thus it requires gender empowerment in multi dimension of the development activities. This study focused on impediments and prospects of empowerment in the study area. A multi-stage sampling procedure and systemic random methods were used to select three KAs and 90 sample respondents. Interview schedules and focus group discussions were adopted for data collection. Descriptive statistics was employed for data analysis. To assess whether gender is mainstreamed in agricultural extension or not, any benefit, role and responsibilities, involvement and any situation of women against men was compared in two different ways. Men and women are compared on gender issues that are related to households as a whole on the one hand and husbands and wives are compared on gender issues that are concerned with relations between spouses. Husbands and wives are compared on gender issues that consider both of them at individual level. The study was focused on extent of social relation, freedom of mobility, time availability, access and control over resource, decision making authority, participation and intra violence that preclude empowerment. The study reveals that there exists violence in both wives and husbands and was expressed differently. However violence in husband was lower than in wives. Wives are restricted in mobility mostly by their spouse. Wives have less control due to the fact that their control over resources is mostly handled by husbands only or joint control. Decision making power of wives is found to be less on most of productivity*

*determinant issues. Husbands have more extension opportunities than wives. Because wives have less extension contact; less training and got the least extension services as compared to husbands. Therefore, in order to revive the integration of agricultural policy it is recommended to use cells, women organizations and health posts as a medium through which agricultural extension message is transmitted to women at KA level.*

# CHAPTER I

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

The position of women cannot be understood in isolation from the broader relationships between women and men. Men and women face different obstacles and draw on different resources when attempting to participate (UNDP, 2003).

Equality between men and women was officially recognized as a global goal by the world community in the Charter of the United Nations in 1945, and was later confirmed in several treaties, conventions and agreements, most notably the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing *Platform for Action*, which was endorsed by UN Member States at the Fourth World Conference on Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held in 1995. This *Platform* recognizes gender equality as both a human right and a core development issue. The accumulated empirical evidence demonstrates the centrality of gender equality for equitable and sustainable development and poverty reduction. States that fail to promote equality between men and women tend to experience slower economic growth and more persistent poverty in their populations than those that promote equality (OCED, 2002).

Gender roles are key because gender shapes the opportunities and constraints that women and men face in securing their livelihoods across all cultural, political, economic and environmental settings. Gender influences the role and relationship of



people throughout all their activities, including their labour and decision-making roles. It is also important for understanding the position of both women and men vis-à-vis the institutions that determine access to land and other resources, and to the wider economy (FAO, 2001).

*“For development efforts to be effective, differences in gender roles and responsibilities need to be taken into account; and across all these (target) groups IFAD will focus particularly on women, not only because they have significantly less access than do men to assets and services – and less voice in public decision-making, but also because addressing these inequalities and strengthening the capacity of rural women to perform their productive roles more effectively, has a major impact on poverty reduction and on household food security”*(IFAD’s Strategic Framework 2007-2010 [http://www.ifad.org/sf/strategic\\_e.pdf](http://www.ifad.org/sf/strategic_e.pdf)).

Empowerment is about people, both men and women. “It is a “collective undertaking, involving both individual change and collective action.” Women’s empowerment means developing their ability to collectively and individually take control over their own lives, identify their needs, set their own agendas and demand support from their communities and the state to see that their interests are responded to. In most cases the empowerment of women requires transformation of the division of labour and of society (UNDP, 2001).

Women's empowerment is defined as "enabling women to take an equal place with men, and to participate equally with men in the development process in order to achieve control over the factors of production on an equal basis with men...."

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) includes the following factors in its definition of women's empowerment:

- \_ acquiring understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations can be changed
- \_ developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's own life
- \_ gaining the ability to generate choices and exercise bargaining power
- \_ developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally (DFID, 2002).

The main purpose of this study is therefore to focus on whether there is social empowerment in rural women as compared to men as reference point. Hence, the main attempt is to assess the social empowerment of rural women in terms of participation, social relation, freedom of mobility, free time availability, gender based household intra violence, roles in the household, position in the community and decision making power as a means and viable indicator of social empowerment..

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Despite years of advocacy for equal opportunities for women, extensive discrimination against women continues to exist. Persistent discrimination against women was the reason the United Nations developed the Women's Convention (HOM,2006).

Women in Ethiopia occupy low status in the society. In spite of their contributions to the well being of their family and community affairs, women experience lower socio-economic status in general and hence is marginalized from making decisions at all levels (Wabekbon, Development, 2006).

Ensuring that both women and men will be able to influence decisions and resource allocations requires going beyond simply increasing the number of women in different positions, to providing real opportunities for influencing the agendas, institutions and processes. Values, norms, rules, procedures and practices can effectively restrict women's potential to make real choices, and make efforts to give explicit attention to relevant gender perspectives is very difficult (Carolyn Hannan,2005).

The empowerment of women requires the active involvement of women as an active agent and needs to be aware of the sources or basis of strategic disadvantages and limitations such as vulnerability to physical violence, difficulty of gaining access to different means of empowerments. Women empowerment can only be achieved

through consciousness raising education, political mobilization and improving the position of women in the society.

Therefore, assessing whether rural women are empowered or not can only be possible by comparing any situation of women against men with a particular reference to the means of empowerments and indicators. Thus this study will investigate the extent of social empowerment of rural women and the impediments hindering to empowerment of women.

### **1.3 Important terms used in the project content**

**Empower:** to enable someone to have legal power and authority (UNDP, 2007).

**Gender-based violence:** Violence against women is any act of gender based violence that results in, physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to women (.UNDP, 2007).

**Intra Household Violence:** It refers to the threats that both men and women face from their spouse in the household socially and economically in their livelihood interaction

**Women's Empowerment:** A 'bottom-up' process of transforming gender power relations, through individuals or groups developing awareness of women's subordination and building their capacity to challenge it(.UNDP, 2007)

**Social relation:** It refers to the relation that husbands/wives have a close contact with government, non government and local organizations and kinship relation

**Availability of free time:** It is an indicator for the free time opportunity of wives/husbands to involve in different social, economic and political affairs.

**Freedom to mobility:** It refers to the extent to which the wives/husbands can move freely independent of their spouse.

**Education level-**Education is an opportunity to develop skill to see alternatives and make better decision, facilitate changes, adopt new technologies and improve the livelihood as a whole.

**Position in the community-**Being a leader creates self confidence and takes advantage of strong linkage with different information sources, be aware of the changes in conditional and on going issues, and take the advantage of priority in all rewarding areas as the result of their leadership position they placed.

**Control over resource-**The controlling power of women over resources determines technological options and rewarding economic activities.

**Decision-making authority** is a creative and enabling power to prioritize and solve problems to determine alternatives and to establish visions.

**Extension service** is one of the public services provided to the farmers to help them transform their subsistence agriculture to market oriented agriculture by introducing new improved technologies and practices..

**Participation in public affairs:** Participation in extension planning and other related issues enable husbands/wives to have options to solve their immediate and rooted problem and to create awareness on continuing development issues.

## **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The general objective of the study was to assess the extent of social empowerment of rural women in the study area, Legehida woreda.

The specific objectives of the study were:

- ✓ To study social empowerment of rural women
- ✓ To identify impediments to social empowerment of rural women

## **1.5 Research question**

- ✓ Do women and men have equal social empowerment?
- ✓ What are the impediments to rural women's social empowerment?

## **1.6 Hypothesis**

Rural women have less social empowerment as compared to men.

## **1.7 Limitation of the study**

If the study includes majority of the Kebele Administrations (KAs), it would have been more representative. However, the study is limited to three KAs, out of 15 KAs found in the woreda, and 90 respondents due to limited resources, such as finance and time. The study is also limited to wife and husband respondents rather than including singles, girls and boys.

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## **CHAPTER II**

### **2. Review of Literature**

#### **2.1 Concepts on Empowerment**

Mainstreaming involves taking up gender equality perspectives in data collection, analysis and other activities, to ensure that all processes take into account the contributions, priorities and needs of the entire stakeholder group, women as well as men. An important precondition for developing gender-responsive policy frameworks, strategies and monitoring in a sector wide approach planning understands gender differences and inequalities in resources, access, needs and potential contributions, particularly as they impinge on the sector (OECD, 2002).

Women's empowerment can be understood as a process whereby women, individually and collectively, become aware of how power structures, processes and relationships operate in their lives and gain the self confidence and strength to challenge the resulting gender inequalities. The concept of empowerment arose from an understanding that increasing women's participation in development processes, without fundamental changes to these processes themselves, would bring about little change (Hannan, 2003).

One of the key objectives of the policy (Ethiopian National Policy of Women, 1993) is "Facilitating conditions conducive to the speeding of equality between men and

women so that women can participate in the political, social and economic life of their country on equal terms with men and ensuring that their right to own property as well as their other human rights are respected and that they are not excluded from the enjoyment of the fruits of their labour and from performing public functions and being decision makers"(MOFED, 2002).

Empowerment is also much more than simply facilitating an increase in women's participation. It must also include processes that lead women to perceive themselves as having rights and entitlements and to be able to voice their demands as well as provide improved access to decision-making opportunities. The process of empowerment involves changing consciousness, identifying areas needing change, developing strategies and action to be taken, and monitoring these actions and their outcomes (Hannan, 2003).

## **2.2 Empirical Studies Related to Empowerment**

The report to the Board of Executive Directors on the implementation of the Bank's *Women in Development Policy* found that minimal or no integration of gender issues in loans in other key economic investment areas such as infrastructure (transportation, energy, and sanitation), tourism, trade and industry. Thus, the Bank is so far not taking advantage of the opportunities in these key areas for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment by, for example (i) fostering gender-equitable access to public services and markets, (ii) alleviating women's work burdens and enhancing productivity, (iii) generating temporary and long-term employment opportunities, and (iv) facilitating more equitable labor standards and conditions.



The workshop on Gender and Agriculture in Africa organized by the UNDP-Africa, World Bank & ISNAR found that at the family level, land and other productive resources are mainly owned by the male household heads, who collect the money from the small sale proceeds. Women gain little from their labor, therefore, and have no control over the money from whatever is sold.

World Bank, 1995 found that in view of satisfaction on extension service evidence suggests that women have not benefited as much as men have from publicly provided extension services.

A study conducted by Asres (2005) on access and utilization of development communication by rural women in Dire dawa, Administrative council, eastern Ethiopia to identify major constraints in access and utilization of available development communication showed that there was significant and positive relationship between frequency of extension contact and utilization of development information. The study also revealed that the major point raised by 51.9% of the respondents given the reason for not getting extension service was that the service is given only for males.

Another study conducted by Addis Tiruneh *et al* (2000) on gender differentials in agricultural production and decision-making among smallholders in Ada, Lume, and Gimbichu woredas of the central highlands of Ethiopia to assess the role of gender in

terms of resource ownership and decision-making power in the mixed farming system showed that in Female headed households, the decision to grow improved wheat varieties was always made by the head, while in male headed households it was either a joint decision between the head and the wife (55.6%) or a decision by the head alone (44.4%). The study demonstrated that in Lume, 62.9% of male headed households and 45.8% of female headed households received information on the use of insecticides and 51.4% of male headed households and 16.7% of female headed households received information on the use of improved seed that indicates the male oriented flow of information. The study showed that in Lume, 48.6% of male headed households reported that they received agricultural and vocational training, while in female headed households, it was 25%.

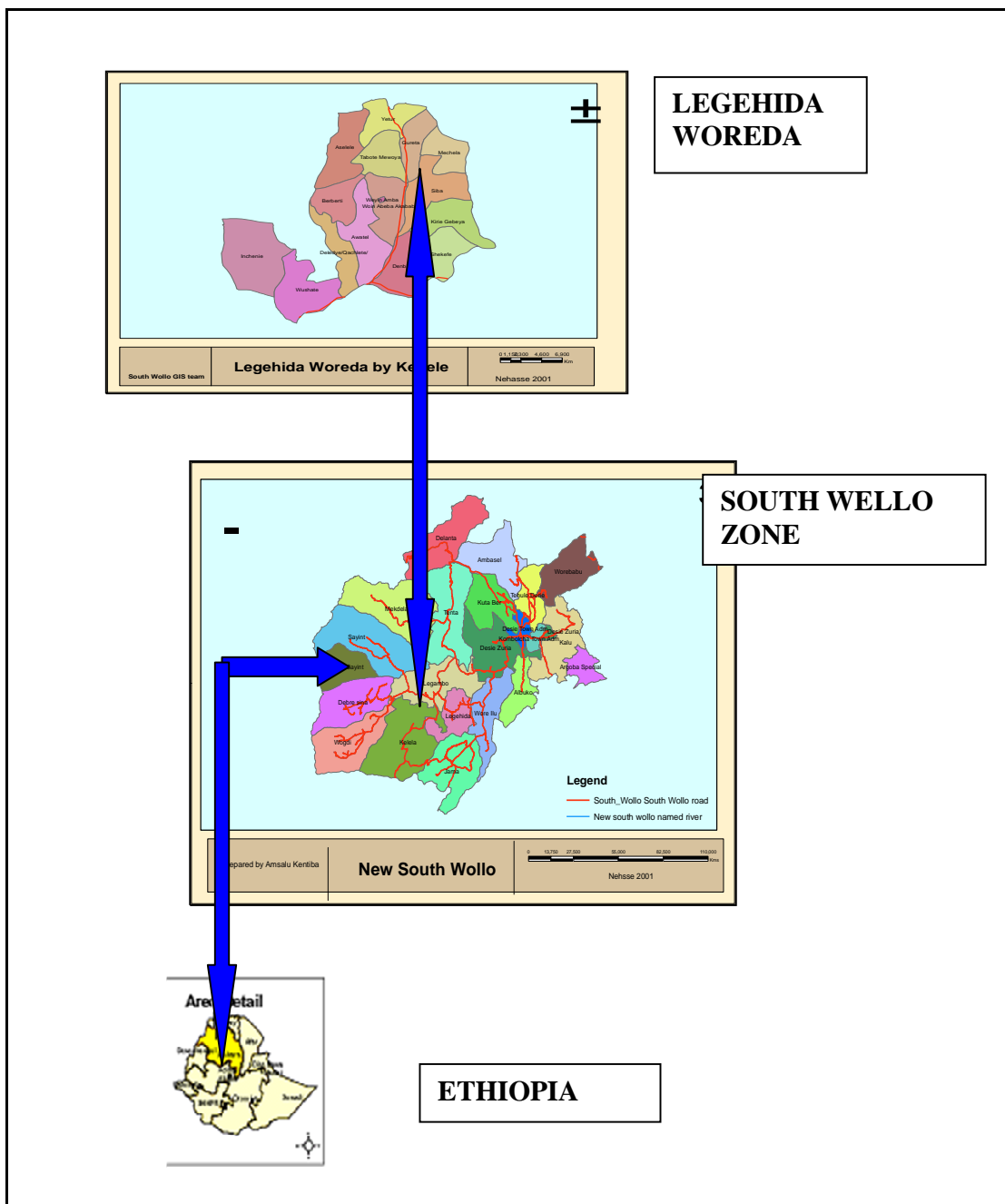
Another study conducted on gender imbalance in agricultural and non agricultural activities and its impact on household food security in Morogo rural by D. Ndiyo1 and J. K. Urassa2(2002) revealed that only 13.3% of women completely owned the means of production (land), 58.7% was owned by men while 28.0% was owned by both men and women. It was also observed that, 33.3% of the female respondents had their own plots; the rest (62.7%) depended either on common household farm or on their Husband's farm.

## **2.3 Location and Demographic Characteristics of the Study Area, Legehida Woreda**

### **2.3.1 Location**

South Wollo is one of the eleven Zones of Amhara Region ,having a total population of about 3 million (BoFED,2006). The capital of the zone is Dessie, 400 km north of Addis Ababa. Legehida, the study area is one of the 21 Woredas of South wollo zone, situated 103 km from Dessie towards west, 578 km from Bahirdar towards east and 540 km towards north from Addis Ababa. The woreda is bordered by Jama Woreda in the South, Kelala Woreda in the west, Legameo Woreda in the North and Wore-illu Woreda in the east.

The Woreda is divided in to 16 kebeles, 15 rural and 1 urban kebele. According to Legehida woreda Government Communication Affairs Office bulletin(2011), the total land area of the Woreda is 42935 hectare.

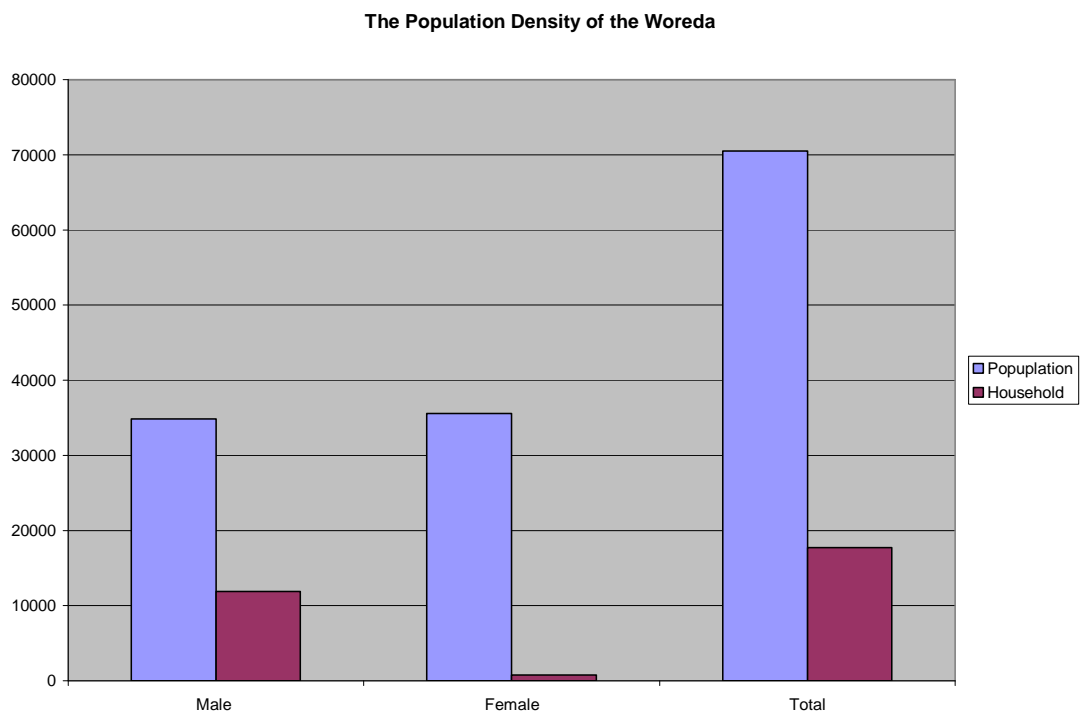


**Fig 1** Map of South Wollo Zone-Leghida woreda Administrative boundaries

**Source:** South Wollo Zone DoFED

### 2.3.2 Population

According to Legehida woreda Government Communication Affairs Office bulletin(2011), the total population of the Woreda in 2012 is estimated to be 70491 (male 34833 female 35578). The number of the households is 17684 (male headed household 11896 and female headed household 788).

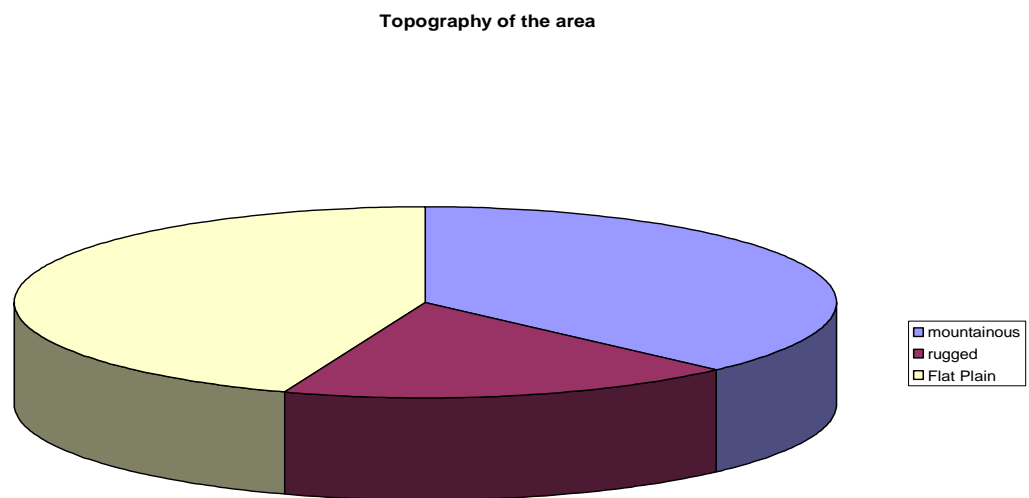


**Fig 2** The population density of the area

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

### 2.3.3 Topography and Climate

The topography of the Woreda is rugged and mountainous. From the total land area of the Woreda 36.23 percent is mountainous, 17.38 percent is rugged and 42.69 percent is flat land (LWGCAO, 2011).



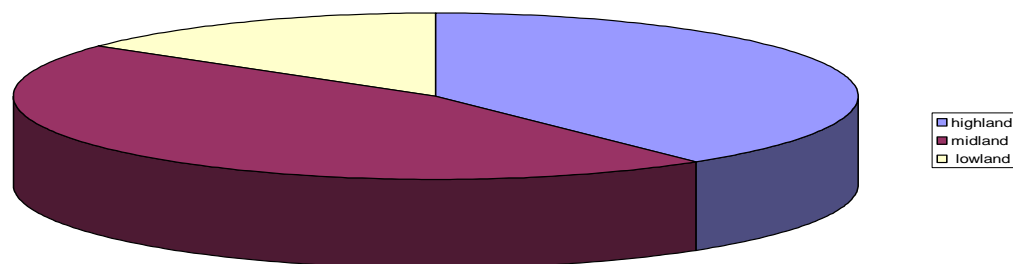
**Fig 3 The topography of the Woreda**

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

### 2.3.4 Agro-climatic Zones

The Woreda has 14.8% lowland (kola), 45.5% midland (Woyna dega) and 39.5% highland (dega) agro climatic zones. The Woreda has an annual rain fall of 990-1400 mm/year and the temperature ranges from 17-25c°. The rainfall pattern is bimodal and erratic in nature leaving the Woreda food insecure.

CAgro-climatic zones of the Woreda



**Fig 4** Agro climatic zones of the area

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

### 2.3.5 Occupation

The majorities of the Woreda population were farmers and agriculture is the main source of livelihood for many households. The agricultural sector is still traditional, subsistence and trapped with many socio-cultural, environmental, structural bottlenecks. Mixed farming is predominant in all agro ecological zones.

The cropping system is mainly rainfed, in two seasons, Belg and Meher. Peoples mainly raise animals as means of production, transportation and source of income (LWGCAO, 2011).

The major crops grown in the Woreda were cereals-: sorghum, maize, wheat, barley and teff, pulses: bean, pea, chick pea and lentil. Fruits and vegetables were also grown in the woreda. The wereda was the major producer of wheat, teff, barely,

fruits and vegetables; while oil and pulse crops are the major cash crops. From animal production stand point, the woreda had 37581 cattle, 67246 sheep and goats, 109111 non ruminants, 33195 poultry and 3618 hives of which 765 with modern beehives. Both crop and livestock production is subsistence due to the problem of rapid population growth, soil erosion and fertility reduction and erratic rainfall pattern (LWGCAO, 2011).

Now-a-days, the government has given a great emphasis to out growing farmers through farmers training and participatory package approaches who can shoulder technologies efficiently to transform subsistence agriculture to commercialized agriculture. The local level farmers training, package based technology transformation, and participatory development activities are primarily advocated by the policy focuses at regional and national level. In these packages different agronomic practices such as compost preparation, fertilizer utilization, drainage during excessive moisture and the tide ridging during moisture stress are included. However agricultural technology utilization, land degradation and drought are the major factors remained to be crucial for the low production and productivity of agriculture. The population pressure on the resource base is also serious problem. As a result, this woreda is one of the food unsecured woreda in Amhara region, thus food insecurity and poverty are severe in the area (LWGCAO, 2011).



## **CHAPTER III**

### **3 Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Sampling Techniques**

A multi-stage sampling procedure was used to select KAs and sample respondents. At the first-stage, the district was stratified into three categories, dega, w/dega and kolla based on altitude. The next step was the random selection of KA from each stratum using simple random sampling. Finally, sample farm household heads were randomly selected from the three KAs based on proportionate sampling to size of household population in the KAs. At the third stage from 50% of the households in each KA the respondents were only husbands. From the remaining 50% of the households the respondents were only wives. This means from one household only one spouse was selected as respondent.

#### **3.2 Data collection**

Information relevant to the study was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Interview schedule was used for primary data collection on which the study mainly depends. The interview schedule was tested on other farmers that are not included in the study. Completed interview schedule was reviewed and checked every day to make sure that there was no fault and ambiguity. Secondary data was collected from Woreda Amhara National Organization Office (ANOO), Woreda Women's Affairs Office, Woreda Agricultural Office and Woreda Representative Office. Secondary sources include reports, publications and documents containing

information about threats and opportunities to social empowerment of rural women. These were used as additional information to strengthen the primary data that was collected from the respondents.

Data was also collected from focus groups discussion with different groups of women, men and stakeholders to know their views and opinions about the extent to which rural women are socially empowered and the impediments to empowerment of women.

### **3.3 Data analysis**

Data obtained from field observation, focus group discussion and interview schedule, was compiled, screened and analyzed by using the statistical analytical techniques to depict women empowerment issues in terms of gender based violence, availability of free time, freedom of mobility, social relation, leadership role, cultural constraint and community participation. Descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, percentage, frequency tabulation and t-test were employed to consolidate the result.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter provides a clear insight about Legehida woreda and depicts the major findings of the research that answer the research questions and eventually dig out evidences. The gender empowerment indicators are all expressed in charts and tables comparing their percentage, mean and standard deviation of men and women. There is no way of assessing whether rural women are empowered or not in rural area other than comparing benefit, role and responsibilities, involvement in any situation equally with men. Hence, the comparisons between men and women were made in two different ways. Husbands and wives are compared on gender issues concerning relations between spouses on the one hand and at individual level on the other. This means that comparisons are made on the level of development, equity in government organizations response to the needs and interests of each, and distribution of benefits.

#### **4.1 Socio-economic characteristics of the households**

##### **4.1.1 Age of the respondents**

Age has its own effect on women empowerment. To understand the influence of age to other variables, respondents were categorized into six age groups. The majority (71.2 % ) of male respondents were between the ages of 35-54, i.e. 35.6% of husband respondents are between the ages of 35-44, and 35.6 % of them were between the ages of 45\_54. The majority (53.3%) of the wife respondents were between 25-34 years old (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Respondent's age category

Age category	Husband(n=45)		Wife(n=45)	
	No	%	No	%
15_24	0.0	0.0	6.0	13.3
25_34	10.0	22.2	24.0	53.3
35_44	16.0	35.6	15.0	33.3
45_54	16.0	35.6	0.0	0.0
55_64	3.0	6.7	0.0	0.0
>64	0.0	0.0	6.0	13.3
Average	41.9		33.1	

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

Only 6 % of wives were less than 25 years old and the minimum age for wives was 20 years while for husbands it was 26 years. This implies that women marry 6 years earlier than men.

#### **4.1.2 Education level of respondents**

Education is an opportunity to acquire knowledge and to develop skill, in order to see alternatives and make better decision, facilitate changes, adopt new technologies and to improve the livelihood as a whole. So, it is necessary to identify the extent of education gaps between husbands and wives in a household so as to understand the role of education in gender empowerment. The difference in education level has influence in implementation and out- come of development initiatives.

Illiterate wives were much higher (57.78%) than the husbands (35.56%), indicating that less education access were given to girls at early age (Table 2) (Fig 5) (MoE, 2005).

This finding is confirmed with Ministry Of Women's Affairs (2005), in its final report which explored that girls' enrolment in education at all levels is much lower than boys. Male's literacy rate is 49.9 percent while that of female is 26.6 percent (MoH, Health and Health Related Indicators, 2004/2005). The illiteracy rate among young women (15-24) is higher than among men. Out of the adults enrolled in Adult and Non-formal education program run by government and non-governmental organizations in Tigray and Oromia Regions women constitute 30.9 percent only. Women's and girls' access to education was constrained by lack of awareness of policies, guidelines and programs; socio-economic and socio-cultural problems comprising of poverty, HIV/AIDS, workload in the house, early marriage and parents preference to educate their sons; school distance; sexual harassment; girls' shyness and feeling of discomfort to participate with men; lack of role models due to the small number of female teachers in schools, and smaller number in leadership position.

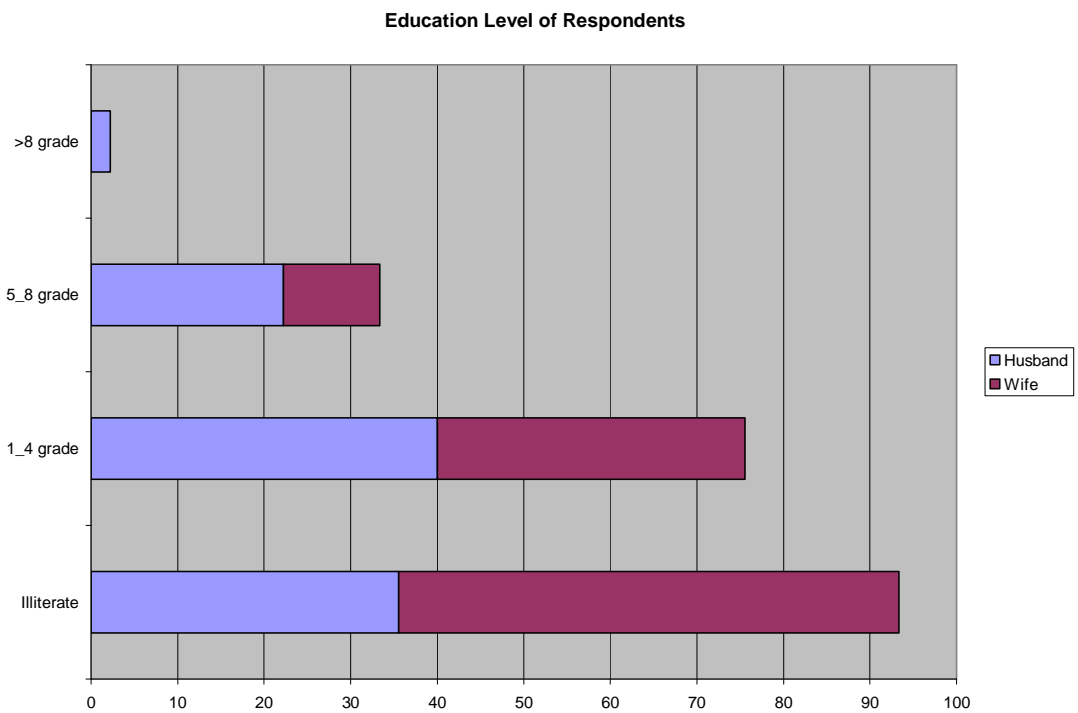
This finding is confirmed with the report of Ministry of Education(2005) which assured that enrolment of female at Primary and Secondary levels in the academic year 2004-2005 were 67.6 and 17.9 percent, respectively, while male's enrolment in the same levels were 80.4 and 28.3 percent, respectively. The proportion of female students admitted to institution of higher education in the academic year 2004-2005

was only 24.4 percent. In the same academic year, only 24 percent of females were enrolled in higher institutions for undergraduate degree.

**Table 2** Education level of respondents at Legehida woreda

Education level	Husband (n=45)		Wife(n=45)		Total(n=90)	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Illiterate	16.00	35.56	26.00	57.78	42.00	46.67
1_4 grade	18.00	40.00	16.00	35.56	34.00	37.78
5_8 grade	10.00	22.22	3.00	6.66	13.00	14.44
>8 grade	1.00	1.11	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Author’s Survey result, 2012



**Fig 5.** Education level of respondents at Legehida woreda

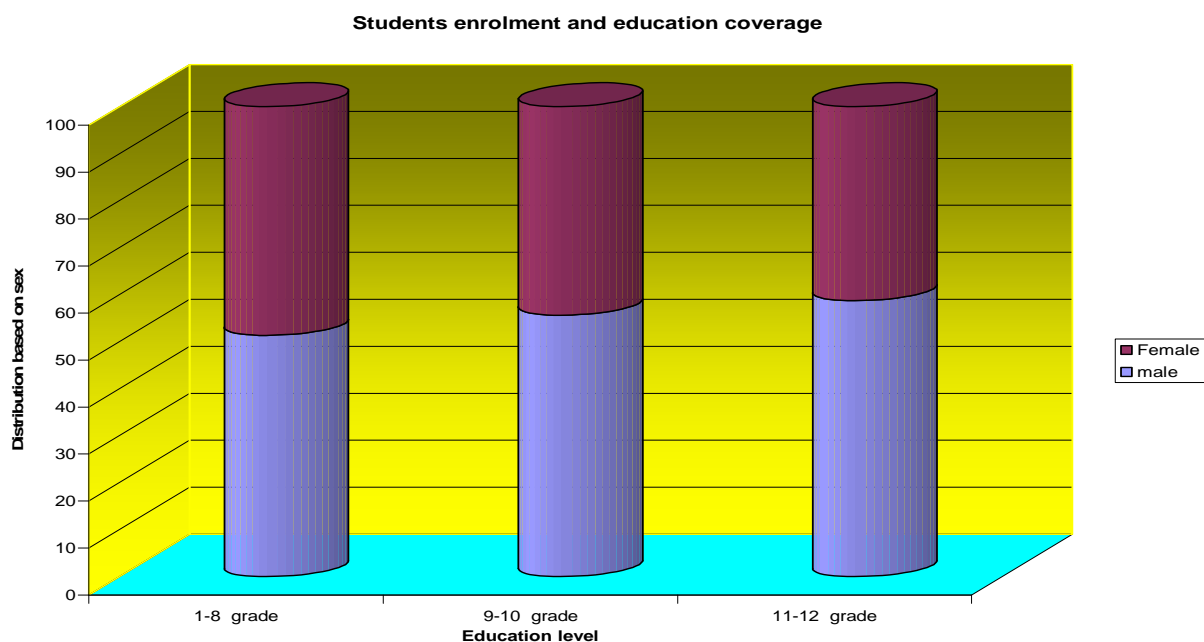
**Source:** Author’s Survey result, 2012

However, when the existing enrolment of students is considered the disparity of education between boys and girls were not that different. The level of participation of females at every level were about the same, showing an improvement in girls education (Table 3) (Fig 6).

**Table 3** Enrolment of male and female students in 2012 at Legehida woreda

Education level	Male		Female		Total	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
1-8 grade	825	94.2	782	95.1	16080	94.70
	8	5	2	8		
9-10 grade	447	5.10	356	4.33	803	4.73
11-12 grade	57	0.65	40	0.49	97	0.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>821</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16980</b>	<b>100</b>
	<b>2</b>		<b>8</b>			

Source: Author's Survey result, 2012



**Fig 6.** Students enrolment and education coverage

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

### **4.1.3 Leadership position in the community**

The role the husbands/wives/ play in the community is related to the positions placed either as group member or leader. Being a leader creates self confidence and takes advantage of strong linkage with different information sources, be aware of the changes in conditional and on going issues, and take the advantage of priority in all rewarding areas as the result of their leadership position they placed. Hence, recognizing the leadership position of the respondents is essential to evaluate how men and women differ in gaining these benefits.

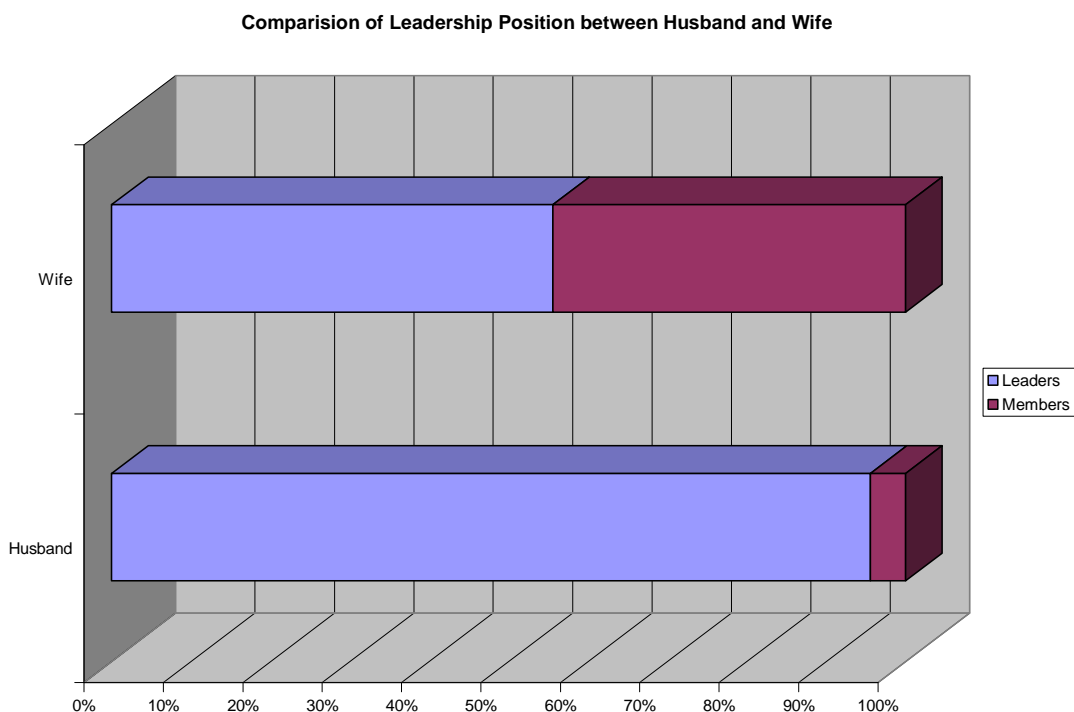
**Table 4** Leadership position of respondents in the community

<b>Leadership position</b>	<b>Husband(n=45)</b>		<b>Wife(n=45)</b>		<b>Total(n=90)</b>	
	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>%</b>
Leaders	43.00	95.56	25.00	55.56	68	151.12
Members	2.00	4.44	20.00	44.44	22	48.88

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012



Table(4) indicates that the percent of leaders among husbands and wives is 95.56% and 55.56%, respectively. This clearly shows that women in general and wives in particular have less exposure and empowerment to be elected as compared to men. Because the cell based structure in rural areas, it doesn't assume equal participation of women and men in cell and group membership. This inhibits women to play the leading role in all development initiatives as men.



**Fig 7.** Comparison of leadership position among Husbands and Wives

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

Likewise Yeshak (2005) indicated that village government chairmen and committee members' respondents were 100% adopters. Similarly, Dereje (2005) reported that farmers who have leadership position in the society might give a better opportunity to access resources and inputs such as labour, fertilizer, seed, to contact with DA for

better information, better access to credit providers, as a result of their leadership position.

## **4.2 Impediments and Prospects of Gender empowerment**

Since the overall goal of gender empowerment is to achieve gender equality and raise the status of rural women, this study assessed the reflection of gender in the study area and analyzed the impediments in terms of participation in public affairs, free time availability, freedom for mobility, cultural constraints and social relation to empower women in rural area.

### **4.2.1 Impediments to Gender empowerment**

To understand the gender gap in political participation in the study area, woreda level data was collected and analyzed along with the support of primary data and presented below.

#### **4.2.1.1 Representation and Political Participation of Women**

The Woreda is divided into fourteen rural and one urban kebeles. Each rural kebele is divided in to three sub zones. In each sub-zone, a cell is organized by kebele administrators through the direction given by woreda office of political organization affairs. Cell is the smallest unit of political organizational structure. The cell consists of 20-30 development groups. The cell has its own leaders and consists of 7-45

members. The development groups are led by cell leaders and affiliated members of the ruling political organization. All cell leaders are members of the ruling political party. But the development groups under the cell include all non members and members of political party. All extension and other sectors' messages are transmitted through these cells.

**Table 5** Comparison of participation of men and women in the council, cell leadership, cell membership and development groups

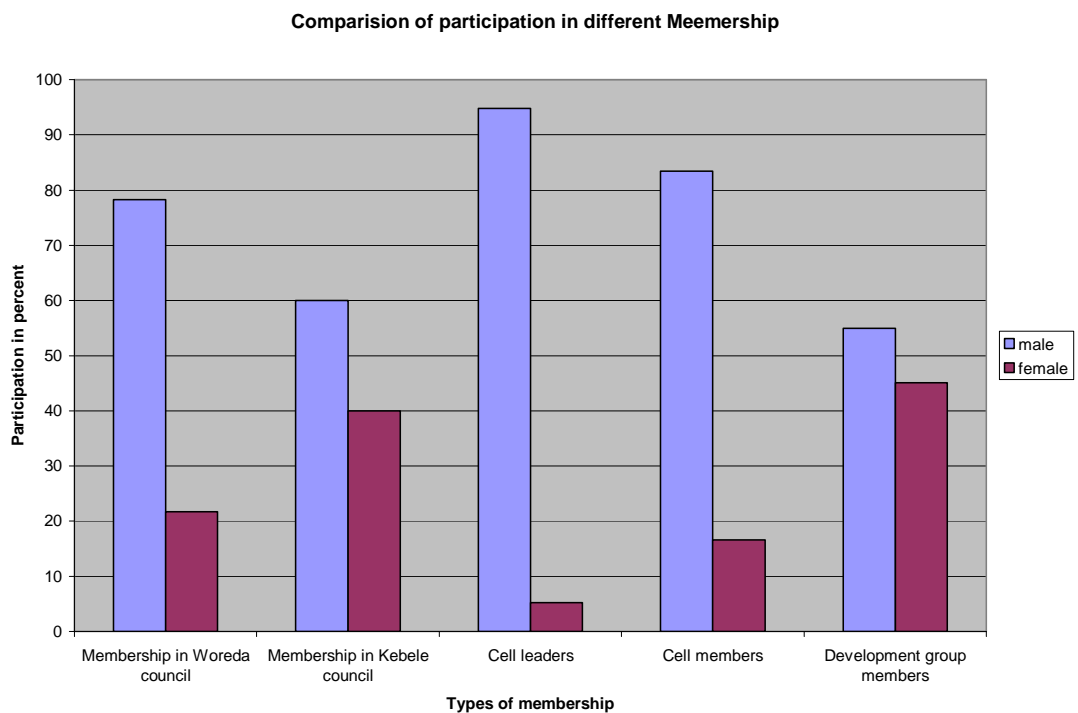
Membership	male		female		total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Membership in Woreda council	8400	78.31	2326	21.69	10726	100
Membership in Kebele council	60	60	40	40	100	100
Cell leaders	1388	94.81	76	5.19	1464	100
Cell members	9014	83.39	1796	16.61	10810	100
Development group	25422	54.93	20856	45.07	46278	100

**Source:** Legehida Woreda Office of Amhara Nation Democratic Movement, 2012

Table 5 indicates that the participation of women in Woreda council, cell leadership and cell membership was 21.68%, 5.19% and 16.61%, respectively. While the participation of men in Woreda council, cell leadership and cell membership was 78.31%, 94.81% and 83.39%, respectively. This implies that even though women were enrolled as members of the ruling political party, their involvement in Woreda council, cell leadership and cell membership was very low as compared to men. It is the Woreda council with limited participation of women that makes decision at woreda level on issues related to both men and women. Cell leaders and cell members were also the decision makers at kebele level on conditional issues that

need community involvement. It is obvious that the concern to women can not be realized without fair participation of women. The reason for this low participation of women is the little attention given to women involvement in cell leaders and cell members during the establishment of cell based structure. This low political participation and under representation of women in decision-making structures lags behind men to access to different opportunities.

This low Participation of women in the councils, cell leadership and group leadership is reflected indirectly through distribution of respondents (Table 4.9). In addition, the lower participation of women in development groups is reflected in the distribution of respondents (Table 4.5).



**Fig 8** Difference in participation among husbands and wives in different level of community membership

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

Among the types of participation listed in the table (5), community meeting, community meeting is vital to disseminate information, to explore perceptions, to find out alternatives and solve problems. The percent of participation of female heads, husbands and wives in community meeting is 87.5%, 97.92% and 68.75%, respectively. Participation among wives is lower than female heads due to their dependence on husbands or domination of their spouse as they miss most meetings called for head of households. Though the percent of participation of female heads is lower than husbands, it is higher than wives due to their involvement in the meeting as head of households.

**Table 6** Distribution of respondents based on their participation in public affairs

participation in public affairs	Husband(n=45)				Wife(n=45)			
	0		1		0		1	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Participation in community meeting	9.00	20.00	36.00	80.00	23.00	51.11	22.00	48.89
Participation in local participatory development planning	8.00	17.78	37.00	82.22	26.00	57.78	19.00	42.22
Participation in development activities evaluation	9.00	20.00	36.00	80.00	31.00	68.89	14.00	31.11
Organized in groups	9.00	20.00	36.00	80.00	21.00	46.67	24.00	53.33
Decision making role in the group	13.00	28.89	32.00	71.11	28.00	62.22	16.00	35.56
Participation in compromising quarreled peoples	13.00	28.89	32.00	71.11	35.00	77.78	9.00	20.00
<b>Overall percent</b>	<b>22.67</b>	<b>50.37</b>	<b>22.33</b>	<b>49.63</b>	<b>29.67</b>	<b>65.93</b>	<b>15.33</b>	<b>34.07</b>

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

**Note:** Scale, Yes=1 No=0

The percent of participation of husbands and wives in group organization was 80% and 53.33%, respectively. This shows that participation among wives is 26.67% lower than husbands. Likewise the percent of participation of wives in playing decision making role in the group is 35.45% lower than husbands, respectively. This indicates that women in general and wives in particular have less participation in community meeting, organizing into groups and in decision making roles in the group.

#### **4.2.1.2 Social relation with organizations**

Social relation is the close contact of respondents with government, non government and local organizations and kinship relation. Social relation play a part in determining an individual's power and status to pool the enabling resources which will allow them to take greater control of their own lives in their particular community. Husbands/wives who have close relation with government, non-government and local organizations and a kinship link have opportunities to avail material and non material benefits and also create confidence to empower themselves. Hence it is necessary to value the differences and similarities between men and women in this aspect.

The analysis depicts that the over all percentage distribution of husbands and wives regarding social relation is 49.63% and 34.07%, respectively (Table 7). Social relation among husbands was higher than that of wives.

**Table 7** Frequency distribution of respondents based on their social relation

Description of social relation	Husband(n=45)				Wife(n=45)			
	Scale 0		Scale 1		Scale 0		Scale 1	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
He/she has a contact with and support from government organizations	20.00	44.44	25.00	55.56	30.00	66.67	15.00	33.33
He/she has a contact with and support from local organizations	24.00	53.33	21.00	46.67	33.00	73.33	12.00	26.67
He/she uses a contact with and support from is/her kinship	24.00	53.33	21.00	46.67	26.00	57.78	19.00	42.22
<b>Overall percent</b>	<b>22.67</b>	<b>50.37</b>	<b>22.33</b>	<b>49.63</b>	<b>29.67</b>	<b>65.93</b>	<b>15.33</b>	<b>34.07</b>

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

**Note:** Scale, No = 0 Yes = 1

When only kinship is considered the percent for husband was 46.67% and 42.22% for wives. This shows that the difference in percent among wives and husbands was insignificant because of the strong kinship in both sides, that is with husband's and spouse's family. The closer contact with kinship, local organizations and governmental organizations facilitates information exchange and awareness creation that help husbands to investigate options and use opportunities.

#### **4.2.1.3 Domestic Violence**

Violence in this study is expressed in terms of fear about lack of shelter, threat from spouse, words of abuse and raproach from spouse. Violence is expressed not only



among wives but also among husbands. The violence faced by husbands from their spouse is expressed in terms of a threat for divorce and leaving the husband along with their children. The consequence of violence is primarily disempowerment of women (Table 8).

**Table 8** Distribution of respondents on the basis of domestic violence

Types of violence	Husband(n=45)		Wife(n=45)		T-Test
	mean	SD	mean	SD	
Fearing beat from spouse	0.02	0.15	0.42	0.5	1.997***
Fearing threat from spouse	0.09	0.29	0.64	0.83	1.936***
Spouse spent most of the money for himself/herself	0.18	0.53	0.24	0.71	1.074**
Fear about lack of shelter	0.11	0.32	0.24	0.53	2.008***
Words of abuse from spouse	0.22	0.47	0.87	0.79	-.585
Rapprochement from spouse	0.31	0.51	0.53	0.59	.149
Threat for divorce from spouse	0.27	0.50	0.22	0.52	.995
Threat for confiscation of property from spouse	0.04	0.30	0.09	0.42	1.292***
<b>The overall mean</b>	0.247		0.319		

**Source:** Computed from Author's Survey data, 2012

**Note:** The scale, used for this computation, Never=0 Sometimes=1 Often=2

Always=3

\*\*, and \*\*\* are significant at less than 5% and 1% level of significance, respectively

As shown on table 8, the over all mean level of domestic violence on husbands and wives was 0.247 and 0.319, respectively, implying that violence on wives was relatively higher than on husbands and as a result, wives tend to suffer violence at the hands of their spouse more often than men. The result of T-test shows a significant difference occurs in threat from spouse, fear of lack of shelter, privately spending of

common money and fear of confiscation (Table 8). This violence creates a gap in women empowerment and inhibits their confidence. Similarly, the study undertaken by Muhammad Zekerya (2005) showed that 59.6% of husband respondents used words of abuse against their wives but 7.6% of the wives initiate rapprochement with their husbands. However, wife respondents never used threat for divorce which might be due to tradition and religion in that a woman once married should try their utmost to save her marriage and home. The additional new findings by Muhammad Zekerya's (2005) study is that wife respondents used threat for divorce as an instrument for their husband's ill-treatment.

Likewise, National Committee for Eradication of Traditional Practices (2003) reported that women are facing multiple forms of deprivation. Gender based discrimination, lack of protection of basic human rights, violence, lack of access to productive resources, education and training, basic health services, and employment opportunities are widespread. Female education is hampered mainly by gender related division of labor, which confines girls to household activities; by early marriage, by unfavorable societal attitude towards the education of girls; and by the restriction on their physical movements in relation to distance of the school from their homes. Parents, particularly, the resource poor would rather invest in their sons, because boys are perceived as bread winners and support old parents, while girls are preferably employed at the household.

#### **4.2.1.4 Free Time Availability**

Free time means the availability of extra time without any engagement in any activity. Free time availability determines participation of female heads/husbands/wives in social and political affairs that increase their consciousness on issues and changes of the day.

As shown on table 9, the overall mean availability of free time among husbands and wives was 1.4 and 1.31, respectively, indicating that husbands have relatively higher available free time than wives. The over all mean free time for husbands was higher than for wives which indirectly showing a higher free time deficit for wives. This finding was confirmed with Mehra and Mary Hill Rojas' (2008) result which displayed that women face far greater time constraints than men. They may spend less time on farm work but work longer total hours on productive and household work and paid and unpaid work, due to gender-based division of labor in child care and household responsibilities.

**Table 9** Extent of free time availability among respondents

<b>Free time availability</b>	<b>Husband(n=45)</b>		<b>Wife(n=45)</b>	
	<b>mean</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>SD</b>
They have rest time in the morning	0.41	0.39	0.16	0.25
They have rest time between morning & mid day	0.46	0.35	0.23	0.27
They have rest time at mid day	1.93	1.12	1.67	1.22
They have rest time between mid day and evening	2.4	0.91	2.42	1.03
They have rest time in the evening	1.38	1.4	1.62	1.34
They have rest time at night	1.84	1.35	1.76	1.35
<b>The overall mean</b>	1.4		1.31	

**Source:** Author's Survey data, 2012

**Note:** The scale, used for this computation is Never=0 Sometimes=1 Often=2

Always=3

The reason is that in addition to their productive role played in the household, they spend their time in unpaid burden of family duties such as nourishment, care of children and other dependents like elders and patients. There is also social obligation for their neighbors without which private life is difficult.

Husbands had more free time as compared to wives. This free time enables husbands to move freely and adjust their time for economic, social and political issues. Whereas, unavailability of free time prevented wives' participation in political, social and economic development activities and becoming one of the impediments to women empowerment.

#### **4.2.1.5 Freedom of Mobility**

Freedom of mobility implies the extent to which the wives/husbands can move freely without of their spouses' permission. Freedom of mobility is basic for any participation that leads to empowerment. In this study, in general, wives had less freedom of mobility than husbands and cannot travel anywhere without their spouses permission (Table 10).

Likewise with Mehra and Mary Hill Rojas (2008) showed described that women are less mobile than men, both because of their child care and household responsibilities and because of socio-cultural norms that limit their mobility.

**Table 10** Distribution of wives and husbands on the basis of their response to freedom of mobility

Freedom of mobility	Wife		Husband		T-Test
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Need permission from spouse to go out of the home stead to do work	1.02	1.19	0.25	0.54	-.264
Need permission from spouse to go to market	0.81	1.18	0.14	0.22	-.897**
Need permission from spouse to attend community meeting	0.83	1.12	0.02	0.05	-1.122
Need permission from spouse to participate campaign work	0.69	1.19	0.60	0.87	.500***
Need permission to go any where they need	1.06	1.19	0.58	0.82	1.828**
<b>The over all mean</b>	<b>0.883</b>		<b>0.319</b>		

Source: Computed from Author's Survey data, 2010

**Note:** The scale, used for computation, is Never = 0 Sometimes = 1 Often = 2

Always=3

\*\* and \*\*\* are significant at less than 5% and 1% level, respectively.

The participation of the wives/husbands in developmental, social and political affairs, and the awareness of technological changes and rewarding economic options are affected by the extent to which the wives/husbands are free to move with out restrictions.

As shown on table 10, the over all mean of extent of freedom of mobility among husbands and wives is 0.32 and 0.88, respectively. On average the need for

permission (restriction or unavailability of freedom) to go out of the home stead for work and any where they need for wives lies between sometimes and often. But it is between never and sometimes among husbands. This depicts that wives are tightly held and more restricted from mobility by their spouse whereas husbands are free and not restricted from mobility by their spouse. Even though husbands and wives are expected to be dependant on each other for some of their mobility, in reality wives are restricted from mobility mostly due to their spouse. But in husbands, in most cases their mobility is not restricted by their spouse.

This result is confirmed by Mehra and Mary Hill Rojas (2008) in their studies, by stating that there is unequal rights and obligations within households and societies in that it imposes restrictions on women's time use, which can undermine their efficiency and productivity due to multiple responsibilities and time conflicts as well as fewer long-term human capital investments, such as education. This disparity in freedom of mobility left wives to remain around their homestead that hides options and opportunities for their personal development by inhibiting their participation and exposure to development initiatives.

#### **4.2.1.6 Cultural Constraints**

Cultural constraints may be different depending upon the type of society. However, it is essential to identify cultural biases that lead to inequitable situations for men and women. In this study, cultural constraints are expressed indirectly in terms of inability to attend and act along with spouse or on behalf of the spouse. The hidden

barriers are the acceptance of men dominance, dependency on spouse, shyness and abstinence in the community affairs (Table 11).

**Table 11** Verification to the extent of cultural Constraints among respondents

Means of verification	Husband(n=45)		Wife(n=45)	
	mean	SD	mean	SD
Attend community meeting instead of his/her spouse	0.58	0.5	0.42	0.5
Attend community meeting along with your spouse	0.6	0.5	0.42	0.5
Forward ideas in the community meeting that he/she attended along with his/her spouse	0.51	0.51	0.16	0.37
He/she goes to government institutions to execute issues instead of his/her spouse.	0.53	0.5	0.11	0.32
<b>The overall mean</b>	<b>0.56</b>		<b>0.28</b>	

**Source:** Computed from Author's Survey data, 2012

The over all mean of the extent of cultural constraints among husbands and wives was 0.56 and 0.28, respectively. This shows that there was a large difference in cultural influence between husband and wives. On average the constraints lie between never and sometimes for husbands and nearly often for wives. Wives face cultural barriers in attending community meeting on behalf of the household whenever their spouse is present, to attend with their spouse, to forward ideas in meetings and to execute their issues on behalf of the household (Table 11).

Those wives whose spouse is elderly or patient, or handicap or had migrated had better exposure can make a contact with government institutions and to forward ideas in community meeting than other wives.



### 4.3 Comparison of Access and Control over Resources between Men and Women

One of the objectives of this study was to compare husbands and wives in their access and control over resources.

#### 4.3.1 Access to Resources

Access to and to utilize resources and to change them to different available material and non- material benefits is the right of individuals. Access to resource plays an important role in improving the engagement of female heads/husbands/wives to invest in different economic activities, reduce the financial constraints, save their time, increase their efficiency and productivity, and solve their problem.

**Table 12** Distribution of respondents based on their access to resources

Description of land holding	Husband(n=45) Scale				Wife(n=45) Scale				
	0		1		0		1		
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	%
Land holding	2.00	4.44	43.00	95.56	19.00	42.22	26.00	57.78	
Irrigated land	39.00	86.67	6.00	13.33	37.00	82.22	8.00	17.78	
Land managed by holder	21.00	46.67	23.00	51.11	22.00	48.89	23.00	51.11	
Share cropping out	6.00	13.33	39.00	86.67	8.00	17.78	37.00	82.22	
Share cropping in	31.00	68.89	14.00	31.11	34.00	75.56	11.00	24.44	
Cash crops	6.00	13.33	39.00	86.67	12.00	26.67	33.00	73.33	
Over all percent	38.89	38.89	27.33	60.74	22.00	48.15	23	37.41	

**Source:** Computed from Author's Survey data, 2012

**Note:** The scale, used for this computation, No=0 Yes=1

The over all accessibility of resources for husbands and wives was 60.74% and 37.41%, respectively. This shows that women have very less access to the above resources than husbands.

This study is confirmed by Mahlet's (2005) study stating that among female headed households, the benefits from large livestock size were insignificant because of very limited holdings. Similarly, Wude (2005) reported that wives have less access to sheep and goat as compared to husbands. Husbands and wives had 43.2 % and 34.4% access for sheep and 47% and 30.3% access for goats, respectively. The less access to productive resources is one of the obstacles for female headed households to use extension services effectively. Wives have better access to resources as compared to female-headed households. However, the husbands had better access to resources as compared to both female headed households and wives.

#### **4.3.2 Control over Resources**

Control over resource means the commanding power of the respondents over resources to organize, manage, run and use as per intention. The controlling power of women over resources determines technological options and rewarding economic activities.



**Table 13** Distribution of respondents on the basis of control over resources

Description of land holding	Husband(n=45)						Wife(n=45)					
	Scale						Scale					
	0*		1		2		0		1		2	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Land holding irrigated land	2.00	4.44	34.00	75.56	9.00	20.00	17.00	37.78	23.00	51.11	5.00	11.11
Land managed by holder	38.00	84.44	5.00	11.11	2.00	4.44	37.00	82.22	7.00	15.56	4.00	8.89
share cropping out	21.00	46.67	17.00	37.78	7.00	15.56	22.00	48.89	19.00	42.22	5.00	11.11
Share cropping	6.00	13.33	29.00	64.44	10.00	22.22	8.00	17.78	32.00	71.11	3.00	6.67
Cash crops	31.00	68.89	14.00	31.11	0.00	0.00	34.00	75.56	11.00	24.44	0.00	0.00
	6.00	13.33	31.00	68.89	8.00	17.78	12.00	26.67	30.00	66.67	0.00	0.00
<b>Overall percent</b>	<b>17.33</b>	<b>38.52</b>	<b>21.67</b>	<b>48.15</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>21.67</b>	<b>48.15</b>	<b>20.33</b>	<b>45.19</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>6.30</b>

**Source:** Computed from Author's Survey data, 2012

**\*Scale:** 0 = no control; 1 = joint control; 2 = exclusive control



In general, 48.15% of wives did not have direct control over resources while only 38.52% of husbands had no control over resources. The over all percent of exclusive control over resource among husbands and wives was 13.3% and 6%, respectively, indicating that wives had 50% lower power than husbands. In general, the majority of rewarding resources are tightly controlled by husbands (Table 13).

Likewise, Wude (2005), Reshid Abdi (2004) and Trinh Thi Tien and Ha Thuc Vien (2009) found similar results in their study.

Wude (2005) reported that the husbands had 63.6% against 10.6% of wives controlling power over large animal cattle (cows and oxen). Trinh Thi Tien and Ha Thuc Vien (2009) reported that men control over economic and value property, land, motor bike and loan access. Thus, 53.33% of men control economic and value property while only 23.34% of the women. Only 19.33% were co-owners by both men and women.

In addition, the study conducted by Reshid Abdi (2004) also stated that while women have high degree of access to households' productive resources their control over some of the critical resources are minimum. Consequently, the study indicates that over 99% of the women in the sampled households have access to households' productive resources. In contrast, women's control over these resources, which are very important in household food security, is insignificant except over livestock products. As a result, the study justified that women's control over the basic household's resources are limited. These are mainly resources such as land, crop products, and chat and cash income. Only 11 % of the women in the households

surveyed had control over land, crop products and chat where as men have both high degree of access, as well as, control over the essential households' resources. Particularly, they dominate in terms of control over land; land products and household cash incomes that are crucial in household food security. He reported that over 87% of the men in the sampled households exclusively control these resources.

#### **4.4 Gender Gaps with Reference to Decision Making Authority**

The study examined the differences between the roles that husbands and wives play, the different decision making power they hold, and constraints and opportunities. Decision making power influences the role they play and affect the recognition and access to benefits that leads to empowerment.

##### **4.4.1 Decision Making Authority of Households**

Decision-making authority is a creative and enabling power to prioritize and solve problems to determine alternatives and to establish visions. Heads/ husbands/wives who play the front line role in decision making have the opportunity to determine internal and external, social and economic activities of the household. Also it affects the extension practices.





**Table 14** Distribution of respondents based on their decision making power in the household

Description	Husband scale								Wife scale							
	0		1		2		3		0		1		2		3	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
What to plant	3.00	6.67	4.00	8.89	1.00	2.22	37.00	82.22	9.00	20.00	9.00	20.00	5.00	11.11	27.00	60.00
What input to use	4.00	8.89	3.00	6.67	3.00	6.67	35.00	77.78	9.00	20.00	9.00	20.00	4.00	8.89	27.00	60.00
How much input to use	38.00	84.44	2.00	4.44	0.00	0.00	5.00	11.11	33.00	73.33	7.00	15.56	0.00	0.00	5.00	11.11
How much of the product to sale	0.00	0.00	5.00	11.11	1.00	2.22	39.00	86.67	1.00	2.22	7.00	15.56	1.00	2.22	36.00	80.00
At what price to sale	0.00	0.00	4.00	8.89	3.00	6.67	38.00	84.44	1.00	2.22	8.00	17.78	1.00	2.22	35.00	77.78
How much of the product to consume	0.00	0.00	4.00	8.89	2.00	4.44	39.00	86.67	2.00	4.44	7.00	15.56	0.00	0.00	36.00	80.00
Income generating activities	38.00	84.44	2.00	4.44	0.00	0.00	5.00	11.11	33.00	73.33	7.00	15.56	0.00	0.00	5.00	11.11
Asset building/ asset sale																8
																0.
																0
																0
<b>Average</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>22.22</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>8.89</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>66.67</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>24.44</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>17.78</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>5</b>
																<b>5.</b>
																<b>5</b>
																<b>6</b>

Source: Computed from Author's Survey data, 2010

Note: The scale, used for computation, is Never = 0 Sometimes = 1 Often = 2 Always=3

Husbands take the decision making authority on most of rewarding agricultural issues. The decision making authority of wives almost always lies as sometimes, indicating the wide room left for their spouses to decide on most issues. Even though the decision making power of husbands was higher than wives, it was less than female heads because of some power given to wives. The decision making power of husbands in this case is reduced from exclusive decision maker (always in the scale) to joint decision maker (sometimes in the scale). Decision making power of wives on most of productivity determinants that require extension service is found to be less than husbands. This includes what to plant, what inputs to use, how much inputs to use how much of the product is to be sold, how much credit to use, what technologies to use and hiring labour forces which are the priority area of husbands. Wives' priority is found to be how much product to be consumed, allocation of income and how to use the stored grain as indicated in the rank order (Table 14).

This result is in line with studies of Addis et al (2001) in that among female headed households, the decision to grow improved wheat varieties was always made by the head, while in male headed households it was either a joint decision between the head and the wife (55.6%) or a decision by the head alone (44.4%). This low decision making power of wives slow down their extensive participation in extension program and create high disparity between men and women. Wude (2005) had indicated that relatively females had insignificant role in the decisions made on what to produce while all decisions are made by the female under female headed households.

Reshid Abdi (2004) also justified that the decision-making power of women in the household is also a factor that influences their roles in household food security. Decision-making over household income is the most important dimension of this argument. In this respect, the results of the study verify that 87% of the households' surveyed indicates that men solely make decisions on the household income. Only 13% of the women in these households make decision over the household income. Conversely, wives have the power in making decision when it comes to how much of the product to be consumed and how to utilize stored grain.

In this study, however, the wives had high decision making power on how much of the product to be consumed and how to utilize the stored grain (Table 14).

Similarly in this context, Reshid Abdi (2004) found that 91% of the women in the sampled households make decision by themselves regarding grain consumption in the households.

#### **4.4.2 Role of households in Productive, Reproductive and Community Work**

In order to analyze the gender gaps between men and women, it is not sufficient to depend on decision making power of the households alone. Much decision making power authority arises from their role. It is the role they play forcing women to spend most of their time around the homestead and become dependent on men. In the realization of rural women empowerment, the transformation of gender role is vital. Identifying the establishment of gender role transformation is a good implication for the prospect of gender mainstreaming in order to recognize the obstacles faced, the future challenges and opportunities.

Transformation of gender role may include the encouragement of men to share the burden of unpaid labour of women and the encouragement of women to share traditionally delivered responsibility to men.

The role played by the female heads /husbands/wives affects the recognition of women and accessibility to benefits that lead to empowerment.

**Table 15** Respondents view on the role of women and men in sharing responsibilities in the household

Description	Wife scale								Husband scale							
	0		1		2		3		0		1		2		3	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Information dissemination	9.00	20.00	4.00	8.89	20.00	44.44	12.00	26.67	27.00	60.00	11.00	24.44	5.00	11.11	2.00	4.44
Land clearing	27.00	60.00	4.00	8.89	1.00	2.22	13.00	28.89	5.00	11.11	2.00	4.44	0.00	0.00	38.00	84.44
Ploughing	16.00	35.56	13.00	28.89	3.00	6.67	13.00	28.89	3.00	6.67	7.00	15.56	0.00	0.00	35.00	77.78
Sowing	0.00	0.00	8.00	17.78	3.00	6.67	34.00	75.56	2.00	4.44	8.00	17.78	1.00	2.22	34.00	75.56
Weeding	3.00	6.67	8.00	17.78	2.00	4.44	32.00	71.11	7.00	15.56	14.00	31.11	1.00	2.22	23.00	51.11
harvesting	9.00	20.00	3.00	6.67	3.00	6.67	30.00	66.67	31.00	68.89	4.00	8.89	0.00	0.00	10.00	22.22
collecting	7.00	15.56	5.00	11.11	2.00	4.44	31.00	68.89	21.00	46.67	15.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	9.00	20.00
Transporting	1.00	2.22	11.00	24.44	4.00	8.89	29.00	64.44	2.00	4.44	19.00	42.22	2.00	4.44	22.00	48.89
Threshing	0.00	0.00	8.00	17.78	2.00	4.44	35.00	77.78	0.00	0.00	18.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	27.00	60.00
Selling crops	4.00	8.89	3.00	6.67	1.00	2.22	37.00	82.22	11.00	24.44	14.00	31.11	1.00	2.22	19.00	42.22
<b>Average</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>15.56</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>17.78</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>4.44</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>62.22</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>24.44</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>24.44</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>48.89</b>

**Source:** Computed from Author's Survey data, 2012

**Scale:** 0 = never; 1 = sometimes; 2 = often; 3 = always



Overall, 60% percent of wives and 20% of husbands do not play a role in information dissemination in the households. This means that wives have least access to information as compared to husbands resulting from their poor participation in community affairs. The role that husbands play in land clearing was the highest indicating that women have less participation in land clearing, ploughing, and selling the crop which was regarded as the sole responsibility of men. While other activities are found to be played rarely by wives indicating that there was a slow and little transformation of gender role. The role of wives in weeding and collecting the harvested crop into trashing area was much greater than husbands. But in other economically rewarding activities, such as selling the crops, their role was less than the husbands. This was due to domination of wives by husbands.

Even though ploughing is culturally unacceptable for women in the area, focus group discussion made with women found that wives had adapted to ploughing when their spouse was taking a break for lunch at the field. But to complete the whole ploughing practice, women face cultural taboo of being called as hermaphrodite or genderless by the community. During group discussion W/o Zuriash Asfaw stated that as she began ploughing the plot by herself, she overheard people mentioning as genderless. Because of this cultural bias she has abandoned ploughing for good. This is one of the cultural constraints that hold back women from engagement in men's territory. This result is in line with the findings of Almaz (2007) in that land is ploughed by husbands in most married households. Female headed households face labour constraint in absence of adult male labour in their households because of the cultural taboo in women's ploughing.

## **4.5 Extension Service Opportunities**

This study had attempted to assess extension service opportunities to women in terms of extension contact, extension utilization and client satisfaction on extension services. It is essential in identifying the elements of gender mainstreaming in the extension service delivery system.

### **4.5.1 Extension Utilization and level of Satisfaction in Extension Services**

Now-a-days the government of Ethiopia gave attention to DA availability at each Kebele to make extension service accessible to all farmers. However, accessibility is an opportunity which doesn't imply utilization. Therefore, it is important to investigate the extent of female heads, husbands and wives (respondents of this study) had used this opportunity in order to utilize extension services. The level of Extension service utilization was assessed and compared in terms of the respondents' exposure to DAs', extension group organization, visitation of improved technologies and practices, training and different package applications. It also includes most of the extension activities and processes, starting from knowing the DAs and group formation up to application of improved practices and technologies. The opportunities for husbands and wives in contacting DAs, dissemination of information, extension education and training are compared. In addition comparisons



were made between respondents with reference to conducting demonstration, visiting improved practices and technologies at farmers training center and model farmers, extension package planning, implementation and evaluation of cost effectiveness, convenience and achievement in the ultimate production objectives. Husbands/wives that are organized in extension group conduct demonstration and visit different improved practices and technologies have a wider range of extension service utilization and share experiences.

Wives have less extension contact, less visited and less trained. This is due to the fact that they are restricted from mobility and also they miss meetings and trainings called for household heads.

This result is in line with Mehra and Mary Hill Rojas (2008) in that women farmers have less contact with extension services than men, especially where male-female contact is culturally restricted. Extension is often provided by men agents to men farmers on the erroneous assumption that the message will trickle across to women. In fact, agricultural knowledge is transferred inefficiently or not at all from husband to wife. Also, the message tends to ignore the unique workload, responsibilities, and constraints facing women farmers". UNDP (2003) stated "The differences and inequalities between women and men influence how individuals respond to changes". This disparity makes women empowerment difficult.

Extension service is one of the public services provided to farmers to help them transform their subsistence agriculture to market oriented agriculture by introducing new improved technologies and practices. The need for assessing extension service

satisfaction related to gender is to recognize how far the service is benefiting both men and women equally and provides opportunity to all. The current extension service is dependent on cell based organized groups in the study area. Any agricultural extension related information is primarily disseminated to these cell and then to development groups. Because almost all farmers are organized under development groups led by politically committed local leaders. Farmer trainers are selected from this group by DAs in collaboration with cell leaders and group leaders. As far as the participation of women in cell leaders and group leaders is concerned it is insignificant in number, their participation in any extension training program is the least as compared to men. Even though this structure is helpful to address most of the members of the community, DAs and extension personnel listed a number of obstacles and limitations during group discussions, that prevent the current institutional structures for extension service from functioning effectively and to go ahead farther:

- ✓ Farmers do give attention to political leaders rather than to experts and DAs. Extension program has been laid out whether local political leaders or farmers are convinced or committed or not;
- ✓ Farmers are exhausted by attending different meetings because their established cell is the main media through which all sectors' and current issues and messages are transmitted;
- ✓ Lack of awareness and focus of the farmers on traditional practices;
- ✓ Dependence on aids and resistance of farmers to risky and hard but much profitable and productive tasks and technologies.

**Table 16** Responses of farm households on their satisfaction in extension services

Type of extension service	Husband(n=45)		Wives(n=45)	
	mean	SD	mean	SD
Information dissemination	1.78	1.06	0.6	0.86
Agricultural training	1.6	1.03	0.42	0.87
Advisory service	1.8	1.14	1.13	1.01
<b>The over all mean</b>	<b>1.73</b>		<b>0.72</b>	

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

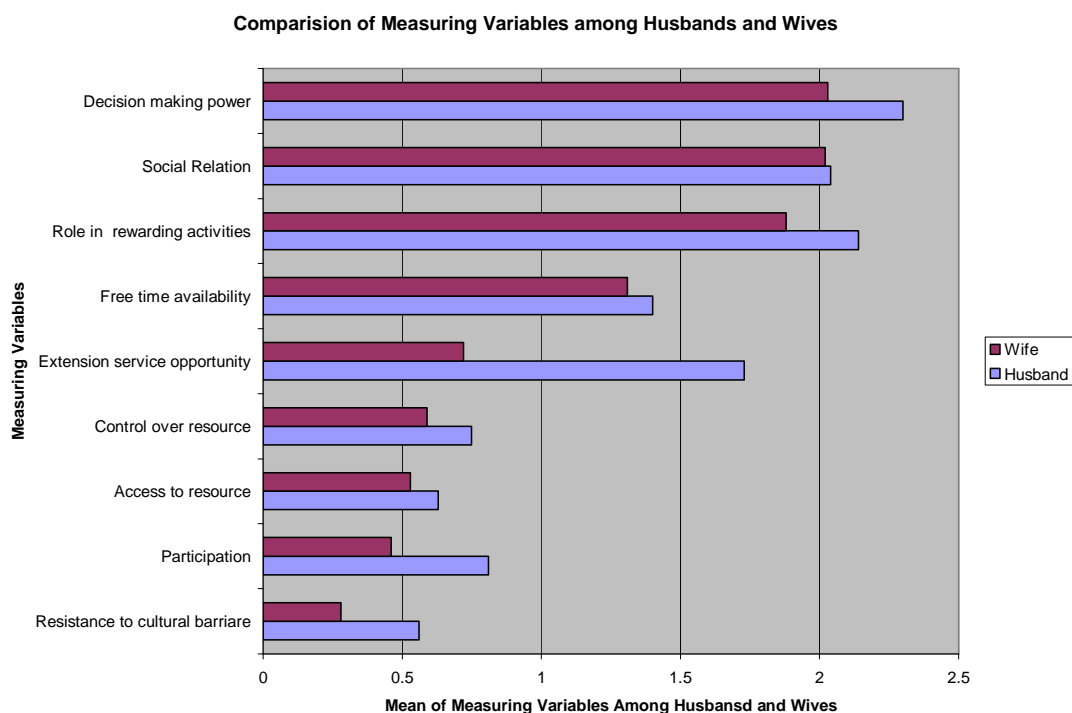
Scale used for computation: 0 = not provided; 1 = inadequate; 2 = satisfactory; 3 = more than satisfactory

The over all mean of extension service among female heads, husbands and wives is 1.73 and 0.72, respectively (Table 16). This means that husbands are more benefited than wives in extension service because of their high participation and involvement in extension group organization. Wives were the least exposed to extension services as expressed in terms of information dissemination, training and advisory services as compared to husbands.

The male-oriented extension system mostly held back from contacting and working with women farmers due to cultural barriers (contacting with women is unwanted but not restricted) in the rural areas. In addition DAs' intention to scale up better practices and technologies to other farmers divert their attention to acknowledged

farmers rather than tending equal focus towards men and women. In general satisfaction on extension service among wives is less (on average between not provided and inadequate) than husbands. Whereas, husbands were more satisfied on extension services (Table 16).

This study is agreement with Addis et al (2001) findings in that 62.9% of male headed households and 45.8% of female headed households received information on the use of insecticides and 51.4% of male headed households and 16.7% of female headed households received information on the use of improved seed, which indicates clearly the male oriented flow of information. Concerning training, this study is also in line with Addis et al (2001) study in that 48.6% of male headed households reported that they received agricultural and vocational training, while among female headed households, it was only 25%.



**Fig 9.** Comparison of measuring variables among wives and husbands

**Source:** Author's Survey result, 2012

Including extension service opportunities, the mean of the measuring variables is higher in husbands than in wives rather than achieving equality among them. It means that women in general and wives in particular have lower decision making power, social relation, roles in rewarding activities, available free time, access to resource, control over resource, participation and resistance to cultural barriers as compared with men. Whereas in case of violence and restriction from mobility the mean is higher among wives than husbands as shown below in figure 10.

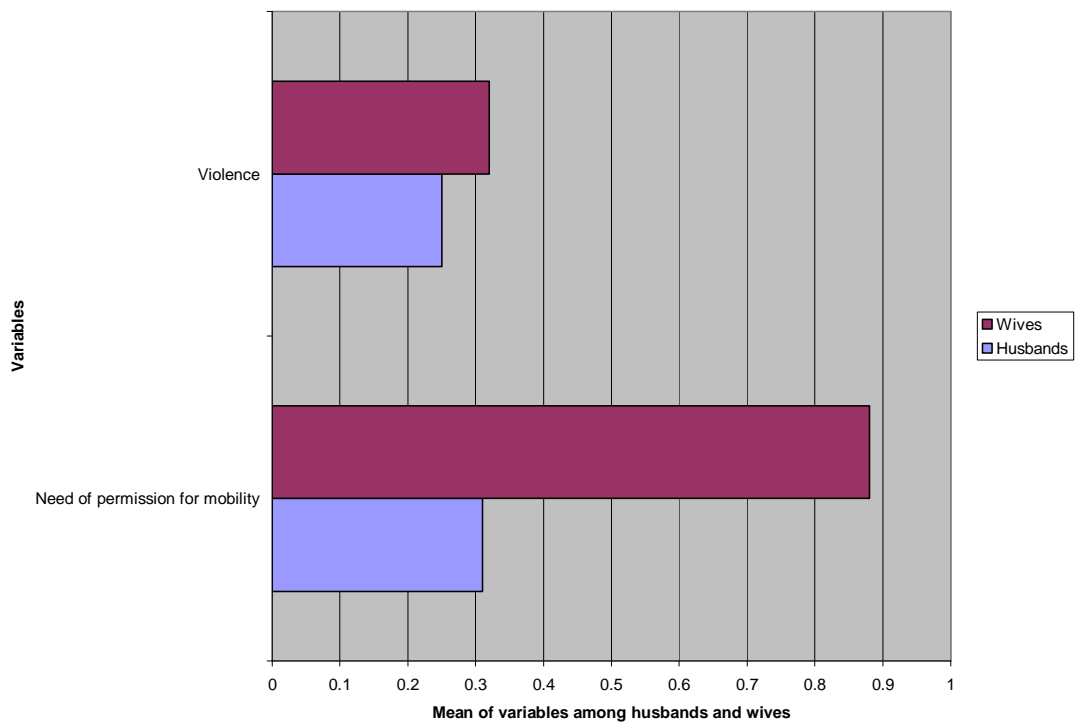


Figure 10 Comparison of domestic violence and freedom of mobility among husbands and wives

Source: Author's Survey result, 2012

## **CHAPTER V**

### **5. Conclusion and Recommendation**

#### **5.1 Conclusion**

In each rural Kebele in the study area, the cell based group formation is a mechanism by which executive bodies attempt to address the majority of the community. All extension and other sectors' messages are transmitted through these cells.

Even though women being members of political organization, membership in development group and leadership participation was too insignificant as compared with men. However, women were being addressed through women's affairs, women association and women league in their structure that reaches down to kebele level.

Inequality in social relation, freedom of mobility, time availability, participation and existence of domestic violence between men and women affect the prospects of women empowerment. The analysis has revealed that social relation to different government organizations and local organizations for the husband was higher than among wives. This close social relation helps husbands to investigate options and opportunities more than women in general and wives in particular.

The study also had shown that there exists violence in the households. Husbands face violence from their spouse in terms of a threat for divorce. Wives face violence in terms of fear about lack of shelter, threat from spouse, words of abuse and reproach from spouse. However violence on husband is relatively lower than on wives.

Wives are restricted from mobility mostly by their spouse. This disparity in freedom of mobility left wives to remain around their homestead and inhibited them from participation and exposure in development initiatives. Wives face cultural barriers in attending community meeting on behalf of the households, to forward ideas in a meeting and to execute decisions on behalf of the households.

The study had shown that husbands have more access to and better control over resources than wives. This less access to productive resources inhibits them to use extension services effectively and attain their production objective.

Wives have less decision making power on production related issues that require policy actions. Their participation in extension was minimal.



## **5.2 Recommendations**

This study clearly points out the existence of gender disparity in access to and control over resources, extension opportunities, social relation, participation, mobility, free time availability and extension contact in three rural Kebeles in Legehida Woreda of Amhara Region. Contributing factors to women's inequalities need to be addressed effectively to ensure women's empowerment in the study area. Therefore the following recommendations are drawn to empower women.

1. The existing cell based structure used as extension communication media is also a media for other sectors. This will create work dilution and information loading on the side of cell leaders and development group leaders that are expected to be committed and convinced early to make other farmers beneficiaries of extension services. Thus, there should be a structure needed exclusively for extension program.
2. Cell leaders and members are expected to be the leading role player from the community members in their involvement in economic, social and political activities. However the participation of women in cell membership and leadership was too low even insignificant as compared to men. Therefore, reorganization of the cell to accommodate women should be considered.

3. Even though cell based structure used as extension communication media is helpful to address most of the members of the community, due to political orientation of the cell, farmers give more attentions to local political leaders rather than experts and DAs, experts and DAs should be updated with gender-related skills, knowledge and commitment to convince local political leaders and create extension service demand on the side of the farmers.
4. Women empowerment in agricultural extension requires strengthening women electors and making them the leading role player in each development initiatives. Therefore, reviewing the regional extension policy to integrate agricultural extension with women leagues, women organizations, kebele women affairs representatives, gender facilitators and health extension post, and using them as media through which agricultural extension message be transmitted.
5. Wives have less extension contact, less visited by extension agents and less trained. Therefore, equal share should be given to women in any planned activity and the performance should be evaluated based on the disaggregated data by sex. The participation of female headed households should not be considered as indicator for gender mainstreaming.

6. Initiating women's involvement in community activities should include not only female heads but also wives. There should be initiatives to make wives available in meetings as far greater than 75% of female adults were wives.
  
7. The involvement of wives in many extension related activities was low as compared to female heads and husbands due to lack of exposure. Strong women organization must have the capability to raise the participation of wives. Therefore attention should be given to strengthening all types of women organizations to increase wives' access to and utilization of extension services.
  
8. There is also disparity between husband and wives in freedom of mobility and availability of free time that left wives to remain around their homestead that hides opportunities for their personal development. Therefore, in each sector continuous awareness program on gender should be created, the time compatibility of any program for women should be considered, share should be exclusively given to participation of women in any planned activity and the performance should be evaluated based on gender disaggregated data.

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## Appendices

### Interview schedule

1. Name of interviewee.....2.code\_\_\_\_\_3. Age...4. Sex...

5.1 **Education level** (1) Illiterate (2) Grade1-4 (3) Grade5-8 (4) Grade>8

5.2 **Position in the community**- (1) Member (2) leader (elected)

6. **Gender based intra household violence**-Would you please answer the following questions by saying Never/rarely/often/always?

S.N	Description	Nev er	Rare ly	Ofte n	Alwa ys
V1	Do you face beat from your spouse?				
V2	Do you face threat from your spouse?				
V3	Do your spouse spent most of the money him/her self?				
V4	Do you fear about lack of shelter?				
V6	Do you face words of abuse from your spouse?				
V7	Do you face reproach from your spouse?				
V8	Do you threat for divorce from your spouse?				
V9	Do you face threat for confiscation of property from your spouse?				
V10	Do you face threat for leaving with your children from your spouse?				



7. **Freedom of mobility**-Would you please certify your agreement by saying Never/rarely/often/always?

S.N	Description	Degree of mobility			
		Ne ver	Ra rel y	O ft e n	Alw ays
FM1	Do you need permission from your spouse to go out of the home stead to do your work?				
FM2	Do you need permission from your spouse to go to market?				
FM3	Do you need permission from your spouse to attend community meeting?				
FM4	Do you need permission from your spouse to participate campaign work?				
FM5	Do you need permission from your spouse to go any where you need?				
FM6	Does your chore in the HH allow you to go any where far from your home with in a day?				

8. **Availability of free time** -Would you please certify your agreement by saying Never/ Rarely/ often/always?

S.N	Description	Degree of time availability			
		Never	Rarely	Often	Always
FT1	Do you have rest time in the morning?				
FT2	Do you have rest time between morning & mid day?				
FT3	Do you have rest time at the mid day?				
FT4	Do you have rest time between mid day and evening?				
FT5	Do you have rest time in the evening?				
FT7	Do you have rest time at night?				

9.. **Social relation**-Would you please answer the following questions by saying yes/No

	Description	yes	No
SR1	Do you have a contact with and support of any GO when ever you need		
SR2	Do you have a contact with and support of any group when ever you need		
SR3	Do you have a contact with and support of any kinship when ever you need		
CC1	Do you attend community meeting instead of your spouse?		
CC2	Do you attend community meeting along with your spouse?		
CC3	Do you forward ideas in the community meeting that you are attended along with your spouse?		
CC4	Do you go to government institutions to execute issues instead of your spouse.		

10. **Access to and Control over resources** Would you please specify the type of the control over the resources that you have control over resource by saying no control/joint control/exclusive control

S.N	Types of resource	Access to resource		Control over resource		
		yes	No	No control	joint	exclusive
AC1	Land holding					
AC2	Irrigated land					
AC3	Share cropping in					
AC4	Cash crops					
AC6	Off farm income					
AC8	Cash from animal sale					

11. **Participation** -Would you please answer the following questions by saying yes/No

S.N	description	Yes	No
P1	Do you participate in community meeting?		
P3	Do you participate in local participatory development planning?		
P4	Do you participate in development activities evaluation?		
P5	Have you been organized in any group?		
P6	If yes, does this group assist you as your intention?		
P7	Do you play a decision making role in the group?		
P8	Does your idea accepted by the group members mostly?		
P9	Do you participate in compromising quarreled peoples?		
P10	Does your idea accepted by your family members mostly?		

12.. **Decision making power in the HH-** Would you please certify your agreement about your decision making power by saying -never/ rarely /often/always

	Do you have power to decide on	Never	rarely	often	Always
DM1	What to plant on the land				
DM2	How much of the product to sale				
DM3	how much credit to use				
DM4	Finance and financial management				
DM5	Income generating activities				
DM6	Asset building or asset sale				

13. **Access to extension service**-Would you please evaluate the existing extension package and extension service by saying exceeds the need/meets the need/inadequate/ not available

S.N	Access to extension service	Exceeds their expectation	meets their expectation	inadequate	not available
CS6	Information dissemination				
CS8	Agricultural training				
CS9	advisory				

14. **Role in the HH** -Would you please specify your role in the following activities by saying never/rarely/often/always?

S.N	Description	Degree of involvement			
		Never	Rarely	Often	Always
	<b>Role in unpaid family duties</b>				
RH1	Preparation of family food(cooking)				
RH2	Child care and bearing				
	<b>Role in economically rewarding activities</b>				
RH3	Income generating activities				
RH4	Production activities				
RH5	Livestock sale & purchase				
RH6	Sheep and goat and purchase and sale				
	<b>Roles in community obligations</b>				
RH7	Serving during wedding				
RH8	Serving during mourning				
RH9	campaign development works				