

**THE ROLE OF RURAL WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY IN THE
SOUTHERN NATION, NATIONALITIES AND PEOPLES REGION OF
ETHIOPIA: THE CASE OF AMARO WOREDA**

DISSERTATION

**SUBMITTED TO INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY/ IGNOU/
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ARTS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

BY

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis, entitled **The Role of Rural Women in the Household Food Security in Southern Nation, Nationalities and Peoples Region in Ethiopia: The Case of Amaro Woreda**, is my original work and has not been presented or published in any other organization. I would also like to verify that no section of this paper either entirely or partially taken from others' works.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my late wife,

W/o Emembet Teshome Abebe

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Acronyms

ADB: Agricultural Development Bank

CSA: Central Statistical Agency

CSO: Civil Society Organization

FAO: Food and Agricultural Organization

FGD: Focus Group Discussion

GDP: Gross Domestic Product

IFAD: International Fund for Agriculture Development

IGNOU: Indira Gandhi National Open University

MFI: Micro Finance Institution

MOA: Ministry of Agriculture

NFE: None Formal Education

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

OECD: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

PICDO: Progress Integrated Community Development Organization

SIDA: Swedish International Development Agency

SIGI: Social Institution and Gender Index

SNNPR: Southern Nation, Nationalities and Peoples Regional

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Science

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

WB: World Bank

WFP: World Food Program

ABSTRACT

Food is one of the basic requirements that should be fulfilled by all human being. Every person has to get the right amount of food as to live a healthy and productive life. Individuals or household can secure food in many ways including producing on own farm, purchasing from market or receiving food aid. The objective of the study is to assess the role of rural women in the household food security and their contribution in agricultural activities. Towards achieving these objectives, primary data were collected from the randomly selected respondents from Amaro woreda of SNNPR, Ethiopia. The collected information was analyzed descriptively and key findings are discussed. According to the assessment, rural women play significant roles in ensuring household food security and agricultural activities. However; the roles of each rural woman in ensuring household food security and agricultural activities varies from household to ded household depending on the households' socio-economic status. The study put forward the recommendation that the society has to acknowledge the crucial roles played by rural women in household food security and other related activities; local development institutions has to provide extension service, other capacity building measures and facilitate across to micro credit. The diversified roles of rural women as food producers, home managers and income generators from both farm and off-farm activities has contributed to the household food security. Women in the surveyed area are not well aware of their right to land and other properties and are also very much deprived from benefitting from micro finance institutions, and extension services.

Chapter One

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

According to CSA (2014), the current population of Ethiopia is estimated to be 90 million of which women comprise nearly half of the total population. In Ethiopia, about 85 percent of the people depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Of the total rural population of the country, women constitute about 50 percent and are engaged in various agricultural activities to ensure household food security.

Women play significant role in various agriculture activities in developing countries. Women work in agriculture as farmers on their own account, unpaid workers on family farms and as paid or unpaid laborers on other farms and agricultural enterprises (FAO, 2010), they involve in both crop production and animal husbandry at subsistence and commercial levels. They also engage in food staff and cash crops production and manage mixed agricultural activities.

Ethiopia is not an exception in this regard. Rural women in Ethiopia also play essential roles in agriculture activities such as food production, and hence contribute to food security of their households. Despite their significant contribution, rural women enjoy low access to economic and functional resources, and are generally not acknowledged by their society. In addition, their contribution and role in household food security is not recognized by local leaders and community institution. Even if women are provided equal rights like men in the use and transfer of land by the constitution, implementation is

not fully achieved. According to some studies, in spite of the social, political and economic setbacks they have been suffering from, rural women are found working hard to ensure their households' food security.

Among the various key roles of women in rural areas, ensuring food security of their family remained the major one. According to the definition of the World Bank (1986), food security is access by all people at all times to enough food for an active and healthy life. Its essential elements are the availability of food and the ability to acquire it. There are two kinds of food insecurity: chronic and transitory. Chronic food insecurity is a continuously inadequate diet caused by the inability to acquire food. It affects households that persistently lack the ability either to buy enough food or to produce their own. While transitory food insecurity is a temporary decline in a household's access to enough food. It results from instability in food prices, food production, or household incomes-and in its worst form leads to famine.

1.2 Statement of the problem

According to IFAD (2010), Women's role in ensuring household food security remains largely unrecognized in policy and resource allocation, especially in developing countries. The voices and concerns of rural women are little heard at the national and global level. Women's groups tend to remain confined to the local level. This translates into a dramatic mismatch between rural women's voices and decision-making roles and their enormous contribution to agricultural production, marketing, and livelihoods.

According to the statement of Lynda (1991), noted that we live in a society in which there is substantial level of gender inequality. The inequality in the provision of education reflects the deep rooted tradition and values within the ideological, political, economical and socio-cultural structure of societies, indicated that women are, of course, an integral part of farming households. They produce over half of the food in many developing countries, bear the most responsibilities for household food security, and contribute to household well-being through their income-generating activities. Yet, women usually have more limited access to resources and opportunities and their productivity remains low relative to their potential.

Due to poor awareness of our society, women's role in household food security has not been recognized and not become visible. Therefore, this dissertation is aimed at assessing the role of Amaro rural women in agricultural production activities to fulfill the food security of their families. The study is envisaged to generate practical evidence and hence will contribute to boosting of the skill, knowledge and understanding of Agriculture and Rural Development officers, Woreda women, youth and children affairs officers and local district development actors in their future planning and implementation of household food security programs. The purpose of this dissertation is, therefore, to answer the question "what are the roles of rural women in Amaro Woreda with regards to household food security?"

1.3 Objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to assess the role of rural women in household food security at Amaro Woreda.

The specific objectives are to:

- Assess the role of rural women in household food security in the woreda,
- Assess the ways in which rural women contribute in ensuring the food security in the woreda,
- Identify the cultural and traditional factors that affects the role of rural women in household food security, and
- Identify supports that are available for rural women in the study area.

1.4 Research questions

The study is in a way an attempt to give answer specifically to the following questions.

1. What are the household food security activities of rural women in Amaro Woreda?
2. What are the cultural and traditional factors affecting rural women in household food security in Amaro Woreda?
3. What are the supports provided to rural women in the study area

1.5 Hypothesis

The hypothesis of the study is:

“Rural women have great role in ensuring food security of their households in the study area”.

1.6 Significance of the study

This study has paramount importance for: (a) it provides information that will enable effective measures to be as to improve the role of rural women in household food security; (b) the will benefit local government in general and development actors and local institution and local leaders in particular, in terms of increasing their knowledge base which would help to determine the role of rural women in household food security and well-being. Last but not least, this research work would offer insight for other researchers and university students who are interested to undertake similar research activities for further investigation.

1.7 Limitation of the study

Owing to time and budget constraints, this study collects information only from three kebeles of the woreda. Also, the study was limited to contribution of rural women i.e did not consider the contribution made by the urban woman.

1.8 Scope of the study

The study is limited to Amaro Woreda in the southern nations and nationalities and peoples' regional (SNNPR) state in Ethiopia. To this end, three kebeles namely Kobo, Golbe and Jelo were selected purposefully from the Woreda. This study is restricted due to geographical remoteness, low attitude of few respondents and cultural dominance of males in the farming community. Nevertheless, the required data for the study were collected from the sample respondents, researcher observation and Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

1.9 Organization of the study

The study is organized into five chapters. Chapter one deals with introduction; chapter two review of chapter three methodology and research design; chapter four results and discussions and chapter five summaries, conclusions and recommendation.

Chapter Two

2. Review of Literature

2.1. Definitions and Concept of Household Food Security

This part appraises pertinent literature concerning to the concept of food security, definitions and household food security at the household level. It also presents a review of role of women in household food security in Ethiopia. Food is one of the basic needs that should be obtained by all humans to continue surviving. Every person has to get the right amount of food as to live a healthy and productive life. Individuals or families can secure food in different ways i.e. by producing on their farm, purchasing from market or receiving food aid.

The concept of food security was conceived during the 1970s. Many definitions of food security have been forwarded in the literature over the years. For instance, according to the World Bank (1986) food security is referring to access by all people at all times to adequate food of good quality for active and healthy life. World Bank in the year 1989, also defined food security as access by all people at all times to sufficient food for a healthy and productive life. Within the framework of this definition, attainment of food security requires fulfilling certain conditions for the supply, demand and household –level utilization of food. At the national level, an aggregate supply of food (either from domestic production or import) is a necessary condition for food security-however, it is not sufficient. The “access” part of the definition of food security is also critical. Food security requires that all households have the ability to acquire enough food, either by producing it themselves or by generating sufficient income to purchase needed food supplies.

Moreover, to the extent that household food security is not an end in itself but rather a means to achieving an active and healthy life, it also requires satisfactory health conditions and social practices- to ensure efficient allocation of available food among household members and optimal physiological utilization by individual household members of nutrients contained in the food. These factors, in turn, have an impact on nutritional status and, hence, on the capacity of household members to work and so provide food. According to World Bank (1990), food security has been defined as access by all people at all times to sufficient food for a healthy and productive life. This definition comprises two main elements:

- i) Assuring the availability of adequate food and supplies, through domestic production or imports; and
- ii) As the ability of households to acquire food, either by producing it themselves or by having the income to purchase it.

According the World Food Summit (1996) Definition, Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for active and healthy life. The definition of food security underwent another round of evolution after the 1996 World Food Summit, when the definition was broadly set as achieving food security “at the individual, household, national, regional, and global levels when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”

Generally the understanding of the current food security concept support; food security has to ensure all the people, at all times, physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and

nutritious food which meets the dietary need of all people to enable them for an active and healthy life. FAO (2008) has identified four key dimensions of food security and as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">Availability</p>	<p>Food availability addresses the “supply side” of food security and is determined by the level of food production, stock levels and net trade.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Access</p>	<p>An adequate supply of food at the national or international level does not itself guarantee household food security. Concerns about insufficient food access have resulted in a greater policy focus on income, expenditure, markets and prices in achieving food security objectives.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Utilization</p>	<p>Utilization is commonly understood as the way the body makes the most of various nutrients in the food. Sufficient energy and nutrients intake by individuals is the result of good care and feeding practices. Food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food. Combined with good biological utilization of food consumed, this determines the nutritional status of individuals.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Stability</p>	<p>Even if your food intake is adequate today, you are still considered to be food insecure if you have inadequate access to food on a periodic basis, risking a deterioration of your nutritional status. Adverse weather conditions, political instability, or economic factors (unemployment, rising food prices) may have an impact on your food security status.</p>

Source: <https://foodsecuritysm.wordpress.com/>

The World Bank defined food security which remains in force up until these-days. It broadened the emphasis from food availability to include access to food, and narrowed the focus from the global and national to households and individual level.

The definitions of Lioba Weingartner, FAO, and World Bank give the impression for the reason that food security has to guarantee the growth and development of all human beings at the household level for their active and productivity life.

However, in developing countries not all people have access to adequate food from their own production, have sufficient income to purchase and imports food to meet their food requirements for an active healthy life. Hunger and food insecurity are widespread in most developing countries including Ethiopia. The SNNPR is one of the nine regional states in Ethiopia. It has fertile land for agricultural production and produce significant volume of agricultural produce at regional level. However; this does not mean that all farming households produce sufficient food. Evidences shows that some of the farming households produce extra output, some are self-sufficient and other produce short of what they need to ensure their households' food security.

Women are crucial in the translation of the products of a vibrant agriculture sector into food and nutrition security for their households. They are often the farmers who cultivate food crops and produce commercial crops alongside the men in their households as a source of income. When women have an income, substantial evidence indicates that the income is more likely to be spent on food and children's needs. Women are generally responsible for food selection and preparation and for the care and feeding of children. Women are the key to food security for their households (Quisumbing and others 1995). In addition to the key role of women in agriculture

production, the rural women use or spend their time by accessing water, firewood collection, and feeding of small children and other domestic activities to ensure the well being of the household members.

2.2. Household food security

Food security has to encompass all season round access to sufficient supply of healthy and safe and sound food to meet the dietary needs of all households' members. The improvement of household food security as a link-concept has become very important in the assessment of food security at a household level and the fact that national, regional food insecurity cannot necessarily involve food security at the household level for the issue of access to food by households.

The World Bank, (1990) defines household food security as “a set of principles or values that ought to be adhered in all development measures to ensure access to adequate food by and for household over time. Another important and relevant in relation with the role of women in household food security is defined here as “access to food, adequate in quantity and quality, to fulfill all nutritional requirements for all household members throughout the year” Based on some definitions the analysis of household food security consists of two main components such availability of food in closeness to household and the level and type of resources extended to attain household food security comparative to the total resources available at the household.

The concept of household food security refers to the capacity of a household to guarantee all its members continued access to adequate amount and quality of food to live dynamic and, healthy life. Household food security can be reflection of as the capability to offer sufficient energy intake moreover from food produced directly by household members and or

through the availability of sufficient income to purchase food. Therefore, food security strategy has to address household-level food production and investment in food production and storage. These, however, are essential but not sufficient vehicle for solving household-level malnutrition and household food insecurity problem (Rukuni, 2002).

The household food security is the capacity of a household to obtain a stable and sustainable basket of sufficient food; however, it is difficult to achieved sufficient food by all households. Adequacy of household food, in terms of quality and quantity of food, which contribute to a diet that meets the nutritional needs of all household members, Stability also contribute to the household's ability to acquire food across seasons and temporary shortage. Sustainability is the most complex and important element in the household food security to guarantee human dignity, and self-reliance, among others..

Rural Women thrive to ensure household food security despite they are faced with poor health, malnourishment and often pregnancy. In farming area, the role of rural women at household level is assessed both at on -farm and, at off-farm. This assessment involves the cultivation of main food crops, livestock husbandry, local beverage, weaving. Pottery, and others related activities such as home management, which includes preserving, processing, and food preparation, child care provision and other household activities.

2.3. The Role of Rural Women in Agricultural Production

Women produce a large part of the world's food but accurate data is very hard to arrive on their involvement in agricultural production. (FAO, 1995) confirm that there is still insufficient

gender disaggregated data to give exact figures on women's contributions to agricultural production everywhere in the world, disaggregation of data is increasing. According the statement of FAO, it is doable to describe that the rural women's roles in agricultural production and household food security is considerably increasing, particularly in the developing countries including Ethiopia.

Based on the information of FAO (1994) in sub-Saharan Africa, women contribute 60 to 80 percent of the labor in both food productions for household consumption and for sale. The testimonial of FAO showed that women are playing major role in agricultural production and household food security as well in the study area.

Rural women perform numerous household tasks such as, land preparation, main food crop production such as (maize, teff, sorghum, wheat and barley), sowing seeds, weeding, harvesting and threshing of the main crops and also they are accountable for post-harvesting, food processing, storing, transporting and marketing agricultural produce. In addition to crop production, women in many district and villages grow at their backyard vegetables and fruits, Enset or false banana, cassava, coffee and other legume crops to supplement their household food security. They also engage in livestock production such as cattle, goat, sheep and poultry and managing, feeding and milking.

According to the study conducted by Ministry of Agriculture of Ethiopia in the year 1992, on average, rural women are in charge of about 40 percent of all agricultural labor in Ethiopia. The same is true that in SNNPR state mainly in the study area rural women play important role in

agricultural production. More so, like in many places in Ethiopia, rural women in the study area use labor intensive and low agricultural technology.

To build up the rural women role in agricultural activities involvement the research entitled “A case study on women’s access to Agricultural Extension Services” Was carried by the Ministry of Agriculture Following are mentioned the different activities that is handled by rural women such as:

Land preparation- women play a part in clearing fields, collecting weed, crop residues, and women as well cooking food and provide meal for the family.

Hoeing- is regularly performed by rural women with the rest of the family and they engaged in sowing, transporting, and also rural women participating in furrowing and planting while men are involved in sowing seeds.

Weeding- is most time consuming agricultural activities; it looks as if women’s duty in some of agricultural community.

Harvesting and storing –Transporting agricultural crops to the threshing field, transporting and storing yield in the storage is mainly the responsibility of rural women.

Household garden and small livestock –women in the agricultural community is more responsible for garden and livestock management such as provide labor, control production, herding, feed processing, cleaning barn, fetching water for animals, milking and milk processing etc.

Women are liable and have the right to income from garden and small animals, especially chicken, sheep and goats, but it does not mean that they have unobstructed power. In light of the

above explanation rural women play essential role in agricultural production and household food security. So far, in spite of their full participation in agricultural activity, majority of extension workers or development agents provide less attention to the rural women's role in agricultural production. However, agricultural extension programs specifically targeting men to agricultural crop production and livestock rearing, which disallow and less attention for the importance of rural women role in the process of agricultural production and contribution of food security. According to the respondent and FGD information rural women's are involving agricultural production activities such as seed sowing, weeding, harvesting, threshing, storing and vegetable gardening and also strongly emphasis that rural women engaged in livestock production such as clearing barn, feeding, watering, milking, milk processing and marketing of small animals.

2.4 Terminologies

Agriculture:

According to the Subramaniam (1979), Terminology and English term 'agriculture' is derived from Latin words 'agri' meaning soil 'and 'cultura' meaning cultivation i.e. Agriculture is cultivation of soil in a narrow sense. Agriculture, however, is a very broad term which includes crop cultivation, soil management, farm tools, animal husbandry, horticulture etc. Agriculture can be termed as science art, business all together, Science because it employs innovative techniques to manage them under varying soil and environmental conditions. Art, because it is the management whether it is the management of crops, animals, birds, fishes or any other branch of agriculture that brings about desired results. Business because the entire produce and inputs of agriculture are linked with marketing which brings in the question of profit and loss. As such agriculture is a very comprehensive applied science dealing with all aspects of life.

On- Farm activities: On-farm activities all those activities commonly are carried out by family members on house hold owned / communal lands. It includes those activities mainly related to crop production and Livestock. Examples are crop production, vegetable and horticultural production, fattening dairy, and poultry, rearing of livestock, home gardening etc.

Off-farm activities: Off- Farm activities are those activities that are carried out by the household members not on their own land. To list some of them: - Processing (preparation selling of food, local drinks, donkey carts and renting livestock for transportation purpose (donkey and Mule) domestic labor, daily engagement in labor work and migration for seasonal work petty trading, pottery. masonry, carpentry etc.

Gender refers to the socially determined differences between women and men, such as roles, attitudes, behavioral, and values. Gender roles are learned and vary across cultures and over time; they are, thus, open to change. Gender is a relational term that includes both women and men. Gender equality focuses on changes for both women and men.

2.4. Women role in agricultural activities and household food security

In developing countries men's roles in agricultural activities is well-known to be straight and understandable .However women's role in agriculture and household food security is not noticeably familiar by the larger community. Hence a clear representation of women's of contribution and participation in agriculture and household food security is needed. Women play significant roles to maintain their family in particular and their society in general in ensuring household food security and contributing to agricultural productivity in the world. But the society has not considerably under stood the effort that they exert in food production and household food

security. Women are involved and played important role in agricultural activities and household food security by providing their labor to produce food production in developing countries. The major problem in the third world countries that is women farmers are perceived in society as co-farmers and considered as secondary players in agricultural development particularly by those influential individuals in the community and development implementers. Most rural women make regular allocation of their labor time for domestic work and productive assets among their roles and responsibility in the household food security. The farming systems exhibit that mixed pattern of women's agricultural responsibilities in the production series anywhere one sex is responsible for livestock, vegetable and crop production and care for their residences.

2.6 Gender role in Ethiopia

Women's have a significant role on maternity and also serves as a home producer at both rural and urban communities in Ethiopia. However, their work has never been restricted to household and family level. Women in Ethiopia keenly involved in all aspects of their communal life. Rural women are both producers and active participants in societal and cultural activities in the community. Nevertheless, their important roles have not always been recognized. But the rural women are engaged in an extensive array of economic activities including land preparation, sowing seeds, weeding, harvesting, threshing of crops, post-harvesting, transporting and marketing products.

Chapter Three

3. Methodology and Research Design

3.1 Description of the study area

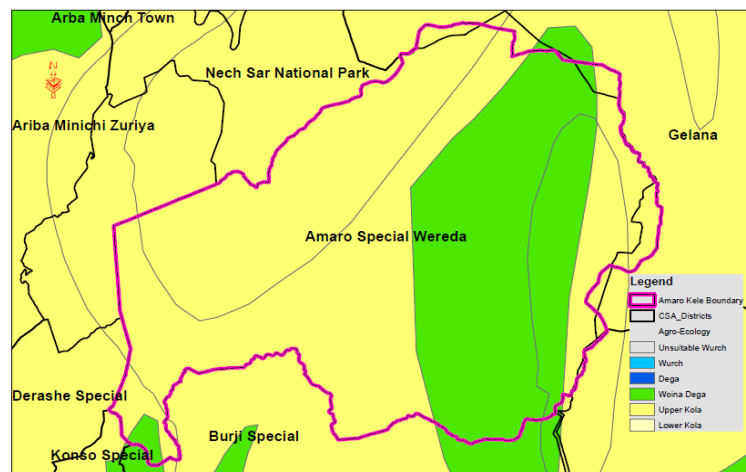
3.1.1 Location

Amaro Woreda is one of the administrative sub regions of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), located 480 Km from Addis Ababa and 205 Km from Hawassa, the regional capital of SNNPR.

The Woreda is divided into 28 Kebeles (peasant associations). Its geographical location extends from 37° 32. 28' to 38° . 52' East longitude and 5° 35.94' to 5° 59.95' North latitude.

The topography of the Woreda decreases as one goes from the center to the periphery with the lowest elevation recorded in the Southern part of the Woreda while the highest elevation is in the North central part (CSA, 2007). The Woreda falls in lowland and mid agro ecological classification.

Figure 3.1: Map of Amaro Woreda



Source: CSA, (2007).

3.1.2 Population

According to the CSA (2014), the total population of Amaro Woreda is estimated to be 173,935, of which 87,680 are males and 86,255 are females. The rural resident account for 91 percent while urban area 9 percent. The population density of the Woreda is 94 persons per square Km and the farm land holding ranges between 0.25 ha and 2 ha per household (source Amaro Woreda of agriculture office, year 2015).

3.1.3 Area, Terrain and Rainfall

The total area of the Woreda (district) is 1,710 square kilometers and is characterized by mid d elevation, lowland, and undulating terrain. The elevation ranges from 1200 to 3600 meters above sea level and the mean annual rain fall/annum ranges between 735 and 1200 mm (Woreda Agriculture and Rural development Office, 2015).

3.1.4 Soil

Dominant soil type of the study area is sandy loam (45 %), clay loam (30 %) and other soil types (25 %). According to the information from the Woreda Agriculture office, erosion is a serious problem due its soil types, nature of topography and traditional farming practices.

3.1.5 Farming systems

Agriculture activities are mixed (crop and livestock production). The crop production is mainly rain-fed and supplemented in some areas by traditional small scale irrigation. Because of the bi-modal nature of the rain, farmers cultivate annual crops twice in a year, especially at the low lands. Fertile soils, and adequate rainfall in the two seasons allow the production of both long and short cycle annual food crops as well as some perennials, including enset , cassava and coffee. The main food crops in the woreda are mainly

maize, beans, enset (false banana), cassava, and livestock (cattle and goats). The main income sources are sale of coffee, teff, maize, beans, enset, cassava, haricot bean, wheat, barley, pea, bean and fruits and vegetables, and also livestock products

3.2 Data collection tools and procedures

Descriptive analysis method in this study: both primary and secondary data from various sources.

Primary data

With regard to primary data collection, household level survey using structured questionnaires was administered on selected respondents (women). The questionnaire was mainly close ended but also there were some open ended questions. Also Discussion with Focus Group (FGD) and interviewing key informants was held. The focal group discussion was made with the local leaders (authorities) and local prominent members of the community. While the key informants interview was made with Amaro Woreda development agents, woreda agriculture and rural development officers and Women, youth and children Affairs officers.

Secondary data

Secondary data was collected from literatures, reports of agriculture office, and CSA and other **national, international and internet sources were included where necessary.**

3.3 Sampling techniques and sample size

Sampling techniques

From the total Kebeles of the Woreda, three Kebeles (Kobo, Golbe and Jelo) were selected purposefully. A total of 60 samples were randomly drawn from the three kebeles and were interviewed. Also, a total of nine people were interviewed as key informants and twenty one participants (men and women) were used for group discussion

Sample size

The sample size for collecting quantitative data was determined using Cochran's, (1977) formula as indicated by Bartlett and Higgins, (2001).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

The following steps used to determine sample size:

Where:-

n= the sample size the research uses;

N= total number of households in three kebeles (peasant associations)

E= designates maximum variability or margin of error 5% (0.05);

I =designates the probability of the event occurring.

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \\ &= 60 \end{aligned}$$

The sample sizes taken from the three villages were Golbe 25, Kobo 25 and Jello10. A total of 60 rural women respondents were randomly selected from the total population of 604 rural households.

3.4. Data processing and analysis

The collected data were checked for completeness, inconsistency, proper filling. The data was also edited and coded. Three code books were used i.e. one for data collection from the household's survey, the second from key informant interview, and the third one from FGD. Data were analyzed using SPSS statistical package. The data were collected through the interviews, focus group discussions and observations were put into different categorical variables. Major themes were identified and analyzed in line with research questions and were summarized. Issues intended to be addressed by the research were analyzed using findings from both quantitative and qualitative survey applying triangulation method.

3.5. Permission and Ethical consideration

The researcher conducted the study after obtaining official permission from Amaro woreda administration, and Agriculture and Rural Development and Women Youth and Children Affairs Office

Chapter Four

Result and Discussion

4.1. Socio-Economic Information

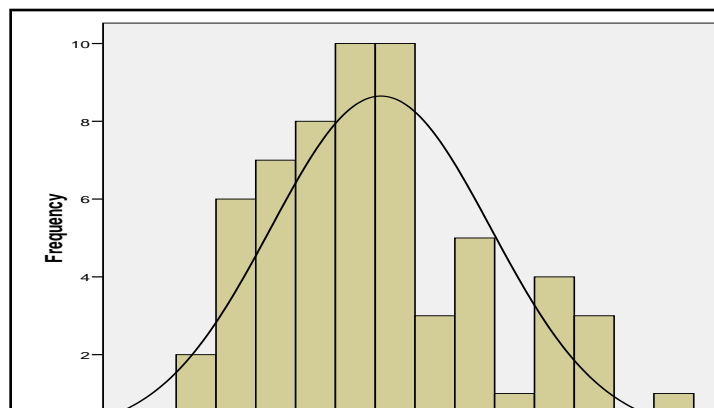
4.1.1 Characteristics of Survey Respondent

Quantitative data on demographic and social characteristics of the survey respondents were collected and analyzed. The respondents in the study area belonged to an ethnic group called Kore. All Kore sampled rural women were interviewed for their bio-data age, marital status, religion, educational level and issues related with the role of rural women in the household food security.

4.1.2 Demographic Characteristics of respondent

Age of sample respondents varied from 25 to 65 years in the study area. The mean age of rural women was 40.5, indicating that the majority of the rural women respondents were at their highest productive category.

Figure 4.1: Respondents age

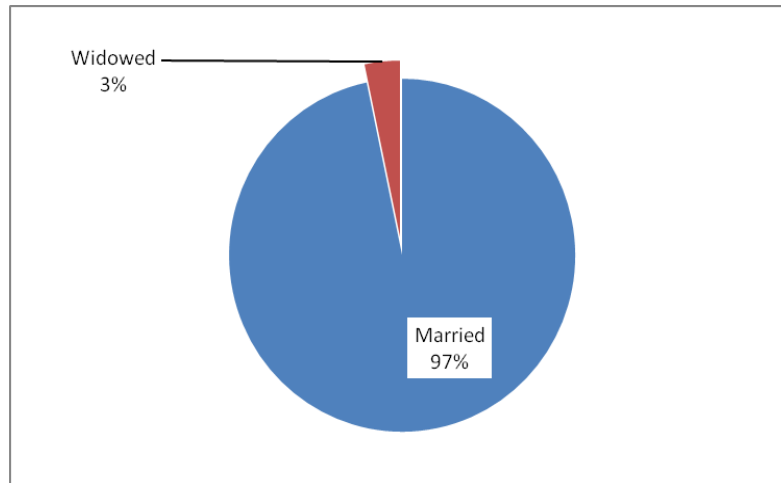


Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.3 Marital status and religion of the respondents

Of the total sampled respondents, 96.7 percent of them were married and the balance 3 percent were widow.

Figure 4.2: Respondents marital status (in percent)

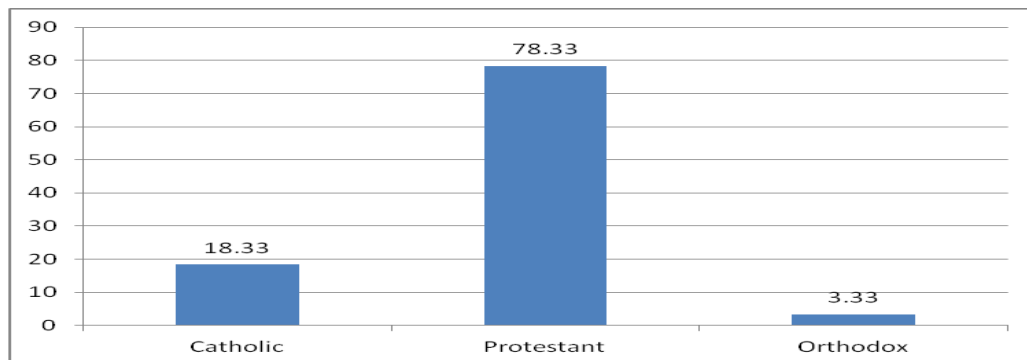


Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.3.1 Religion

Different religions were followed in the study area. The protestants were dominant accounting about 78.33 percent of the total respondents, followed by Catholic and Orthodox accounting about 18.33 percent and 3.33 percent, respectively (Figure4.3).

Figure 4. 3: Respondents religion background (in percent)



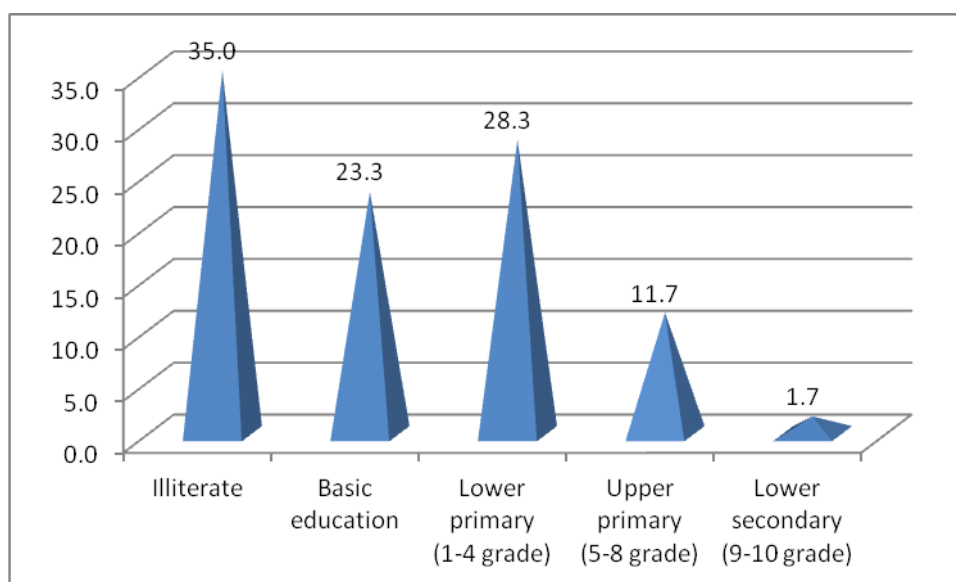
Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.2 Socio-economic Characteristics

Of the total survey respondents about 35 percent were illiterate, 28.3 percent with lower primary education, 23.3 percent with basic education, 11.7 percent has upper primary and 1.7 percent lower secondary education (Figure 4.4). The data also indicated that about 65 percent of the women have achieved education at different level since educated women plays better role than uneducated ones, the women's contribution towards household food security and family wellbeing is significant.

About 35 percent of respondents happened illiterate mainly due to the low status given by the society for education in general and girls education in particular and superior treatments are given to males at all level. Parents, mostly in rural areas, fail to perceive the importance of girl's education and give more weight to the roles girls play in household chores. This, of course, reflects the situation of rural women in our society.

Figure 4.4: Respondents educational level (In percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

According to CSA (2014), women comprise nearly half of the total population of the country. Likewise, in Amaro Woreda as estimated that the total population is 173,935, of which 87,680 are males and 86,255 are females, therefore, rural women in Amaro woreda also constitute nearly half of the total rural population. Education is fundamental right to human development, part from providing facilities for education for women, it is also important to train them so as to empower them with economy, decision making power, establishing self-confidence, building skills and knowledge; encouraging them to think critically and enable them to participate in the development process. Training of rural women is one of the most important tools to increase their skill and knowledge so as to maximize their equal partnership in local and national development as the result of this their role in household food security and agricultural production significantly increased. However, currently rural women have given a little opportunity and received less attention by the development practitioners', extension services and projects implementers, but, given their contribution they have to be considered as equal partner with men in the rural development process. In Ethiopia, the formal and non-formal education (NFE) systems were created basically with the objective of reducing the illiteracy of the citizens throughout the nation and efforts are being mounted to make education a fundamental right for all. In spite of the good intention of the policies and programs of the government, the factors that have been contributing to educational backwardness of rural community in the country side such as traditional attitude of the parents, low economic status of the rural family, early marriage of girls, distance of schools from villages, social customs, giving high priority to boys and lack of the required facilities in close proximity are the major problems affecting educating girls in rural areas. In spite of all complex factors that are affecting the education achievement, the government of

Ethiopia has given a considerable effort to improve and increase the enrolment of Girls and Boys equally in the rural area.

4.1.3 Role of Women in Agricultural Activities

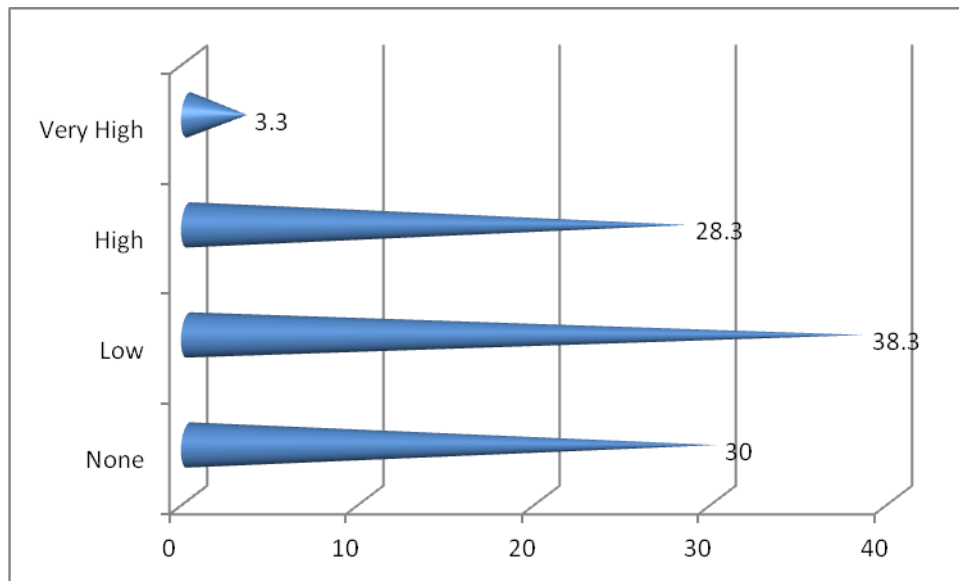
According to the farming community of the study area, there are two cropping seasons; namely, Belg (short season from February to May) and Meher (long season from June to end of September). The major production is primarily rain-fed agricultural production and supplemented by traditional irrigation system. The farming system practiced in the Woreda is mixed farming (Crop and Livestock). The major crops grown in the area are such as maize, teff, sorghum, barely, wheat, cassava, enset, coffee (in small scale), haricot bean, pea, and vegetables and fruit crops

4.1.4 Involvement of women o in Food Crop Production

The role or contribution of rural women in agricultural activities was taken as a reference to distinguish rural women tasks in land preparation or tillage. Figure 4.5 illustrate that 38 percent of rural women has low participation in land plowing, while 30 percent of the respondents indicated that rural women do not fully participate in land plowing (preparation) at the study area. However; 31.6 percent of respondents indicated that rural women involve in land preparation/plowing. During the interview and discussion the respondent indicated that widow woman fully and specially engaged in agricultural crop farm cultivation, plowing and tillage, similarly many places of Ethiopia, in the study area most respondent involved in land preparation of homestead farming. But general they involved in food production, post harvest activities, livestock care, and on farming

practices that are not required high labor, as some literatures indicated that rural women comprise about more than half of agricultural labor and accounts even up to 80 percent of total food production labor. Similarly, the respondents of the study area indicated that gender division of labor is different as result rural women and men have distinct roles within the farming system

Figure 4.5: Role of women in land preparation



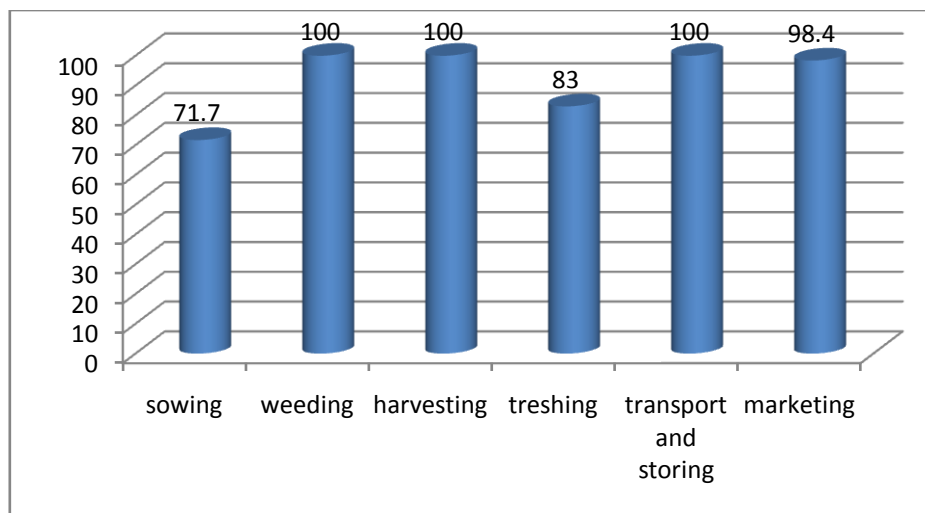
Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.5 Women involvement in land preparation (in percent)

Figure 4,6 indicates that the role and contribution of rural women in household food security and agricultural production vary from household to household due to their socio economic status in the family. In general, rural women in the surveyed area play a significant role in ensuring household food security; and agricultural activities such as sowing crop seeds 71.7 percent, weeding 100 percent, harvesting crops 100 percent,

threshing crops 83.3 percent and transporting and storing crops 100 percent and marketing 98.4 percent (Figure 4.6).

Figure 4. 6: Participation of women in different activities, (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

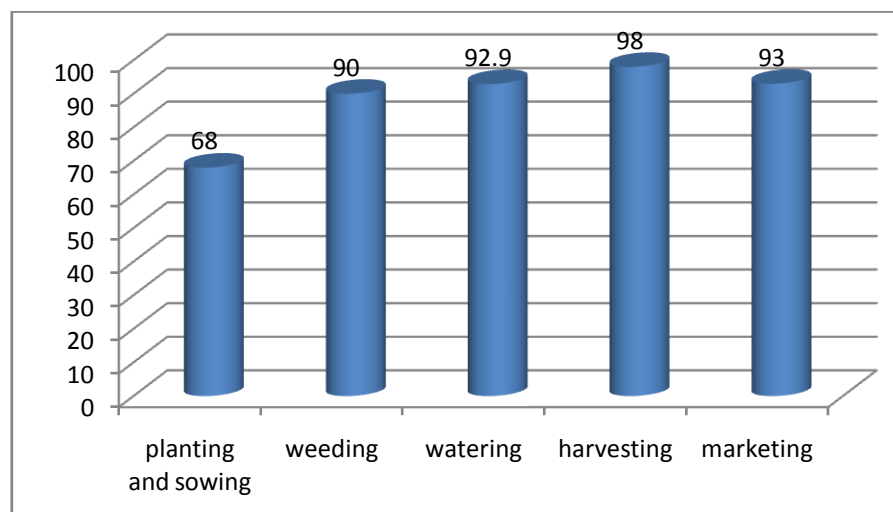
As opposed to the surveyed area practice, in sub-saharan Africa, women contribute 60 to 80 percent of land preparation through hoeing (Rukuni, 2002). In addition they are also engaged in weeding, harvesting, transporting, storing, marketing, food processing, fuel and water collection (Rukuni, 2002).

Also, during the FGD discussion it was revealed that the women in the surveyed area is governed by gender norms and practices which is accepted as the male and women tasks, Women in general are very much engaged in several production activities more than the male, and also with the reproduction and caring children.

4.1.5 Role of Women in Fruit and Vegetable Production

The study confirms that 68 percent of the respondents were engaged in planting and sowing, 90 percent in weeding, about 93 percent in watering, 98 percent in harvesting and 93 percent in marketing of fruits and vegetables (Figure 4.7).

Figure 4.7: Rural women role in fruits and Vegetables (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

However, FGD respondents indicated that, rural women lack operational skills and knowledge on the production, consumption and marketing of home gardens. Therefore, the concerned government and nongovernmental organizations need to provide extension service and impart the necessary knowledge to the rural women as to insure household food security by augmenting fruit and vegetable production.

Most women are engaged in growing different fruit crops including mango, papaya; and vegetables such as cabbage, carrot, kale, beet root, onion, garlic and potato. Like in

many communities in Ethiopia, they are grown at smaller scale in backyards. There are, however, some individual women farmers who grow vegetables and fruit crops in a larger scale. In the study area, nearly all vegetables and fruits are cultivated using draft animals and manual digging.

Farmers in general give a lot of land space for growing cereals and legumes as they are considered as primary food. However, vegetables and fruit crops at the backyard are an opportunity for women particularly for generating income, building up economic empowerment and decision making ability at household level.

In general, the study area has favorable agro-climatic conditions for growing diversified fruits, herbs, green vegetables at the backyards.

4.1.6 Role of Rural Women in Enset

Enset (*Ensete ventricosum*), also known as “false banana”, is one of the major sources of food security for southern Ethiopia. It is cultivated and consumed predominantly in SNNPR. More often, it is considered as a “women crop” and has multiple uses as food for human such as Kocho, Bula, and Hamicho, as forage for animal, and construction materials. There is enormous potential for improving the livelihood and food security of the small farmers through commercialization and value addition of enset. But the sector still employs backward technologies. Traditionally, men plant enset, both men and women weed it and women undertake the bulk of harvesting and processing activities. According to the survey, of the total respondents, about 95.7 percent asserted that the role

of women in harvesting and processing of enset is very high, while 5 percent of the respondents asserted that it is high (Table 4.1) suggesting that enset harvesting and further processing activities is the domain of rural women.

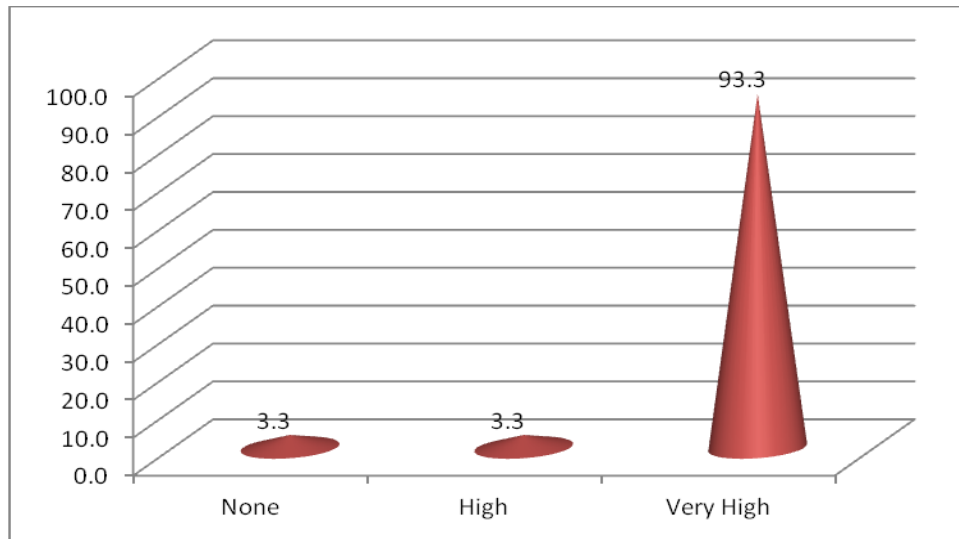
Table 4.1: Respondents role in harvesting and processing enset

	Frequency	In percent
None	2	3.3
High	3	5.0
Very High	55	91.7
Total	60	100

Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

With respect to marketing of enset in order to generate income for household the roles of women are also significant. According to the survey about 93.3 percent of respondents indicated that enset marketing is done by rural women and this could play significant role in empowering women economically and ensuring household's food security (Figure 4.8).

Figure 4.8: Respondents role on marketing enset product (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.7 Role of Rural Women in Livestock Management

According to FGD participants, the types of livestock owned by the farmers in the study area include cattle, sheep, goat, and poultry. The FGD estimated that from the total number of households in the surveyed area 55 percent of them owned 8-12 cattle, 33 percent less than 8 cattle, and 12 percent between 3- 5 cattle. In general, according to the collected information from the FGD groups, women play an enormous role in livestock production, care and management in the study area.

Ethiopia in general holds the largest livestock population in Africa, estimated at about 43.1 million heads of cattle, 23.6 million sheep, 18.6 million goats, 4.5 million donkeys, 1.7 million horses, 0.33 million mules, 34.2 million chicken and 4.9 million beehives (CSA, 1996). The contribution of livestock to the cash income of smallholders

is estimated to be about 87 percent, while the life of pastoral communities is entirely based on livestock and livestock products. Despite these roles, the productivity of livestock is low and its contribution to the national economy is below expected (Zegeye, 2003). In general, the livestock husbandry in Ethiopia follows backward system and its productivity is too low.

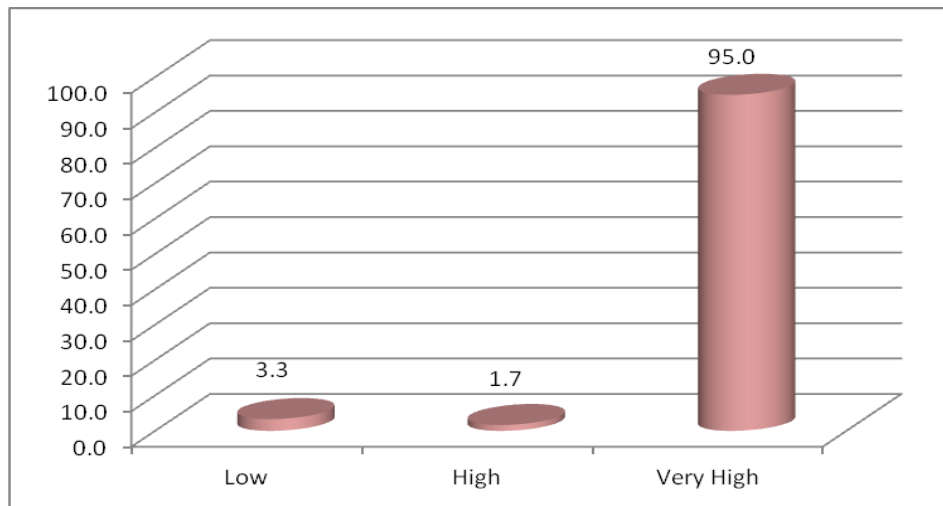
However, livestock contributes to food and nutritional security of households and provides draught power and also serves for traditional social purposes. Livestock products and by-products in the form of meat, milk, eggs, and cheese supply reduce the susceptibility of agricultural farming community. On the other hand; draught animals provide power for the cultivation of land and threshing of crops. Livestock also provides farmyard manure that is normally applied to recover soil fertility and also used as a source of energy such as dung cake. Moreover, the sector has the potential and provides opportunity for modern livestock breeding, production and processing of animal product.

Role of rural women in Livestock production -Women in farming communities are responsible for herding, barn cleaning, hay collection and feeding, milking and milk processing, fetching water for animals, and care for sick animals.

Ethiopian rural women play a key role in livestock management, agricultural production and household activities. However, it is frequently argued that their role are minimal and their decision making power is limited.

An attempt has been made to assess the contribution of rural women in livestock management practices. The data indicated that almost all rural women involve regularly in barn clearing,

Figure 4.9: Respondents in clearing barn of livestock (in percent)

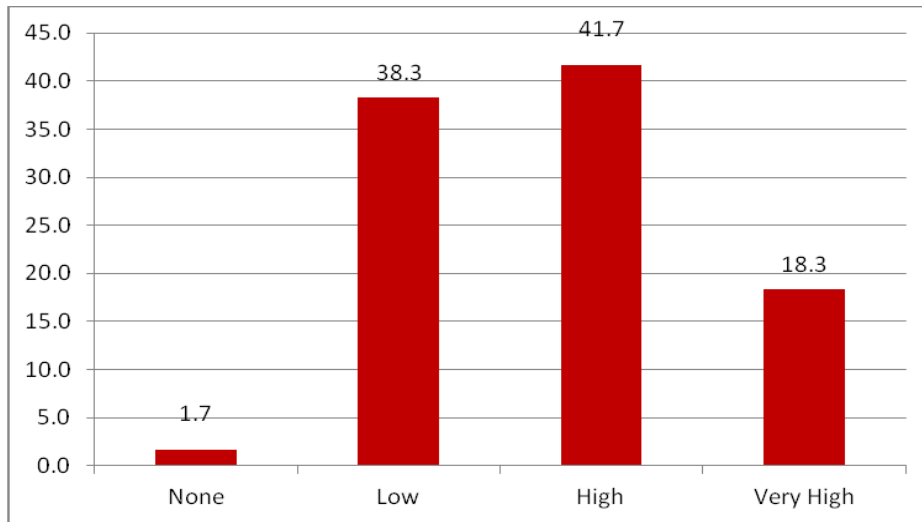


Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

According to Figure 4.9, of the total respondents, 95% percent of them indicated that they involve in barn clearing. In addition, almost all rural women are engaged in food preparation for the family, care for their children, collection of fire wood, fetching water, cleaning the house, washing clothes, pressing local beverage and embroidery activities.

Figure 4.10 also revealed that the rural women were busy in looking after (from looting) while they are grazing in the field. From the total respondents, about 60 percent of them which is from high to very high level involve in looking after the cattle and about 38 percent of respondents were low in looking after their cattle

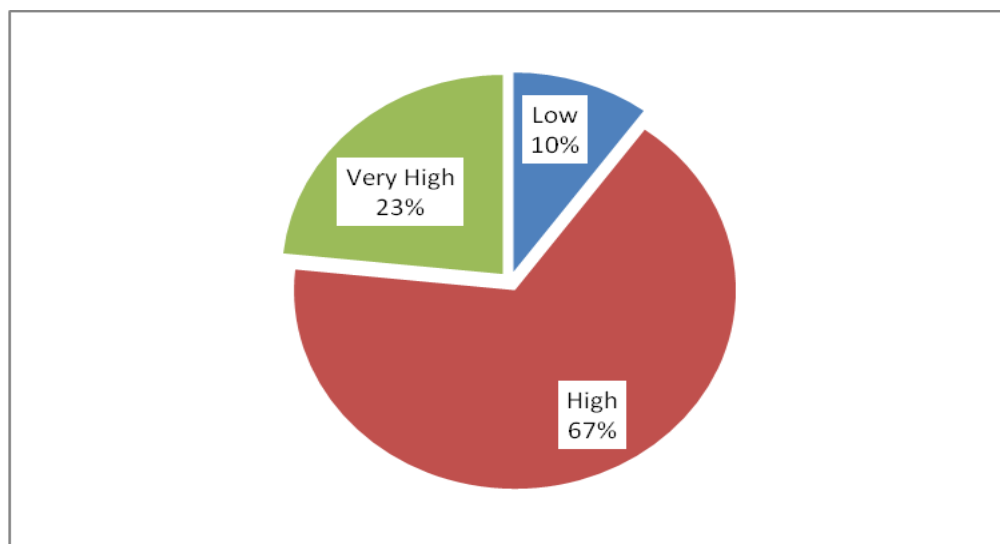
Figure 4.10: Role of rural women in looking after cattle (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

The information presented in Figure 4.11 illustrates that feeding animals was the main activity performed by rural women in the study area, revealing that about 23 % are engaged at very high, 67 % high, and the remaining 10 % at low level.

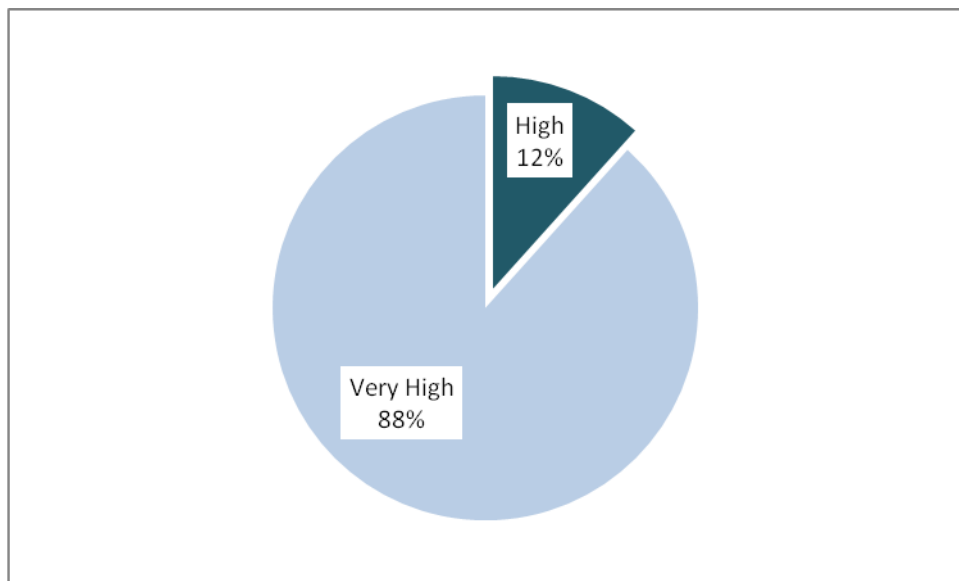
Figure 4.11: Respondents role in feeding animals (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

Activities executed by rural women like taking care of animals' health in the study areas also indicated that 88 percent are involved at very high level while the remaining 12 percent at high level (Figure 4.12). The involvements of all women in taking care of animals' health ensure more production and enhancing household's food.

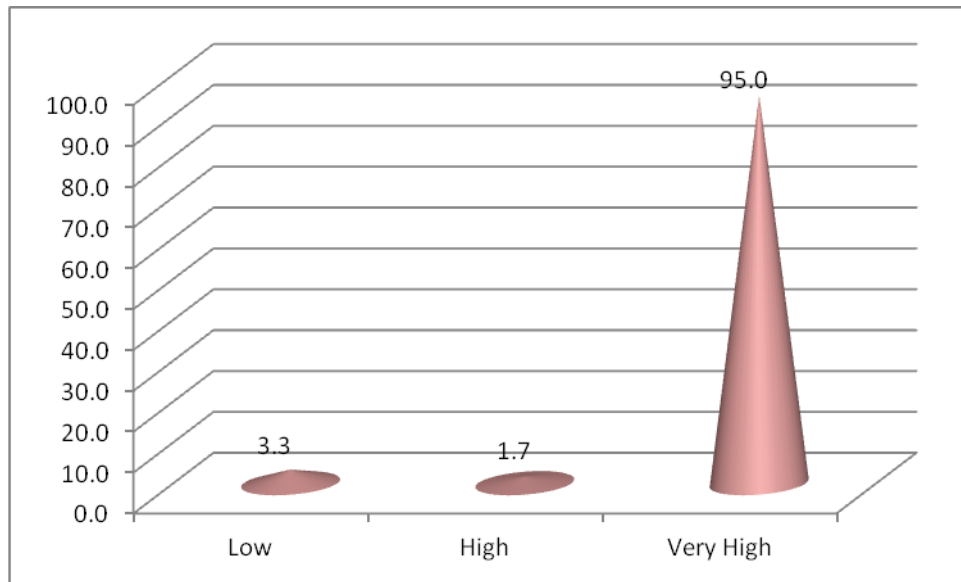
Figure 4.12: Respondents role in taking care animals health (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

Figure 4.13 shows that the most important animal production activities undertaken by the rural women in the study area was milking and milk processing. About 96.7 percent of women in the study area indicate that the involvement of women in milking and milking processing suggesting that women are closely connected with the livestock production that lead to household food security. From the total milk products women sell some quantity for house consumption and use the remaining for household use.

Figure 4.13: Respondents role in milking and milk processing (in percent)

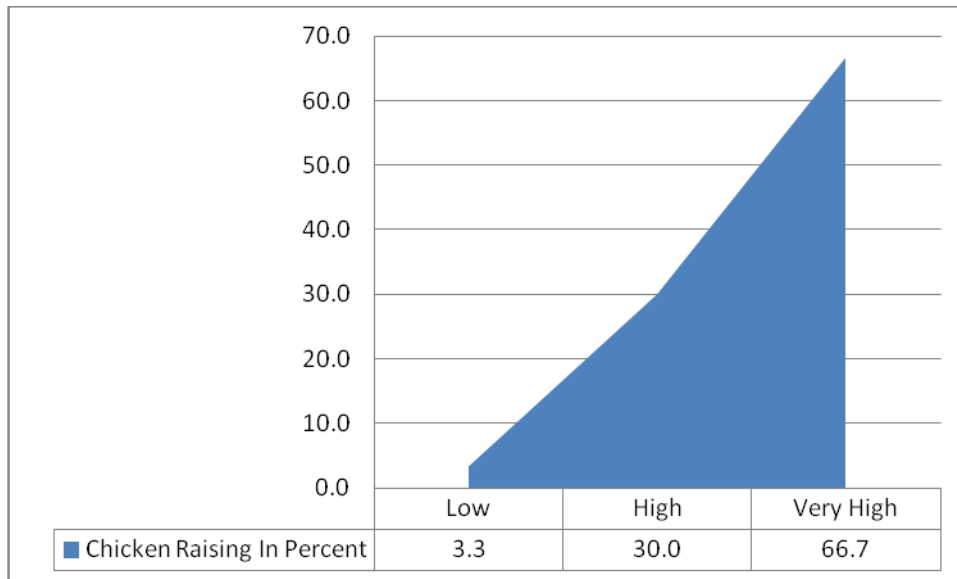


Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.8 Role of Rural Women in Poultry Production

Nearly, all rural families in the surveyed areas keep a small flock of poultry. The rearing of poultry has been practiced for many generations for different social and cultural reasons. However, the most common purpose of keeping chickens and eggs were primarily to use as a source of income and for hatching, Figure 4.14 also indicate that 96.7 percent of the respondents indicate keep working on poultry at high and very high level, while 3.3 percent of them perform at very low level.

Figure 4.14: Respondents role in Chicken raising



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

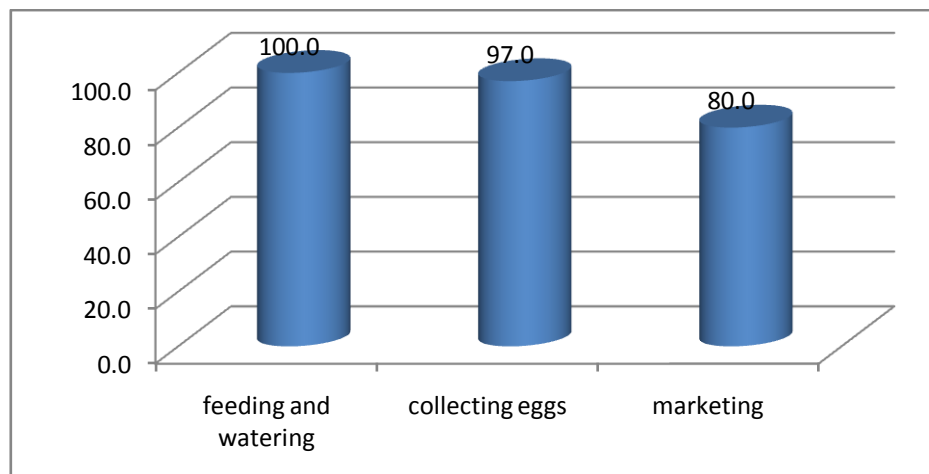
In the study area, chicken production is common and almost every respondent owns chicken, which provides a valuable source of protein and income for individuals and families. The total chicken population in the country is estimated to be 38.1 million (CSA 2009). The majority (99 percent) of these chickens are maintained under a traditional system with little or no inputs for housing, feeding, or health care. The greater part of the feed for village chickens is obtained through scavenging, which includes household cooking waste, cereal and cereal by-products, pulses, roots and tubers, shrubs, fruits, and animal proteins.

Based on the FGD discussion, the information showed that rural women in the study area use half of chicken eggs for hatching and the remaining chicken eggs for income generation and home consumption. The additional information revealed that, in

some other rural community, three fourth of chickens eggs were raised for meat production and chicken breeding and the remaining for egg production. Again according to the respondents and FGD information, chicken production and their management is conventional mainly based on scavenging system and hence easily managed within backyard.

The sample respondent data showed that, in chicken feeding and watering by rural women was 100 percent, in collecting eggs 97 percent and in marketing 80 percent (Figure 4.15).

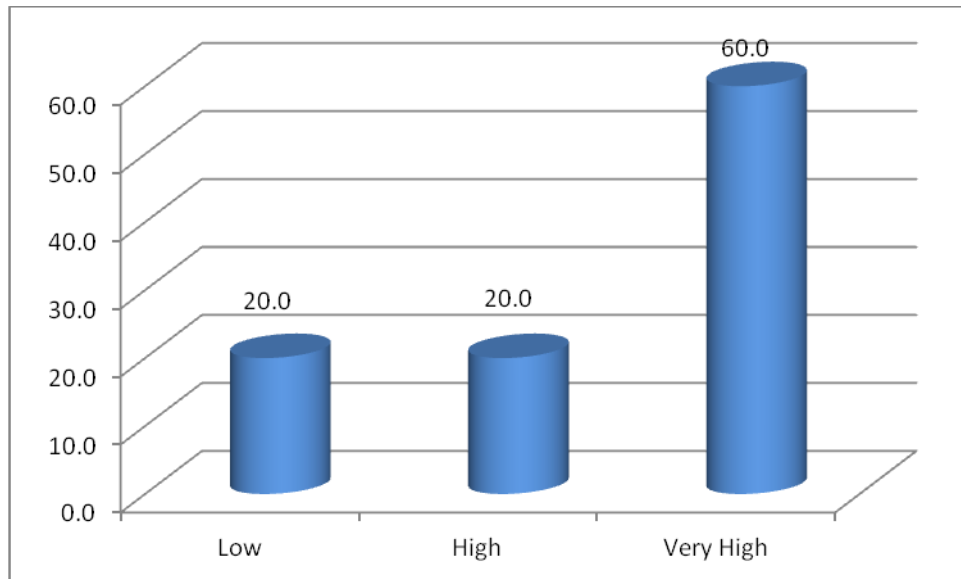
Figure 4.15: Women role in chicken management (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

Rural women perform a daily routine in household chicken management in the study area. According to Figure 4.16 about 80% of them contribute at high and very high level in selling chicken and eggs. In addition, the FGD groups revealed that rural women benefited considerably from the income they get from small animals, especially chickens, sheep and goats and milk product.

Figure 4.16: Respondents access in selling chicken and egg (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

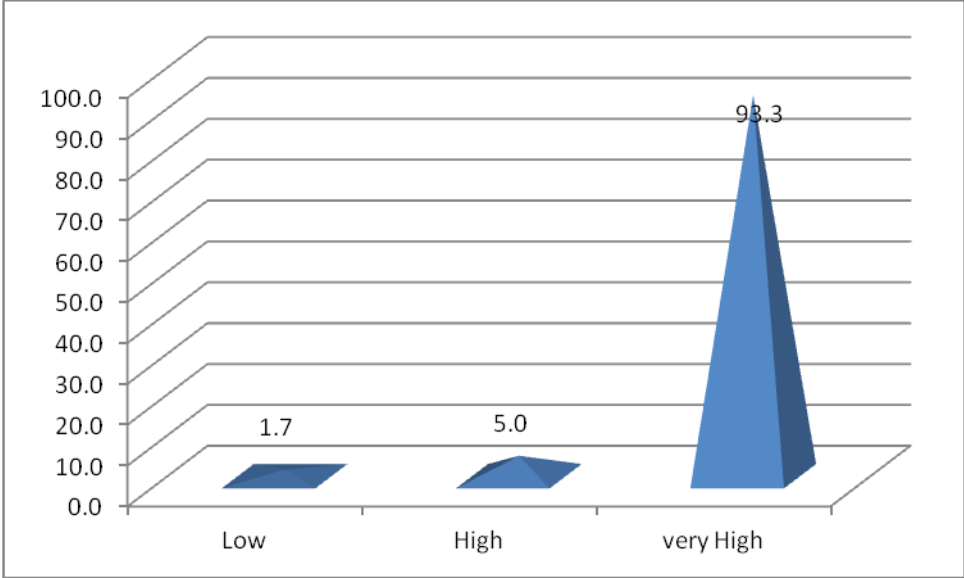
4.1.9 Domestic Activities of Rural Women

The study indicated that rural women were greatly engaged in both on-farm and off-farm activities as well as home management. In terms of farm operations, rural women farmers were engaged in almost all activities such as crop production, fruit, vegetable, and livestock production including land clearing, weeding, threshing crops, transporting and marketing. In terms of off-farm activities, rural women were mainly involved in local liquor production, embroidery and petty trading activities.

Evidence from the FGD discussion indicated that, 100 percent of rural women were mainly occupied in cooking / food preparation, 100 percent child care, 98.3 percent fuel wood collection.

Figure 4.17 also indicated that 98.3 percent of respondents fetch water from water sources to satisfy family need. The diversified roles of rural women as food producers, home managers and income earners from non-farm activities was found to control the food security situation of households in the study area.

Figure 4.17: Respondents role in fetching water (in percent)

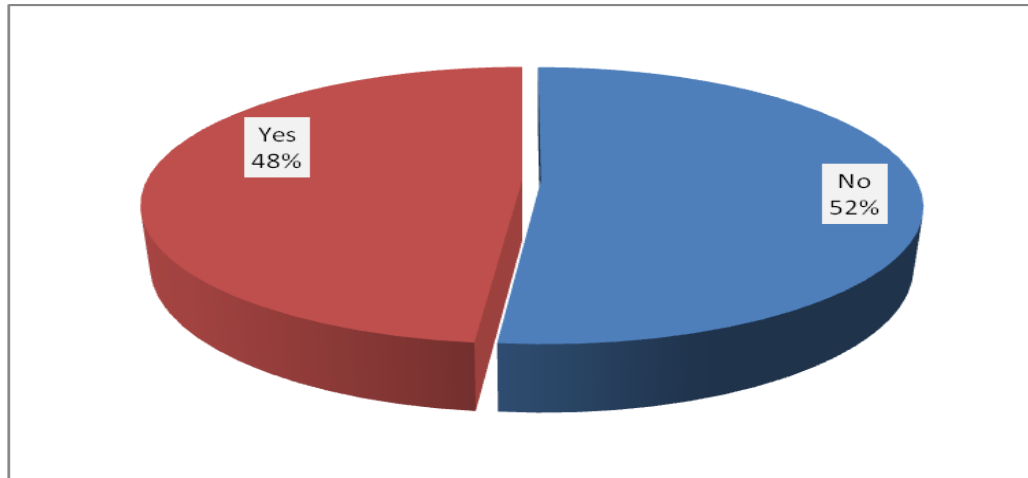


Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.10 Access to Land by Rural Women

From survey respondents on access to land, there is an improvement of land distribution in the study area but direct access to land is still limited. From the observation and secondary data, the current land controlling situation by women is indirect in terms of relationship and marriage as wives. Data collected on the awareness of the Ethiopian constitution declaration of rural women land right in the study area shows that out of the total 60 respondents the majority (52 percent) do not know their right (Figure 4.18).

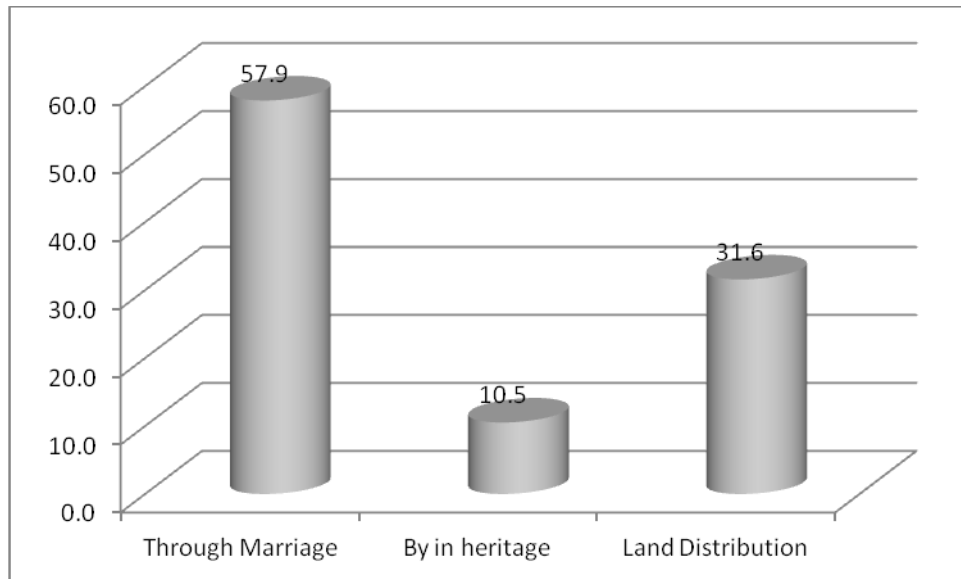
Figure 4.18: Respondents awareness in Ethiopian constitutional declaration of Land right (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

The Ethiopian FDRE rural land policy granted free access to land to every rural resident who wants to live on farming. The rural land policy grants women equal rights on land as women have constitutional right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property. However, in the surveyed areas owing to misunderstanding there is still the feeling that land belongs to men. However, the study revealed that out of the total respondents 57.9 percent of them accessed land through marriage, 31.6 percent through land distribution and 10.5 percent through heritage (Figure 4.19).

Figure 4.19: Respondents accessed to land (in percent)



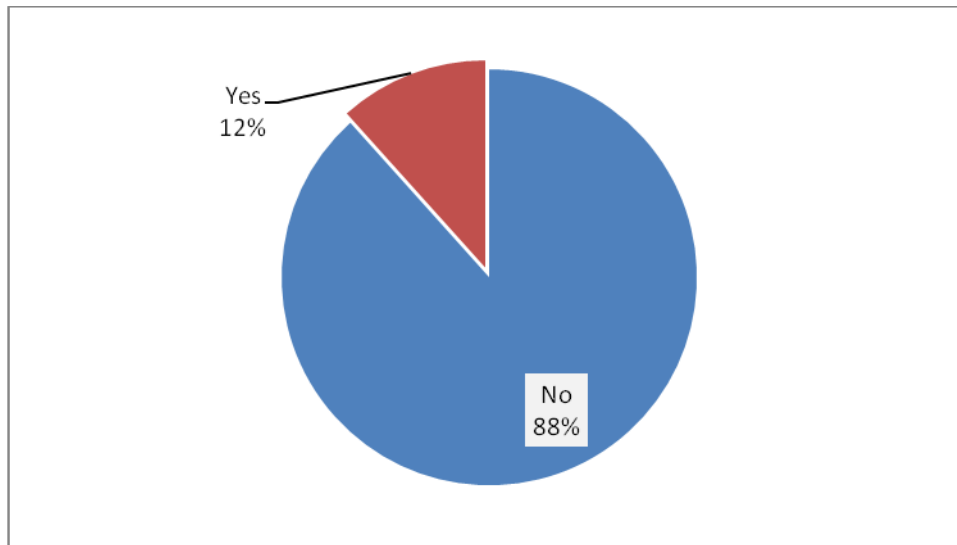
Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.11 Access to Credit Facilities to Rural Women

The livelihood of the study area is based on agriculture activities. According to the respondent and FGD information, accessing loan from microcredit institutions is one of the major challenges for rural women owing to the absence of strong microfinance institutions in the study area.

According to Figure 4.20, only 12 percent of the respondents indicated that money can be obtained through loan from micro finance institutions while the remaining 88 percent indicated that there is no access to credit facilities. The poor microfinance system in the surveyed area considerably affected the activities of women.

Figure 4.20: Respondents access to credit facilities (in percent)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

Elsewhere, rural microfinance institutions provide both saving and loan facilities and other financial services to rural women in order to enable them generate income, build assets, and improve the household food security, which eventually enable them to be socially, economically and politically empowered; there by increase their participation and decision making equally with men.

In principle microfinance institutions have important contributions and functions to enhance the capability of rural women to increase their income, productivity and enable them to engage in non agricultural activities. It was thought that, rural women play a significant role in household food security, decision making power, and controlling over the resource would improve the status of rural women. Moreover, rural women's traditional business knowledge would be improved and possibility of expanding existing non agricultural activities.

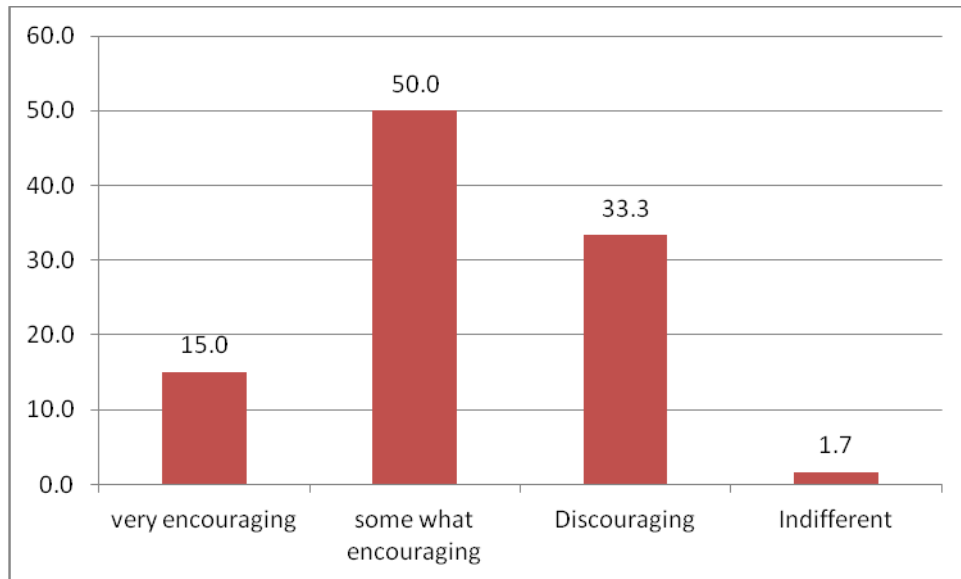
4.1.12 Extension Training To Rural Women in Agricultural Production

The FGD group on extension and training indicated that women's access to extension training is limited by a number of factors including inadequate attention given to rural women in terms of crops production and technology, and lack of awareness on gender roles in the curricula and training of extensions. Absence of training on extension in the surveyed area has considerably hampered the women contribution in building up the economy.

4.1.13 Attitude of Local Leaders (elders) and Community Based Institution (CBO)

Many issues were pointed out in relation to the attitude of traditional leaders by the respondents as a factor that affects the role of rural women in household food security. The survey revealed that 15 percent of them suggested that the attitude of local leaders were very encouraging, 50 percent of them encouraging, but 33.3 percent of them discouraging and 1.7 percent of them indifferent.(Figure 4.21) Those that suggests discouraging believe that the local leaders are very much not supportive and are with the idea that women role should be limited to baby rearing /reproduction and domestic services to the family. They are also with the idea that the rural women should not be allowed in selling cash crops like coffee, main crops like tef and maize, land distribution, and oxen purchase

Figure 4.21: Attitude of local leaders towards women

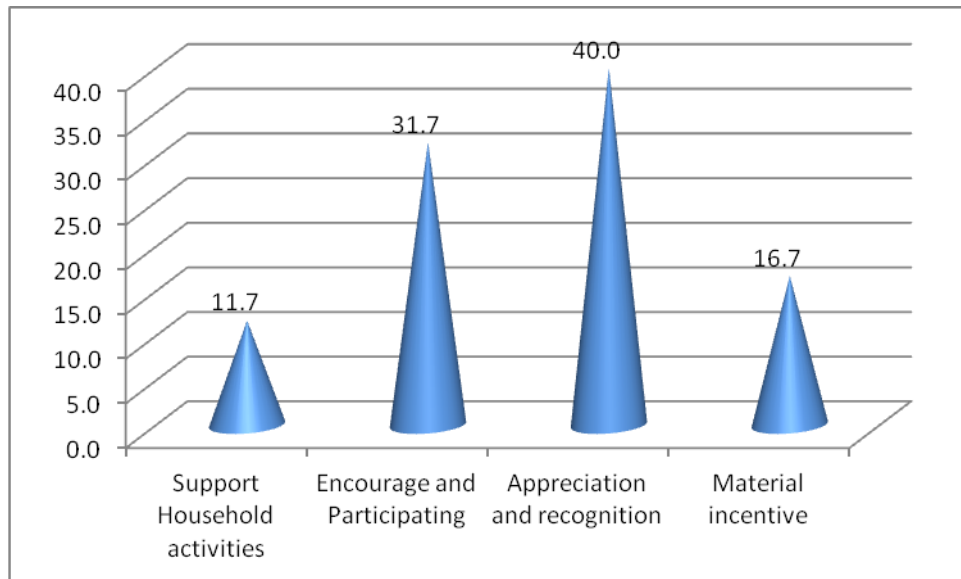


Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, February, 2015

4.1.14 Support Expected from Local Leaders and Community Based Institution (CBO) by the rural women

The rural women expect range of support from the local leaders and local institution for success in their effort in household food security and contribution in agricultural production. Figure 4.22 indicates that about 72% the respondents' i.e 31.7 percent of need encouragement and participation from local leaders, and 40 percent of them need appreciation and recognition in their effort to ensure household food security. The others i.e. 11.7 % expect support from household activities, and 16.7 % needs material incentives from local leaders. In general, workings with the local leaders motivate, and encourage woman considerably to ensure food security.

Figure 4.22: Support expected from local leaders and Community Based Institution (CBO)



Source: Survey conducted in Amaro woreda, Feberary, 2015

Chapter Five

5. Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Summary

The objective of this study was to assess the role of rural women in household food security and involvement in agriculture activities, at Amaro woreda.

Towards achieving the stated objective, the study employed various data sources and analysis methodology. The major data source was primary data collected from respondents selected randomly from the study area. Questionnaires were prepared, tested and conducted by trained survey enumerators on 60 rural women. Besides, 3 FGDs were used and key informant interviews were conducted to collect information from key relevant government and local institution leaders.

Then the collected information was analyzed descriptively and the analysis results were presented in the report in tabular and graphic forms as found appropriate. The study results were interpreted and deeply discussed in the body of the report.

Key findings:

The age of the survey respondents in the study area fall between 25 to 65 years. The mean age of the respondents is 40.5 indicating that the majority of the rural women respondents were those in productive and reproductive age category.

The majority of the respondents were married. Respondents belong to different religious denominations. With respect to educational background of respondents, survey result shows that they are at different levels of achievements ranging from illiteracy to some level of secondary school completion.

In general, rural women play significant roles in ensuring household food security and engaging in agricultural activities such as crop, fruit and vegetable production and animal husbandry. According to the findings of the study, however; the contribution of rural women in terms of ensuring household food security and engagement in agricultural activities vary from women to women depending on their households' socio-economic status.

The survey shows that 100 percent of the respondents engaged in cooking / food preparation and child care, about 98.3 percent engage in fuel wood collection and fetching water from streams. The diversified roles of rural women as food producers, home managers and income generators from both farm and off-farm activities has contributed to the food security of their households.

Regarding land access rights of rural women, the study reveals that out of the total respondents about 57.9 percent asserted their access to land was due to their being in marriage, 31.6 percent obtained land through land distribution and 10.5 percent accessed through request.

Access to credit play key role in empowering rural women. According to the study, only 12 percent of the respondents asserted that they received loan from micro finance

institutions (MFIs). This indicates that the women in the study area were not beneficiaries of the credit access by the various micro credit facilities.

Results from both survey respondents and FGD participants indicated that women's access to extension service was limited owing to variety of reasons, among which low number of female extension workers, inadequate attention to rural women's need for technology; and also lack of awareness on roles of gender

With regards to the decision making, the respondents asserted that women have no decision making power in utilizing the income gained from the sale of their produce.

Community wise, Women's role in household food security and contribution in agricultural production gained inadequate recognition by the rural local leaders and institutions. This attitude prevails in many other remote and geographically inaccessible areas of Ethiopia.

5.2. Conclusions

Having witnessed the problems of rural women in Ethiopia, I take up assessing the roles of rural women in household food security and enjoyment in agriculture production activities as my dissertation agenda. To this end, the study has employed appropriate data collection and analysis methods and come up with the following key conclusions.

According to the findings of the study, rural women undertake numerous activities including land preparation, sowing seeds, weeding, harvesting, threshing of crops, post-harvesting, transporting and marketing products.

In addition to major crop production, women in the study area are found to grow backyard vegetables and fruits, cassava, coffee and other legume crops to supplement their household food security. They also engage in livestock production activities.

However, the extent to which rural women contribute to each activities differs from a household to the other depending on the socio-economic status of households - women from well to do households contribute lower time than women from low income households.

In spite of the social, political and economic setbacks they have been suffering from, rural women are found working hard in their attempt to ensure their households' food security.

In spite of their utmost effort and immense role in household food security, they receive meager recognition and appreciation from the society, especially from the local leaders and local institutions.

Rural women in the study area are found to have low access to productive assets such as land, livestock, etc. In spite of their high contribution to households' food security and generating additional income, the decision making power is dominated by household head.

Moreover, rural women in the study area found to have faced poor access to credits and suffered from lack of access to extension services thereby making them unaware of modern agriculture productivity enhancing technologies and farming systems.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following policy recommendations are forwarded to help address the challenges and improve the situation of the rural women in the study area:

- In order to attain significant change in household food security, in the study area, provide sufficient capacity building or empowerment of rural women, rural women must have access to productive resources such as land, credit facilities, extension education and inputs to grow enough food for their household food security investment is desirable.
- Recognition for women role in household food security will help boost their performance; thus, the society has to acknowledge the crucial role played by rural women in their household food security and other activities. To this end, various stakeholders such as the local leaders and local government institution and other development partners have to work in creating awareness about the role of gender in the society.
- The study showed that rural women have poor access to credit; therefore, measures should be taken to improve rural women's access to credit service through micro finance institutions so that they can take advantage of it and improve household food security situation.
- So far, in spite of their full participation in agricultural activity, majority of extension workers or development agents provide less attention to the rural women's role in agricultural production. Extension services play crucial role in increasing the productivity of agriculture sector; therefore, steps should be taken to introduce rural women on new farming techniques and modern farming system;

- Although women are given equal rights like men on the use and transfer of land by the constitution, but is not fully implemented at local level. Therefore; the right to equal access and ownership of land by women should be enforced by the local government.

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AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CONTRBUTION OF RURAL WOMEN AT HOUSEHOLD
FOODSECURITY- IN SOUTH NATION NATIONALITY PEOPLE'S REGION: THE CASE
OF AMARO SPECIAL WOREDA, ETHIOPIA.

BY

TAYE SHIFERAW WORKNEH

RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMITED TO THE MASTER'S PEROGRAM IN
RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSTY/ IGNOU/

New Delhi, India

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study.

According to the population and housing census of central statistic agency (CSA, 2014 statistical abstract) the current population of Ethiopia is estimated to be 91 million of which women comprise nearly half of the total population. Large proportion of these women lives in rural areas being engaged mainly in agricultural sector. In Ethiopia, where about 85 percent of the people depend on agriculture, gender plays its own role in regard to different activities of agriculture. Gender refers to the relation that exists between men and women no matter what form the relation obtains. According to Moore (2001:78), gender is ‘the way society expects people to behave on the basis of their physical difference’. Moreover, other scholars Estegenet, Fannye and Hirut (1999) state that gender describe all the socially given attributes, roles and activities connected to being a male or female. In many cases there is social bias that supports the men’s role by ignoring the females’ in a given society (John, Ben net, 1989). Women’s role in ensuring household food security remains largely unrecognized in policy and resource allocation, especially in developing countries. The voices and concerns women are little heard at the national and global level. Women’s groups tend to remain confined to the local level. This translates into a dramatic mismatch between rural women’s voices and decision –making roles and their enormous contribution to agriculture production, marketing, and livelihoods (IFAD, 2010). In addition to their essential roles in food production, women contribute to food security in other significant ways, as stated below. The preservation of biodiversity and plant genetic resources is now widely recognized as essential to food security. Because

women are responsible for supplying their families with food and care, they often have special knowledge of the value and diverse use of plants for nutrition, health and income. Consequently, they are frequently the preservers of traditional knowledge of indigenous plants. Moreover, women often experiment with and adapt indigenous species and thus become experts in plant genetic resources (Karl, 1996, gunning and Hill, 1996).

Most rural Ethiopian women have less access to economic and productive resources, and are generally discriminated against in personal and social relationships and all these combine to make their households more food insecure. In northern Ethiopia for example where the role of Amaro women in household food security study is conducted, women are traditionally and customary discriminated against the ownership of landed property and this in a way affects food production in the area. As some literatures indicated that in spite of social, political and economic constraint, women farmers have proved extremely resourceful and hardworking in their attempt to ensure household food security. The case in Ethiopia is not different if not worse. Like in many developing countries women in Ethiopia comprise an enormous concealed productive force which may be reveal through examining and legal documenting their involvement.

1.2 Statement of the problem

According to IFAD, (2010) as quoted in S. Boakye- Achampong, et al, (2012) Women's role in ensuring household food security remains largely unrecognized in policy and resource allocation, especially in developing countries. The voices and concerns of rural women are little heard at the national and global level. Women's groups tend to remain confined to the local level. This translates into a dramatic mismatch between rural

women's voices and decision –making roles and their enormous contribution to agricultural production, marketing, and livelihoods.

According to the statement of Lynda (1991), as quoted in Messay Tegegne (2012), noted that we live in a society in which there is a substantial level of gender inequality. The inequality in the provision of education reflects the deep rooted tradition and values within the ideological, political, economical and socio-cultural structure of societies.

IGNOU (2009) indicated that women are, of course, an integral part of farming households. They produce over half of the food in many developing countries, bear the most responsibilities for household food security, and contribute to household well-being through their income-generating activities. Yet, Women usually have more limited access to resources and opportunities and their productivity remains low relative to their potential.

Due to poor awareness of our society, women's role in household food security has not been recognized and not become visible. Therefore, this dissertation is aimed at assessing the role of Amaro rural women in agricultural production activities to fulfill the food security of their families. The study is envisaged to generate practical evidence and hence will contribute to boosting of the knowledge and understanding of Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Officers, Woreda Women affairs officers and local district development actors in their future planning and implementation of household food security programs. The purpose of this dissertation is therefore to answer the question "what are the roles of rural women in Amaro Woreda with regards to household food security?"

1.3 Objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to investigate (assess) the role of rural women in household food security in Amaro Woreda.

The specific objectives are to:

- assess the role of rural women in household food security in the woreda,
- assess the ways in which rural women contribute in ensuring the food security in the woreda,
- identify the cultural and traditional factors that affects the role of rural women in household food security, and
- Identify supports that are available for rural women in the study area.

1.4 Research questions

The study is in a way an attempt to give answer specifically to the following questions.

4. What are the household food security activities of rural women in Amaro Woreda?
5. What are the cultural and traditional factors affecting rural women in household food security in Amaro Woreda?
6. What are the supports provided to rural women in the study area?

1.5 Hypothesis

The hypothesis of the study is:

“Rural women have great role in ensuring food security of their households in the study area”.

1.6 Significance of the study

This study has paramount importance owing to one, it provides information that will enable effective measure to be undertaken so as to improve the role of rural women in household food security; two the findings of this study will benefit local government in general and development actors and local institution and local leaders in particular, in terms of increasing their knowledge base which would help to determine the role of rural women in household food security and well-being. Last but not least, this research work would offer insight for other researchers and university students who are interested in undertaking similar research activities for further investigation.

1.7 Limitation of the study

Owing to time and budget constraints, this study collects information from three sampled kebeles within the woreda. The study is limited to assessing contribution of rural women and hence does not cover urban women.

1.8 Scope of the study

The study is limited to Amaro Woreda in the southern nations and nationalities and peoples' regional (SNNPR) state in Ethiopia. To this end, three kebeles namely Kobo, Golbe and Jelo are randomly selected from the Woreda. This study is restricted due to geographical remoteness, low attitude of few respondents and cultural dominance of males in the farming community. Nevertheless, the required data for the study is collected from the sampled respondents, researchers observation and managing Focus Group Discussion (FGD).

1.9 Organization of the study

The study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction. The second chapter review of literature. The third chapter methodology and research design. Forth chapter deals with results and discussions. The last chapter winds up the study report by giving summary, conclusions and recommendation.

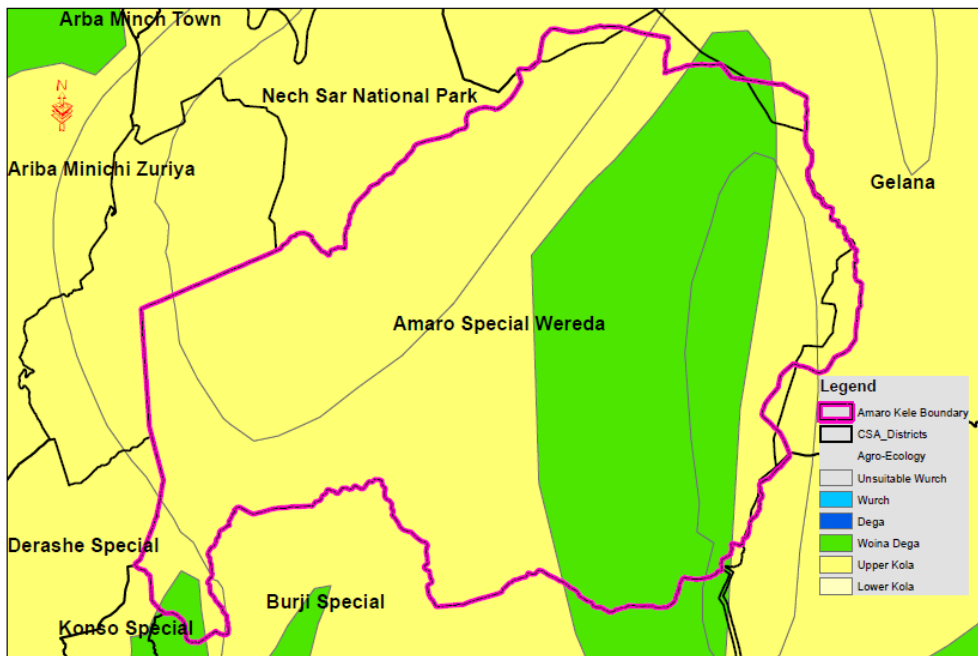
2. METHODOLOGY AND RESEARCH DESIGN

2.1 Description of the study area

2.1.1 Location

Amaro special Woreda is one of the administrative sub regions of the Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), 480 Km far from Addis Ababa and 205 Km from Hawassa, the regional capital. The Woreda is divided into 28 Kebeles (peasant associations). Its geographical location extends from 37° 32. 28' to 38° . 52' East longitude and 5° 35.94' to 5° 59.95' North latitude. The topographic configuration of the Woreda decreases as one goes from the center to the periphery with the lowest elevation recorded in the Southern part of the Woreda while the highest elevation is in the North central part (CSA, 2007). The Woreda falls in lowland and mid agro ecological classification (Ministry of Agriculture, 2000).

Figure 2. 1: Amaro Woreda



source CSA, 2007.

2.1.2 Population

The SNNP constitutes about one-fifth of the country's population. According to the CSA (2014), the total population of Amaro Woreda is estimated at 173,935, of which 87,680 are males and 86,255 are females. The rural resident account for 91 percent while urban dwellers the balance (9 percent). The population density of the Woreda is 94 persons per square Km and the land holding ranges between 0.25 ha and 2 ha per household averaging at 1 ha per household.(Amaro Woreda of agriculture office).

2.1.3 Area, Terrain and Rainfall

The total area of the Woreda (district) is 1,710 square Kms and the Woreda is characterized by med land elevation, lowland, and undulating terrain. The elevation ranges from 1200 to 3600 meters above sea level and the mean annual rain fall ranges between 735 and 1200 mm rainfall per annum (Woreda agriculture office, 2014).

2.1.4 Soil

Dominant soil type of the study area is sandy loam (45 %), Clay loam (30 %) and the remaining soil types are (25 %). According to the information from the Woreda Agriculture office, erosion is a serious and significant problem due its soil types, nature of topography and traditional farming practices.

2.1.5 Farming systems

Agriculture activities are mixed (Crop and Livestock production) mainly rain-fed and supplemented by traditional small scale irrigation. Because of the bi-modal nature of the rain; farmers cultivate annual crops twice a year, especially at the low lands. Fertile soils,

rainfall in two seasons allowing both long and short cycle annual food crops as well as Enset and Cassava as perennials, and a good ecological niche for coffee production. The main food crops include Maize, Beans, Enset, Cassava, and Livestock (cattle and goats). The main income source are sale of Coffee, Teff, Livestock and products such as, Maize, Beans, Enset (false banana), Cassava, haricot bean, wheat, barley, pea, bean and fruits and vegetables.

2.2 *Data collection tools and procedures*

Towards the achievement of the objectives, descriptive analysis method is employed in this study. Both from primary and secondary data are collected from various sources. Moreover review of literature is reviewed.

Primary data

With regard to primary data collection, household level survey using semi- structured interview was administered on selected respondents (women) based on pre-coded questionnaires, and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) was held and key informant interview with people well conversant with the subject matter.

Household survey

To generate information at household level, household level survey will be undertaken. The interview schedule shall contain mainly close-ended questions; however, some open-ended questions is also included. The questions are formulated keeping in mind the objectives and hypothesis of the study.

Focus group discussion

This is undertaken with group coming from local leaders (authorities) and local prominent members of the community.

Key informants interview

This is undertaken with Amaro Woreda development agents, Woreda agriculture office and Women Affairs.

Secondary data

Secondary data is collected from literatures, reports of agriculture office, and CSA and other national, international and internet sources.

3.3 Sampling techniques and sample size

Random sampling method is appropriate to achieve the objectives of the study. Therefore, from the total Kebeles of the Woreda, 3 Kebeles are selected purposefully. From these three Kebeles (Kobo, Golbe and Jelo) sample household respondents of about 60 all of whom are women are drawn for interview. For FGD, 21 participants of both women are included. For the key informants 9 people (women and men) are interviewed.

2.3.1 Sample size

The sample size for collecting quantitative data for this research is determined by using (Cocharan's, 1977) formula as indicated on Bartle Kortlett and Higgins (Bartlet and Higgins, '2001). The study use's the following formula to calculate sample size.

$$N = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

The following steps used to determine sample size:

Where:-

n=designate the sample size the research uses;

N=designates total number of households in three Pas

E= designates maximum variability or margin or error5 %(0.05);

I =designates the probability of the event occurring.

Therefore;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$
$$= 60$$

Sample size for each village is therefore; Golbe=37, Kobo =37, and Jello =15.

From the study area the size of respondent were randomly selected according the household heads number which they reside in each kebeles.

2.4. Data processing and analysis

The collected data are checked for completeness, inconsistency and proper filling. It is edited and coded. Three code books shall be prepared one for data collected from the household's survey, the second for data collected from key informant interview, and the last for FGD. Data entry is made directly into SPSS; it is tabulated and made ready for analysis and interpretation.

The findings will be presented in the study report either in tabular or graphic forms as found appropriate.

Qualitative data collecting through the interviews, focus group discussions and observations are put into different categorical variables. Major themes are identified and analyzed in line with research questions and are summarized analyzed descriptively. Issues intended to be addressed by the research are analyzed using findings from both quantitative and qualitative survey applying triangulation method.

The data will be processed by using statically package for the social sciences (SPSS) software. Data is accessed by statistical techniques such as, tables, pie chart and others. Justification is provided to clarify information on observed data.

The survey findings are used to draw arguments on relevant issues and data from secondary sources and draw conclusions and recommendations.

2.5 *Quality and Ethical consideration*

The researcher obtains official consent from Amaro Special woreda administration office to conduct this study on Amaro special woreda. Amaro special woreda agriculture and rural development office is willing to assist the researcher. Quantitative survey respondent and qualitative survey informants are provided detail explanation on the overall objective of the study ahead of time. Interview is managed on free will of interviewees. Respondent are informed that they can decline if they don't want to be part of interviewed or study.

Information provided by the interviewees will not transfer to a third party or will not be used for any other purpose.

ORGANIZATION OF RESEARCH

Chapter one

Chapter one shall be an introduction of the subject of the current study. In this chapter effort shall be made to describe the issues of the role of rural women in household food security.

Chapter two

Chapter two shall include a brief discussion on the review of previous studies on the role of rural women in household food security.

Chapter Three

Chapter three shall deal with the research design and methodology of the current study.

Chapter Four

Chapter four will hold discussion and result

Chapter Five will comprise, Summary, conclusion and recommendations.

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Annex I: Time Estimate

No	Research activity	Time required
1	Identification of contribution	2.5 week
2	Review of literature	2 week
3	Identification of objectives	1 week
4	Formulation of hypothesis	1 week
5	Selection of research design	1 week
6	Selection of sample	2 week
7	Selection of tools of data collection	2 week
8	Pre-testing of tools of data collection	1 week
9	Data collection	4 week
10	Editing of data	2.5 week
11	Preparation of code book	1.5 week
12	Preparation of master chart	1 week
13	Processing of data	2.5 week
14	Statistical data analysis	1 week
15	Writing of report	40 days
16	Presentation of report(Typing, binding etc)	One month

Annex II: Budget Estimate (Cost of the project)

No	Research activities	No of personal required	Duration	Cos (in Birr)
1	Allowance for data collectors (100 birr/ day)	3	15	4,500.00
2	Premium for research assistance staff (100 birr per day)	2	10	5000.00
3	Stationary and secretarial service	Lump sum	---	4500.00
	total			14,000

Annex III: Research Project Proposal Submitted to the Master's Program in Rural Development of Indira Gandhi National Open University/IGNOU/

i. Questionnaire to be completed by rural women respondents

Date _____

Introduction

This questioner is designed to collect data for a study on the role of rural women in household food security and factors that influence the rural women in household food security. The quality of the study largely depends on your earnest and sincere response to the questions. So you are cordially requested to provide me your valuable opinion, I appreciate your support and cooperation in responding to the following questions:

Instruction

Indicate your answer to closed questions by putting a mark in the box in front of your chose or in the column under your chose. Write brief and precise answers to open ended questions son the space provided.

Bio-data of the respondent

1. Kebele_____

2. Age _____

3. Marital status :

Married

Divorced Widowed

4. Ethnic _____

5. Religion _____

6. Educational level:

Literacy

Non formal education

One –fourth grade

Fifth – eighth grade

Ninth –tenth grade

Eleventh –twelfth

Other _____

ii. How do you rate your role / contribution/ in household food security in the following agricultural activities? Please mark

Activities	Role/ contribution				Remark
	Very high	High	Low	None	
1.Main food crops production					
1.2 .Land preparation					
1.2. Sowing					
1.3.Weeding					
1.4. harvesting					
1.5. Threshing					
1.6. Storing					
1.7 Transporting & storing					
1.8. Marketing					
2. Fruit and vegetable Production					
2.1. Seed bed preparation					
2.2. sowing					
2.3. Weeding					
2.3. Watering					
2.4. Mannering					
2.5 Harvesting					
2.6. Marketing					

3.Enset production					
3.1 Land preparation					
3.2 Cultivation					
3.3 weeding					
3.4 Harvesting					
3.5 Marketing					
4.Livestock production					
4.1 Clearing barn					
4.2.Miliking					
4.3 Looking after animals					
4.4.Feeding animals					
4.5Taking care of calves					
4.6. Marketing livestock					
5. Poultry					
5.1 Chickens raising					
5.2 Collecting eggs					
5.3 Feeding					
5.4 Marketing chickens					
6. Household activities					
6.1. Food preparation					
6.2. Care of children					
7.3. Fire wood collection					
6.4 .Fetching water					

iii. How do you rate your role selling or exchanging agricultural products so as to earn to your family, please mark

Agricultural product	Access in selling agricultural products			
	Very high	High	Low	None
1. Food crop production (Maize, Haricot Beans, Teff, sorghum)				
2. Vegetable production (local cabbage, onion, Garlic, sweet potato ...)				
3. Fruit production (Lemon, Orange, Mango, Avocado, banana ...)				
4. Animal and animal products, cattle, Goat,				
5, Chicken and egg				
6, Coffee				
7. cassava				

iv. Miscellaneous issues

1. Do you increase income from the non-farm activities such as casual labor?

Yes

No

If your answer to question 1 is yes, how much do you earn per year on average?

2. Do you have adequate or sufficient household food for the family need?

Yes

No

If your answer question number 2, is no, how do you increase the household food security?

3. Do you think that rural women play significant role in household food security?

Strongly agree

Agree

Disagree

4. Who generally makes decisions regarding household food security activities?

Women

Men

Family members

5. Are there gender differences in the household food security?

Yes

No

If your answer is yes, please explain the role of women and men activities in the household food security. _____

6. How is your participation in decision making process at household food security?

I decide on the amount to be used with in the family

I am not involved in decision making

Yes No

10. Do you think that rural women participation in various activities increase household food and economic status of the household?

Yes No

If your answer is yes, please explain? _____

11. Did you acquire your own plot of land?

Yes No

If your answer is yes, how did you acquire it?

Through marriage

By in heritage

Through land distribution

By leasing from others

12. Do you have any information regarding the Ethiopian constitutional declaration of women right? Yes No

13. Are women in your society discriminated against in personal and social relationship?
Yes No

If your answer is yes, what will be the consequence in house hold food security?

14. What is the attitude of traditional (local) leaders to women's role in household food security and decision making ability in the household?

Very encouraging
Somewhat encouraging
Discouraging Indifferent

15. Which household food security activities of women are accepted by the local leaders?

16. What kind of support do you normally expect from local leaders to women's role in the household food security?

Supporting household activities
Encouraging and participating
Appreciation and recognition
Material incentive

17. Do the local leaders support and recognized the role of rural women in household food security?

Yes No

18. In general as rural women what are your suggestion regarding the role of women in household food security activities?

**Annex IV. RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMITED TO THE MASTER'S PEROGRAM
IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSTY/
IGNOU/**

Guiding questions for focus group discussion

Date _____

Kebele (village) _____

Bio data of members of the FGD

S/N	Name of the respondent Office/ Institution	Age	Marital status	Religion	Level of education
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Guiding questions

1. What are the main roles of rural women in household food security?

Explain _____

2. How do you rate the participation of rural women in household food security?

Very high High Low

3. Do rural woman have power equal to men in deciding on resources at household level?

a) Agree b) Disagree c) Undecided

4. Do development programs in the village support women’s role in household food security?

a) To great extent b) To some extent c) Hardly

5. Do you think that village development programs are helpful in promoting of women's role in household food security (agricultural) activities?

- a) Yes b) No c) Undecided

6. What do you think is the attitude of society towards rural women's role in the household food security?

- a) Highly positive, b) Positive, c) Negative

7. What are the important motives that enhance the attitude of society towards the role of women in household food security?

8. What hinders the role of women in household food security?

- a) Ignorance b) Illiteracy c) Social and cultural status of community d) Economic Status
e) All the above

9. Do you think that awareness & training is important to increase awareness level of society to enhance recognition of role women's in household food security?

- Yes No

10. Do you think that as local leaders can you help and support women to reduce social and cultural barriers that affecting women's role in household food security?

- Yes No

11. If you have any suggestions on the improvement of rural women in the process of household food security activities, Please forward.

Name of Moderator _____ Signature _____ and date _____

**Annex V. RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMITED TO THE MASTER'S
PEROGRAM IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIRA GANDHI
NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSTY/ IGNOU/**

Date _____

Interview for Woreda Agriculture and Rural Development Office and DA

1. What are the main agricultural productions practiced by the farmers in Amaro Woreda?

2. What type of agricultural extension services and technical assistance are provided to rural women to enhance their household food security?

3. Do rural women have equal participation in agricultural activity, particularly in enhancing production and productivity in your Woreda? Why?

4. Do you think that rural women have equal power in making decision on the utilization of resources? Why?

5. Among the total household women in Amaro Woreda, how many rural women own land?

6. Do you think that local leaders and the community recognize the role of women in household food security?

7. Do you think that rural women are aware of the Ethiopian constitutional declaration on women right?

8. What are the basic factor that hinders rural women from equal access to resources and participation in economic activities?

9. Suggest what type of measures should be taken by the government and development actors to promote the recognition of women particularly in access and participation in household food security activities?

Name of Moderator _____ Signature _____ and date: _____

**Annex VI. RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMITED TO THE MASTER'S
PEROGRAM IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIRA GANDHI
NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSTY/ IGNOU/**

Date _____

Interviews of Guide for Women, Youth and Children affairs Office

1. Among the total household rural women, how many rural women have their own land? _____
2. What type of agricultural extension services and technical assistance provided to rural women to enhance their household food security? _____
3. Do rural women have equal participation in agricultural activity, particularly enhancing production and productivity in your Woreda? _____
4. Do you think that rural women have equal power in making decision on the utilization of resources?

5. In your opinion do you think that local leaders and the community recognize the role of women in household food security?

6. Do you think that rural women are aware of the Ethiopian constitutional declaration on the women right?

7. What are the basic factors that hinder rural women from equal utilization of resources and equal participation in economic activities?

8. In your opinion do you think that the role of women in household food security is recognized by the larger community members?

9. What type of measures do you suggest should be taken by the government and development actors to increase the recognition of women particularly in household food security activities?_____

Name of Moderator _____ Signature _____ and date _____