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**The Contribution of Rural Water Supply Project towards Women Empowerment
(In Derashe woreda of SNNPRS)**

**A Thesis submitted to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU),
Department of Rural Development, School of Graduate Studies**

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Development M.A. (RD)**

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Submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the M.A. in Rural Development to Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier either to IGNOU to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any course of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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MAY GOD BLESS ETHIOPIA!

STATEMENT OF AUTHOR

First, I declare that this thesis is my own work and that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged. This thesis has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for advanced MARD degree at the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and is deposited at the University Library to be made available to borrowers under rules of the Library. I solemnly declare that this thesis is not submitted to any other institution anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma, or certificate. First, I declare that this thesis is my own work and that all sources of materials used for this thesis have been duly acknowledged. This thesis has been submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for advanced MARD degree at the Indra Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and is deposited at the University Library to be made available to borrowers under rules of the Library. I solemnly declare that this thesis is not submitted to any other institution anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma, or certificate. Brief quotations from this thesis are allowable without special permission provided that accurate acknowledgement of source is made. Requests for permission for extended quotation from or reproduction of this manuscript in whole or in part may be granted by the head of the major department or the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies when in his or her judgment the proposed use of the material is in the interests of scholarship. In all other instances, however, permission must be obtained from the author.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The author, Ato Bereket Gebretsion Woldegebrel was born on December 25, 1964 in Hararge province particular place called kebridehar town in the Eastern part of the country, currently called Somali region. He attends his elementary, junior, and secondary education at Leul Ras Mekonnen elementary school, and Harar Bethelehem boarding school (Junior), Medehanialem comprehensive school (High school), Kebridehar and Harar respectively. He joined Addis Ababa technical school in 1983 and graduate with Diploma in Building construction in July 1984. Then he graduate from Loughborough university (UK), Water Engineering Development Center (WEDC) with certificate in community water supply and sanitation in 2001, Alpha university college in management with Diploma in 2003, Gansu research institute for water conservancy in rain water harvesting and utilization (China) with certificate in 2004, Alpha university college in Development management with B.A degree in 2008.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis manuscript to my wife, S/r MARTHA ADMASSU and my children, FITSUM, SAMUEL and S/r RUHAMA BEREKET for their love and untold enormous partnership effort in my academic success.

ABRIVATION & ACCORNOMY

CEI	Cumulative Employment Index
CIDA	Condition International Development
CSO's	Civil Societies organization
DFID	Department for International Development
GBI	Gender Budgeted Initiatives
GTP	Growth Transformation Plan
HIDA	Hope International Development Agency
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune deficiency Virus Acquired immune Deficiency Syndrome
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practice
ICRISAT	International Crop Research Institute for Semi Avid Tropics
IEA	Institute of Economic Affairs
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PHDM	participation in Household Decision Making
RRA	Repaid Rural Appraisal
SC/ST	Schedule cast/ schedule tribe
SHG	Self Help Group
SNNPR	Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional State
UNDFW	United nation development fund for women
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
USAID	United State Agene for International Development
VWSC	Village Water and Sanitation Committee

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Abstract

Women in Ethiopia constitute the larger portion of a community. Rural women in Ethiopia are less empowered who has been facing problems in terms of economic inequalities, low social status, low education and low access to resources.

This study used both structured questioner and detail interview to examine the extent of women empowerment achieved by drinking water supply project in Derashe district, Ethiopia. Six empowerment dimensions such as economic empowerment, access to water, participation in community decision making, membership in local institution etc.

The distribution of level of empowerment showed that most of the participants have achieved economic empowerment from medium to high. The project allowed participation in community decision from moderate to high. Community members empowered from medium to high level respectively through participation in project planning and implementation.

The study concluded that low literacy can be improved through education and training. Besides more diversified income generating scheme need to be identified and implemented to enhance women's economic empowerment. Rules and regulations need also to be enforced to encourage more participation and empowerment in project planning, management, and participation in various local institutions.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In developing countries, contemporary development policies consider women empowerment as one of the most crucial issues that are thrust to the top of the development agenda. As such, it is one of the MDGs countries pledge to achieve by the year 2015. Ethiopia, like other developing countries also aspires to achieve this goal by the specified time. This was necessitated by the fact that women have occupied subordinate positions for a long time now. In fact this has been the case in the world in general. Reports indicate that about 70% of the 1.2 billion poor people who live on less than a dollar a day are women (World Bank, 2007). The problem is more severe in SSA. For instance, in Kenya, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA, 2008 in Kimani and Kombo, 2010) indicates that while 50% of women are poor in rural areas of the country, the urban poor women make up 46% of the total women population in the country. In Nigeria, 70% of the poor are women (Adepoju, N.D). In Ethiopia, studies indicate that women occupy a subordinate position (Haregewoin and Emebet, 2003).

The above-mentioned facts and figures indicate that despite women play a very essential role in the economic development¹ of many countries, they are marginalized with little or no decision making power in the access to, control over and management of resources. In order to reverse this daunting situation for the better, it has been long now since the Government of Ethiopia and other development actors have begun committing several resources through envisaging projects that would ultimately economically empower

¹¹ In SSA and the Caribbean, women produce 80% of all basic foodstuffs (FAO, 2005).

Women.² As a result, women empowerment has become one of the focus areas of the government of Ethiopia, which is manifested in the constitution and its national policies such as the National Policy of Ethiopian Women (1993), the Educational and Training Policy (1994), the Health Policy (1993)³ and the GTP⁴.

Since women empowerment is a broader area of focus, the government alone may not tackle the problems that are abound to it. Being cognizant of this issue, the country has created an enabling environment for several NGOs to work in areas related to community-development programs and projects.

1.2 Problem Statement

There are around 1.3 billion people, who live in absolute poverty around the globe. Studies indicate that 70 percent are women. For those women, poverty does not mean scarcity and want. It means rights denied, opportunities curtailed and voice not listened (UNDP 1995). In fact, according to UN Human development Report 1995, the human development paradigm contains four main components:- production, equity, sustainability and empowerment. Women and Men must be empowered to participate in the design and implementation of key decisions that shaped their lives. The women's empowerment framework also re-conceptualized the development objectives of the gender responsiveness programming. Rather than focusing on economic objectives its views shifted to women's equality and women empowerment as central development

² A brief description of some of the CSOs engaged in women economic empowerment is given in section 3

³ The details can be accessed from: http://www.mfa.gov.et/policies/health_policy_amharic.pdf

⁴ www.ethiopians.com/Ethiopia_GTP_2015.pdf

objectives in their own right. The empowerment of women is an essential precondition for elimination of world poverty and the upholding of human rights (DFID, 2008). In developing countries; especially in Ethiopia women constitute significant percentage of the population. However, some studies showed that women have limited role in household decision making, limited access to household resources, having domestic workloads, restricted mobility, information that lead to low women empowerment and vulnerability. As clearly stated in the introductory part, women have been marginalized in many parts of the developing world. Recently however, being cognizant of the problems women grapple with and the essential roles they play in society, their empowerment has attracted both academicians and policy makers alike so much so that the issue is considered as one of the MDGs countries pledge to achieve by the year 2015.

Taking the above problems into consideration, voluntary organizations and NGOs promote a bottom up approach to develop strategic plan to address the above problems of empowerment. Using empowerment frame work they develop and implement projects to overcome obstacles of women to access socio-economic resources, productive assets, to information, training and involve women in community and family decisions. However, research works are limited showing the effectiveness of these organizations' interventions in empowering women.

Indeed, since a couple of decades, a great deal of research has been done in areas related to women empowerment. But very few of them have been attempted to address the issue of women empowerment in Eastern Africa in general and Ethiopia, in particular

especially based on evidence-based analysis. Some of the studies conducted so far include measurement of women empowerment (World Bank, 2001; Malhotra et al., 2003), the multidimensionality of women (Kishore and Gupta, 2004, Kabeer, 2005; Schüler, 2006; Klasen, 2006), demographic determinants of women empowerment (Jejeebhoy and Sathar, 2001).

Problems of women have both temporal and spatial variability. This is also reflected in the very definitions given by different scholars in different countries (see definition of basic concepts below). This suggests that context-specific studies are necessary clearly reflecting the situation at household level. Besides, Hope International has been committing several resources in Southern Ethiopia. The effectiveness of such women development project has to be evaluated on how much it has empowered the targeted women. In Ethiopia, little research and investigation has been done to examine the effectiveness of development projects with regard to women empowerment.

It is, therefore, with justifications that this research is intended to be conducted. This research seeks to make a formal investigation on the contribution of water development project for women empowerment at Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional State in Derashe district, Ethiopia.

1.3 Objectives

The general objective of the study is to investigate the contribution of water supply projects to women empowerment. To address the above general objectives, the study has the following specific objectives, which are to:

1. Examine the contribution of water supply project to economic empowerment of women in the study area,
2. Investigate the contribution of the water supply project to women's increased awareness of health and hygiene in the study area,
3. Study the contribution of water supply project to increase women's representation in community decision making activities, and
4. Explore the association between women's participation on water supply project and empowerment.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The involvement of more women in water supply projects like any other community-based endeavors would help increase projects' effectiveness and efficiency. In this regard, HOPE International Development Agency (HIDA), which is the sponsor of this study and project implementer in the study area will get valuable information that would help it to take corrective technical and managerial actions that would ultimately promote women's empowerment and project effectiveness. On the other hand, scholars who want to make deep investigation in the area or in similar projects will benefit from the information that would be generated by this study. Besides, policy makers in Ethiopia will also get valuable information to direct their approaches that help enhance women empowerment as far as rural-based water projects are concerned.

1.5 Research Questions

1. Does the water supply project contribute to women's economic empowerment?
2. Do women participate fully in water supply project?
3. Does the water supply project increased women's awareness of health and hygiene?
4. Does the water supply project contributed to increased women's representation in community decision making.
5. What is the association between participation and women empowerment?

1.6. Methodology

1.6.1 Description of study Area

Derashe woreda-Amharic name for district- is located in southern Ethiopia. Giddole is the capital town of the woreda, which is located at a distance of 554 km south of Addis Ababa and 329 km southwest of Hawassa-the capital of Southern Nations Nationalities Peoples Regional State. Geographically, the woreda is bounded in the east by Kamba, in the west, north and south by Arbaminch zuriya wereda and in the South and West by Alle woreda. According to the woreda Rural Development office the wereda population estimated to be 117,354 of which 51% are female. The wereda comprises 16 rural and 2 town kebeles.

The altitude of the woreda ranges form 800-4270m a.s.l. Agro-ecologically, the woreda is classified as 50% dega (highland), 26.4% woinadega (midland) and 23.6% kola (lowland). Its annual average temperature ranges from 10.1-27.5 °c, whereas its annual average rainfall ranges from 600-2200mm.

The economy of the population is based mainly on subsistent agriculture, which is characterized by mixed farming. Regarding the water coverage of the woreda were 7% only in 1995 G.C but after HOPE International Development Agency undertake water development activities the availability of potable water in terms of quality, quantity, social and economic benefit are raised up and the coverage also increased by 84% in 2011.

1.6.2 Research design

To meet the objective of the research, a descriptive survey research was used to assess the level of women participation and empowerment in the water project intervention area of Hope International taking Derashe woreda as a case in point. In addition, a quasi-experimental design was used to make a comparison of empowerment between those who have access to water supply and those who not have.

1.6.3 Operational definitions and measurement of variables

Empowerment Indicators:- Six indicators of women's empowerment covering a wide range of attributes were comprehensively measured. These are as presented below.

- a) Contribution to household income:- refers to wife's contribution in terms of per cent involvement in substance productive activities that are not rewarded in cash or in kind to household income. Fourteen activities were selected in this regards, which are as follows: (1) farm activities:- land seedbed preparation, sowing, planting, transplanting, intercultural activities, harvesting and threshing, winnowing, parboiling, drying, storage, drying and preservation of straws, homestead cultivation, livestock rearing, poultry

rearing, fish culture and marketing related to agriculture production; and (2) non-farm activities- service, business and handcraft production.

b) Access to resources:- refers to the right, scope, of permission to use and /or get benefit from ten selected resources that were divided in to mainly two types. These are: (1) household resources- equal consumption of nutritious food, handling and spending money, sealing of minor agricultural products, interpersonal communication, hiring of helping hands and utilization of credit money if they receive; and (2) social resources- education / training, credit, rural cooperative and bank. It was computed using a four-point scale- 0 for “no access”, 1 for “low access”, 2 for “medium access”; and 3 for “high access”.

c) Ownership of assets:- refers to the ability of women to control her own current assets and enjoy benefits accruing from them. Two categories of assets comprising nine items were selected for the study. They include: (1) productive: land, cattle, goat, poultry and cash savings; (2) none-productive: jewelry, television, radio and small vehicle. It was measured in terms of money (“000 Birr – Ethiopian currency) considering the current value of each item that a woman possesses.

d) Participation in household decision- making:- (PHDM) refers to the extent of women’s ability to participate in formulating and executing decision regarding domestic, financial, child-welfare, reproductive health, farming and socio- political matters in coordination with other family members. Twenty items in six major dimensions was analyzed and a

four point-scale was used to measure women's PHDM – 0 for “no participation”, 1 for “low participation”, 2 for “medium participation” and 3 for “high participation”.

e) Perception on gender awareness refers to a women's ability to express her opinion with regards to existing gender inequality and discrimination against women in the society. Fifteen crucial gender issues were selected that include: under-value, education, economic opportunity, inheritance property rights, reproductive choice, early marriage, dowry, divorce right, son preference, attitude towards female child, birth registration, feeding priority, wage differentiation, political awareness and violence against women. It was ascertained through a five- point scale having 15 statements, of which seven were positive and eight were negatively stated. The rural women's response was expressed by “strongly agree”, “agree”, “undecided”, “disagree”, and “strongly disagree”. A score of 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 was assigned respectively to each positive statement, where as it was in reverse in case of negative statements.

f) Coping capacity to household shocks refers to a women's ability to face sudden risks, crises and periodic stresses (threats to life or happiness) in the household. Nine major risk aspects related to household management including natural calamities, financial constraints due to crop failure, indebtedness, food unavailability, chronic illnesses, conflict, husband torture and unexpected death of children as well as husbands were analyzed. A four – point rating scale (1- 4) was used to measure the coping capacity where 1 indicates “the best strategy”, and 4 “the last suitable strategy”.

1.6.4 Sampling

Explanatory study was conducted to collect basic data. This helped to have baseline information about the study area. During explanatory survey the following data were collected. These data are location of the study area, Agro-ecological difference services coverage such as potable water, health services, education services and socio-economic data.

Sampling Technique and Procedure

The Woreda was selected using purposive sampling. This is because the area is a place where domestic water supply project is conducted for several years. Therefore, it is easy to assess the contribution the project women's empowerment.

In this regard the area experience and exposure of the researcher to Woreda helped to build confidence and facilitate the study.

Stratified sampling was used to stratify the District sixteen farmer associations in to two strata based on the level of the domestic water supply project coverage. The basis for stratification is the degree of access to water points done by Hope international development agency. The first strata include villages which have full access to domestic water supply and the second strata are those villages which has low or no access to domestic water supply project.

Stage three, two farmers association were selected randomly from each strata. Finally, a total of 150 households from those who have access and from non-accessibility will be

selected proportionally. The households with low or no access to potable water supply point were used for comparison purpose.

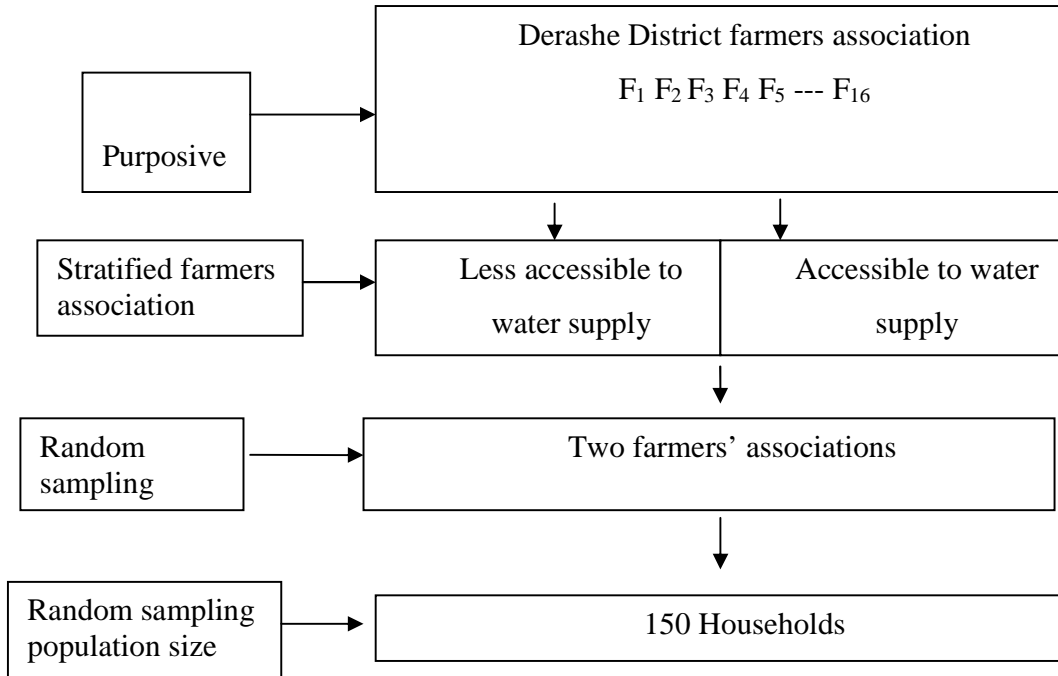


Figure 1: Sampling procedure

1.6.5 Data Collection and Sources

Both primarily and secondary data were collected. The use of multiple methods can neutralize or cancel out the disadvantages of certain methods and the strengths of each approach can complement each other's gap (Byrne and Humble, 2007). In order to get the best result, the researcher used a combination of both qualitative and quantitative method of data collection.

In this study, both qualitative and quantitative data were collected using the two approaches (qualitative and quantitative). Qualitative research is concerned with

subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions, and behavior (EEA, 2010, Kothari, 1990). According to Degefa (2005), qualitative data is also consist of a range of behavioral traits such as belief, customs, values, knowledge and experiences and resultant structures, which cannot be accounted for in numerical terms.

Instruments of Data Collection

The instruments of data collection used include: direct observation, key informant interview, structured questionnaire, and case study.

Direct observation

In direct observation, the information sought by way of investigator's own direct observation without asking from the respondent (Kothari, 1990). It helps to identify economic activities, key indicators of conditions, new topics, or issues for discussion and it helps in the assessment of differences between reported conditions and real conditions (Abiz et.al, 2009). To understand the impact of the project on the empowerment status of beneficiaries, basic access to potable water and the resultant effects on hygiene and sanitation, income, etc were examined.

Key informant interview

The key informant interview method of data collection involved presentation of oral-verbal stimuli and reply in terms of oral-verbal responses. This method was suitable for a detailed and intensive investigation by contacting persons who were supposed to have knowledge about the project and its impact under investigation. This method was carried

out to obtain basic information about the benefits beneficiaries got from the project and the challenges they face.

Structured Questionnaire

Structured questionnaires are questions in which there are definite, concrete, and pre-determined questions. These questions are presented with exactly the same wording and in the same order to all respondents and the form of the question may be either closed (i.e., of the type 'yes' or 'no') or open (i.e., inviting free response) (Kothari, 1990). Cognizant of this, the researcher developed and administered questionnaires to both beneficiary and non-beneficiary women in order to solicit information that ultimately helped compare and contrast the empowerment status of women in the study area.

The questionnaire design includes four parts such as:

- ❖ Participation in income generating activities due to time saved in fetching water.
- ❖ Skills and economic benefit gained by participating in project implementation.
- ❖ Social empowerment due to awareness and training of health and hygiene.
- ❖ Women's participation in community decision making.

Respondents were provided a list of items under each of the above four parts and they were asked to indicate their response using 1-5 scale (not participated to 5 very much participated).

Case study

Case study is a method of study in depth (intensive investigation) and a method to locate the factors that account for the behavior-patterns of the given unit as an integrated totality. It involves a careful and complete observation of a social unit, person, a family, an institution, a cultural group, or even the entire community and places more emphasis on the full analysis of a limited number of events or conditions and their interrelations. For depth investigation of the households, the researcher carefully and purposively selected individual participants and asked several questions that would enable him capture the benefits women have obtained from the project and the challenges they have faced.

Secondary Data collection

Secondary sources such as various project reports of Hope International Development Agency and Government evaluation reports were consulted to collect baseline data and the change brought on women's life due to the water supply project.

1.7 Data Analysis

Data that were obtained from structured questionnaire and interview and from secondary source were checked for completeness, consistency and accuracy before the analysis is made.

Both quantitative and qualitative data analysis were collected in this study. And the analysis is done by combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches.

1.7.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

The data collected using structured questionnaire or scale were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean score, frequency, distribution and percentage that show the level of participation and empowerment.

1.7.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data that were collected using interview were analyzed using concept, opinion analysis and grouping and triangulation to show how women participated, empowered in the process of the water project management.

To describe the life of selected individuals as a case study, narration method was used in boxes following thematic presentation.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Concepts of Empowerment

2.1.1 Different Definitions of Empowerment

Empowerment has different definitions by different organizations and individuals. The concept of empowerment has a long history having its roots in the Afro-American movement in the 1960s. Since then, the concept has, gradually but exactly, evolved into its current status owing to several drivers such as Paulo Freire's theory⁵, popular women's and feminist movements in Latin America and the Caribbean (which considered empowerment as being central to seize power thereby change gender relations in socio-economic, political, legal and socio-cultural spheres) and the development of modern thought such as the entitlements approach of Amartya Sen. In fact, from the perspective of development, the Beijing Conference marked the emergence of the concept (1995)⁶, which (under section 13) considers women's empowerment as a key strategy for development by suggesting: "Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace".

There is no universally accepted definition of empowerment. According to Sen and Batliwala (2000) "Empowerment is the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives". However, there are commonalities among

the different approaches of defining the concept. While some define as the process to acquire “power” individually and collectively that enables people to make own decisions regarding matters that affect their life and society, others suggest that the notion of empowerment forms part of the vision to acquire power, to control one’s life and make choices. This notion of “making choices” has been broadly debated by Kabeer (2001), who expanded the notion to people’s ability to have access to things and to make choices. Kabeer (2001) defines empowerment as ‘The expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them.’

In very general terms, empowerment includes the abilities of people both at individual and collective level, which ultimately provides them with windows of opportunities to seize a socio-political space and access to and control over resources. Empowerment is also considered as a process and an outcome whereby both men and women take control over their lives i.e. setting their own agenda, gaining skills, increasing self-confidence and -reliance and solving problems (CIDA, 1994; in CIDA, 1996). The key components of empowerment are, thus, women and men’s sense of confidence to face life, right to make choices, power to control their own lives and influence social change.

The empowerment approach therefore operates on two levels: (i) in relation to its capacity for personal change and (ii) in relation to political and social change.

Empowerment in development sense refers to the process whereby people can freely analyze, develop and voice their needs and interest without pre-defined or imposing them from above by planners or other social sectors (cleaver 1997).

Women empowerment: is a process that result fundamental redistribution of power within and between families/ society and induce a mechanism of change to words women's equality and development. Women empowerment include several interrelated and mutually reinforced components these component include socio-economic empowerment, participation in household decision and psychological / social empowerment.

The empowerment of women requires conditions that enable them exercise their autonomy. This facilitation includes socio-economic empowerment through access to and control resources and productive asset. The participation of women in decision making also involve their ability to control their labor and income. The increased role of women in household's decision making would enable to improve their self determination, bargaining power, status within households (Malhotra et al 2002). The psychological or social empowerment of women also depends on perception on gender awareness with regards to basic rights of women. In which case women's access to education, training, information have potential to increases women's psychological /social empowerment.

Empowerment has been used to represent a wide range of concepts and to describe a proliferation of outcomes. The term has been used more often to advocate for certain types of policies and intervention strategies than to analyze them, as demonstrated by a number of documents from the United Nations (UNDAW 2001; UNICEF 1999), the Association for Women in Development (Everett 1991), the Declaration made at the Micro-credit Summit (RESULTS 1997), DFID (2000), and other organizations. Feminist

activist writings often promote empowerment of individuals and organizations of women (Sen and Grown 1987; Jahan 1995; Kumar 1993) but vary in the extent to which they conceptualize or discuss how to identify it.

Another line of thought in development promotes social inclusion in institutions as the key pathway to empowerment of individuals and has at times tended to conflate empowerment and participation. Capitalism, top-down approaches to development, and/or poverty itself are seen as sources of disempowerment that must be challenged by bringing “lowers” the poor and disenfranchised (Chambers 1997) into the management of community and development processes. The growth of civil society and participatory development methods at both macro- and meso -levels of society are usually proposed as the mechanisms by which empowerment takes place (Friedmann 1992; Chambers 1997). For example, Narayan et al (2000) focus on state and civil society institutions at both national and local levels, including informal institutions such as kinship and neighborhood networks. Institutions at the micro level, such as those of marriage and the household, are not considered part of the state or of civil society, but interpersonal gender dynamics within the household are considered part of the equation of social exclusion and in need of directed efforts at change.

Bennett (2002) has developed a framework in which “empowerment” and “social inclusion” are closely related but separate concepts. Drawing on Narayan (2002), Bennett describes empowerment as “the enhancement of assets and capabilities of diverse individuals and groups to engage, influence and hold accountable the institutions which

affect them.” Social inclusion is defined as “the removal of institutional barriers and the enhancement of incentives to increase the access of diverse individuals and groups to assets and development opportunities.” Bennett notes that both of these definitions are intended to be operational, and describe processes rather than end points. The empowerment process “from below” and involves agency, as exercised by individuals and groups. Social inclusion, in contrast, requires systemic change which may be initiated “from above.” As Narayan (2002) and Ravallion and Chen (2001, in their discussion of “pro-poor growth”) also argue, systemic change is necessary to sustain empowerment over time.

Empowerment involves challenging the forms of oppression which compel millions of people to play a part in their society on terms which are inequitable, or in ways which deny their human rights’ (Oxfam, 1995). Empowerment is ‘a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives’ (Page and Czuba, 1999). ‘The processes through which those who are currently disadvantaged achieve equal rights, resources and power’ Mayoux, 2008).

As Narayan (2002) and Ravallion and Chen (2001, in their discussion of “pro-poor growth”) also argue, systemic change is necessary to sustain empowerment over time. It is through the process of social inclusion that the “rules of the game” are modified and institutions transformed so that economic growth is widely shared. Bennett argues that the distinction between empowerment and social inclusion is important because the World Bank’s comparative advantage is at the system or policy level.

In general, women do not take a central place in much of the literature on social inclusion or empowerment. While clearly, the broad reference to empowerment as the expansion of freedom of choice and action, as articulated in the World Bank's Sourcebook on Empowerment and Poverty Reduction (Narayan forthcoming 2002), applies to women as well as other disadvantaged or socially excluded groups, it is important to acknowledge that women's empowerment encompasses some unique additional elements. First, women are not just one group amongst several disempowered subsets of society (the poor, ethnic minorities, etc.); they are a cross-cutting category of individuals that overlaps with all these other groups. Second, the household and interfamilial relations are a central locus of women's disempowerment in a way that is not true for other disadvantaged groups. This means that efforts at empowering women must be especially cognizant of the implications of broader policy action at the household level. Third, several of the authors whose work we review in this paper argue that women's empowerment requires systemic transformation in not just any institutions, but fundamentally in those supporting patriarchal structures (Kabeer 2001; Bisnath and Elson 1999; Sen and Grown 1987; Batliwala 1994).

Development cooperation agencies have begun to focus on the development of indicators for assessing gender equality, and in some cases "empowerment", and there is a growing body of literature in which efforts have been made to clearly define the concept of empowerment. This literature emerges from both activist and research writings. A diverse body of research has emerged on measuring empowerment and relating it to other

variables of interest in international development. This research tends to take place at the interstices of the disciplines of demography, sociology economics, anthropology, and public health; it does not occupy a widely recognized niche in any academic field.

The Process of Empowerment: There are various attempts in the literature to develop a comprehensive understanding of empowerment through breaking the process down into key components. The specific components tend to differ depending on the orientation and agenda of the writer, but here as well there is greater consensus than we had expected. Kabeer's (2001) understanding of "choice" comprises three inter-related components: "resources, which form the conditions under which choices are made; agency, which is at the heart of the process through which choices are made, and achievements, which are the outcomes of choices." The World Bank's report on "Engendering Development," (2001a) defines rights, resources, and voice as the three critical components of gender equality. Chen (1992) describes "resources, perceptions, relationships, and power," as the main components of empowerment, and Batliwala (1994), characterize empowerment as "control over resources and ideology." UNICEF uses the Women's Empowerment Framework constructed by Sara Longwe, which encompasses welfare, access to resources, awareness-raising, participation, and control (UNICEF 1994). Resources and agency (in various forms and by various names, e.g., control, awareness, voice, power), were the two most common components of empowerment emphasized in the literature we reviewed. In many discussions, however, resources are treated not as empowerment per se, but as catalysts for empowerment or conditions under which empowerment is likely to occur. In the context of policy and evaluation, it may be more useful to think of resources as "enabling factors"; that is, as potentially critical inputs to

foster an empowerment process, rather than as part of empowerment itself. And, in fact, many of the variables that have traditionally been used as “proxies” for empowerment, such as education and employment, might be better described as “enabling factors” or “sources” of empowerment” (Kishor 2000a). As our review of measurement issues and empirical evidence illustrates below, although many empirical studies have used variables such as education and employment as proxies for empowerment, there is a growing understanding that this equation is problematic (Govindasamy and Malhotra 1996; Malhotra and Mather 1997; Kishor 1995; Mason 1998).

The second component, agency, is at the heart of many conceptualizations of empowerment. Human agency is a central concept in Sen’s (1999) characterization of development as the process of removing various types of “freedoms” that constrain individual choice and agency. Kabeer’s (2001) essay on women’s empowerment draws on Sen understands of agency as well as his conceptualization of the links between individual agencies with public action. Among the various concepts and terms we encountered in the literature on empowerment, “agency” probably comes closest to capturing what the majority of writers are referring to. It encompasses the ability to formulate strategic choices, and to control resources and decisions that affect important life outcomes.

Some characterizations of empowerment have included an additional component, which Kabeer refers to as “achievements” and Longwe as “welfare.” And, in international policy processes, women’s empowerment is implicitly equated with specific (usually

national level) achievements such as political participation, legal reform, and economic security. In the context of evaluation, we would argue that achievements are best treated as outcomes of empowerment, not as empowerment per se (just as resources may be more usefully construed as enabling factors or catalysts for empowerment). Granted, one might question whether agency really amounts to empowerment if there is no meaningful result in terms of women's status, strategic position or welfare. But whether any empowerment indicator or form of agency (such as exercising control over decisions or resources) really amounts to empowerment in a particular context will always be an empirical question. As we note elsewhere, it may be possible to identify empowerment indicators that can be applied in a wide variety of contexts, but there will always be situations in which a particular indicator does not signify empowerment. As we will discuss later, this does not mean that the development of empowerment indicators is a futile task, only that the complexities of measuring empowerment must be taken into account in developing conceptual frames and research designs.

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In identifying agency as the essence of women's empowerment, we are not suggesting that all improvements in women's position must be brought about through the actions of women themselves or that empowering themselves is the responsibility of individual women. There is ample justification for governments and multilaterals to promote policies that strengthen gender equality through various means, including legal and political reform, and interventions to give women (and other socially excluded groups) greater access to resources (e.g. World Bank 2001a). National and international institutions have the responsibility for ensuring the inclusion of disadvantaged

populations socially, economically, and politically. The question is whether it is useful to describe all actions taken toward that end as “empowerment”, and we would suggest that it is not. The major reason for the emphasis on agency as the defining criterion is because of the many examples in the literature of cases in which giving women’s access to resources does not lead to their greater control over resources, where changes in legal statutes have little influence on practice, and where female political leaders do not necessarily work to promote women’s interests. Thus while resources economic, social and political are often critical in ensuring that women are empowered, they are not always sufficient. Without women’s individual or collective ability to recognize and utilize resources in their own interests, resources cannot bring about empowerment.

Having argued that “agency” should be treated as the essence of empowerment, and resources and achievements as enabling conditions and outcomes, respectively, another caveat is necessary. While distinctions such as those between “resources, agency and achievements” (Kabeer 2001) or “sources versus evidence” of empowerment seem clear at the conceptual level, it is not always easy to completely separate them in developing empowerment indicators. And too, a given variable may function as an indicator of women’s access to resources (or an enabling factor) in one context, of women’s agency in another, and may represent an achievement in still other contexts. For example, microcredit programs and employment opportunities are often seen as resources for women’s empowerment. But if a woman seeks to gain access to microcredit, or to get a job, then getting the job or joining the credit program might be best characterized as a manifestation of women’s agency, and the benefits she draws as a result income,

discretionary spending, healthcare, etc--as achievements. In some cases, women's economic contribution is treated as an enabling factor and used to predict other outcomes such as control over important decisions and even the outcomes of decisions such as family size or contraceptive use. But in other contexts, women's economic contribution would be more accurately described as a form of agency or, again even an achievement. Similarly, assets owned could function as sources of empowerment (e.g. Kishor 2000) but they could also constitute evidence that empowerment had been achieved. The meaning of any empowerment indicator will always depend on its inter-relationships with other variables.

Empowerment is a dynamic process. Separating the process into components (such as enabling factors, agency and outcomes) may be useful in identifying policy interventions to support empowerment, and for evaluating the impact of such interventions, but it is important to realize that a framework for research or evaluation of a specific policy or intervention will refer to only one phase of the process.

Empowerment literally means "to invest with power". However, in the context of women the term has come to denote women's increased control over their own lives, bodies, and environments. Further, the concept of empowerment encompasses "a growing intrinsic capability greater self-confidence and an inner transformation of one's consciousness that enables one to overcome external barriers..." (Sen and Batliwala, 2000). Greater control and increased capabilities to overcome barriers all translate into increased agency or the ability to make and implement choices. An important indicator of agency is decision making power.

CARE is using the understanding of empowerment both to improve work and to assess the impact of its programs. Built upon social theory that recognizes the power of individuals (sociologists call this “agency”) and structures, CARE’s view of empowerment is unique: It also incorporates human relationships, which, research and experience indicate, are key factors in the construction and entrenchment of poverty, and must be judiciously altered if poverty is to be overcome. Our understanding of empowerment reminds us that change in this case, improvement in the physical, economic, political or social well-being of women – will not be sustained unless Individuals change: Poor women become actors for change, able to analyze their own lives, make their own decisions and take their own actions.

Women (and men) gain ability to act by building awareness, skills, knowledge, confidence and experience and Structures change: Women and men, individually and collectively, challenge the routines, conventions, laws, family forms, kinship structures and taken-for-granted behaviors that shape their lives the accepted forms of power and how these are perpetuated and Relations change: Women and men form new relations with other social actors, form coalitions and develop mutual support in order to negotiate, be agents of change, alter structures and so realize rights, dignity and livelihood

Measuring Gender Gap

The past three decades have witnessed a steadily increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and

broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education.

Along with awareness of the subordinate status of women has come the concept of gender as an overarching socio-cultural variable, seen in relation to other factors, such as race, class, age and ethnicity. Gender is not synonymous with women, nor is it a zero-sum game implying loss for men; rather, it refers to both women and men, and to their status, relative to each other.

Gender equality refers to that stage of human social development at which “the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of individuals will not be determined by the fact of being born male or female,” in other words, a stage when both men and women realize their full potential in recognition of the importance of establishing gender equality around the world, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNDFW) was established as a separate fund within the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 1984. At that time, the General Assembly instructed it to “ensure women’s involvement with mainstream activities.” The Platform of Action resulting from the 1995 Beijing World Conference on Women expanded this concept, calling it “gender mainstreaming” i.e. the application of gender perspectives to all legal and social norms and standards, to all policy development, research, planning, advocacy, development, implementation and monitoring as a mandate for all member states.

In this way, the gender factor is no longer to be only a supplement to development but central to the practice of development. As a result of the Beijing conference and the many years of work leading up to it more than 100 countries announced new initiatives to improve the status of women. In 2000, the follow-up Beijing conference further strengthened the application of the mainstreaming concept, and used it to highlight the need for more progress in reaching equality worldwide.

Achieving gender equality, however, is a grindingly slow process, since it challenges one of the most deeply entrenched of all human attitudes. Despite the intense efforts of many agencies and organizations, and numerous inspiring successes, the picture is still disheartening, as it takes far more than changes in law or stated policy to change practices in the home.

According to gender analysis study conducted by Wiliames (2005), the specific areas investigated included son preference, education, age at marriage, spousal age differentials, employment, female household headship, women's access to resources, gender relations in the household, women's participation in decision making, and spousal violence. In general, the report finds that gender inequality is persistent in every domain examined, and women are disempowered both absolutely and relative to men. Further, an examination of indicators for which trend data are available shows that the progress toward gender equality and women's empowerment remains very slow.

In addition to examining progress toward achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, the report also examined gender differentials in selected health and

nutritional outcomes and evaluated differences by sex in the relationship of women's empowerment and experience of spousal violence with indicators of these selected health and nutrition outcomes. Finally, the variation in current use of modern contraception by indicators of women's empowerment and experience of spousal violence was also explored.

2.1.2 Criteria for Measurement of women empowerment

Five important dimensions of female empowerment and opportunity have been chosen for examination concerning global patterns of inequality between men and women: Economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment, and health and well-being.

The economic participation of women: Their presence in the workforce in quantitative terms is important not only for lowering the disproportionate levels of poverty among women, but also as an important step toward raising household income and encouraging economic development in countries as a whole. Sen makes a compelling case for the notion that societies need to see women less as passive recipients of help, and more as dynamic promoters of social transformation, a view strongly buttressed by a body of evidence suggesting that the education, employment and ownership rights of women have a powerful influence on their ability to control their environment and contribute to economic development.

Economic participation, on the other hand, is concerned not only with the actual number of women participating in the labor force, but also with their remuneration on an equal basis. Worldwide, outside of the agricultural sector, in both developed and developing countries, women are still averaging slightly less than 78% of the wages given to men for the same work, a gap which refuses to close in even the most developed countries.

While globalization has generated opportunities for local producers and entrepreneurs to reach international markets, it has at times intensified existing inequalities and insecurities for many poor women, who already represent two-thirds of the world's poorest people. Since the gains of globalization are often concentrated in the hands of those with higher education those who own resources and have access to capital poor women are usually the least able to seize the longer term opportunities offered. Instead, as demonstrated in East Asia in the 1990s, it is all too often the case that women are only able to secure employment during rapid expansions, employment that is usually transitory and insecure, and performed under harsh conditions.

Globalization has dramatically changed the conditions under which the struggle for gender equality must be carried out, especially in developing countries. One of the important tools of gender mainstreaming, aimed principally at poverty reduction, has been the concept of "gender budgeting," i.e. focusing attention in the process of budget formulation within a given country in order to assess whether a particular fiscal measure will increase or decrease gender equality, or leave it unchanged. Gender Budget Initiatives (GBIs) not only identify targeted expenditures, or allocate more money to

women, but also aim to “break down and identify the differentiated impact and incidence of general public revenue and expenditure on women and men...and significantly contribute to overall objectives like equity, equality, efficiency, transparency, the realization of social, economic and cultural rights, and good governance,” thus offering a practical way of evaluating government action (or inaction). Close monitoring and analysis of gender effects has become a mechanism for holding policy-makers increasingly accountable for the impact of policies on the lives of both women and men, so that the large percentage of women who participate economically in the informal sector, and who in some parts of the world provide upwards of 70% of agricultural labor, and produce over 90% of the food yet are nowhere represented in budget deliberations can be taken into account in the economic adjustment measures which might directly affect their welfare.

Economic opportunity concerns the quality of women’s economic involvement, beyond their mere presence as workers. This is a particularly serious problem in developed countries, where women may gain employment with relative ease, but where their employment is either concentrated in poorly paid or unskilled job “ghettos,” characterized by the absence of upward mobility and opportunity. This is most commonly the result of negative or obstructive attitudes, and of legal and social systems which use maternity laws and benefits to penalize women economically for childbirth and child care responsibilities, and discourage or actively prevent men from sharing family responsibilities.

The organization of female labor is a phenomenon which crosses all cultural boundaries, and professions, affecting women in virtually all countries. Internationally, women are most often concentrated in “feminized” professions, such as nursing and teaching, office work, care of the elderly and disabled termed “horizontal occupational segregation” where they tend to remain in lower job categories than men. Typically, because educational attainment is, without doubt, the most fundamental prerequisite for empowering women in all spheres of society, for without education of comparable quality and content to that given to boys and men, and relevant to existing knowledge and real needs, women are unable to access well-paid, formal sector jobs advance within them, participate in, and be represented in government and gain political influence. Moreover, the risk increases for society as a whole that the next generation of children will be similarly ill-prepared. As a broad body of empirical work has shown, education and literacy reduce mortality rates of children including the bias toward female child mortality and help reduce fertility rates, the importance of literacy for women is all the greater, considering that women still constitute two-thirds of the world’s illiterate population. In addition, the number of women represented among tertiary level educators is lower than among primary level educators.

However, if the content of the educational curriculum and the attitudes of teachers serve merely to reinforce prevalent stereotypes and injustices, then the mere fact of literacy and education does not, in and of itself, close the gender gap; schooling as a catalyst for change in gender relations will be more effective only if appropriate attention is also given to curriculum content and the retraining of those who deliver it. Information and

communication technologies, which have become a potent driving force of the development process, represent yet another dimension in which acknowledge gap has emerged between women and men: a gender-based digital divide.

A study by the USAID has found that countless women in the developing world are further removed from the information age because of their lower levels of education and deeply ingrained negative attitudes towards other forms of achievement. “Without access to information technology, an understanding of its significance and the ability to use it for social and economic gain, women in the developing world will be further marginalized from the mainstream of their communities, their countries and the world.”

2.1.3 Measuring Empowerment from a Universalist Perspective

As we move from conceptualizing empowerment to measuring it, it is important to note that measures of empowerment must involve standards that lie outside localized gender systems and a recognition of universal elements of gender subordination (Sen and Grown 1987; Bisnath and Elson 1999; Nussbaum 2000). It is clear from the literature on gender and empowerment that the role of gender in development cannot be understood without understanding the socio-cultural (as well as political and economic) contexts in which development takes place. The concept of empowerment only has meaning within these specific contexts. At the same time, operational definitions (e.g. definitions embodied in indicators to be applied in the context of development assistance policies, programs, and projects) should be consistent with the spirit of international conventions to which countries providing international development assistance have been signatories. The

approach based in universal human rights offers the best operational framework for this task.

Local structures of gender inequality are typically experienced as “natural”, and therefore may seem unalterable to actors in a particular social setting. Kabeer (2001) elaborates on this point drawing on Bourdieu’s (1977) idea of the “aspects of tradition and culture which are so taken-for-granted that they have become naturalized”. When women internalize their subordinate status and view themselves as persons of lesser value, their sense of their own rights and entitlements is diminished. They may acquiesce to violence against them, and make “choices” that reinforce their subordinate status. Similarly, Kabeer (2001) describes empowerment as choices that reflect women’s consent and complicity in their own subordination. When they lack agency in a broader sense, women should not be considered to be making empowered choices.

Internalized subordination receives particular attention among writers on international education, informed by a Freirian perspective on raising the critical consciousness of the poor (Freire 1994[1973]). Also, empowerment includes cognitive and psychological elements: It involves “women’s understanding of their conditions of subordination and the causes of such conditions at both micro and macro levels of society...It involves understanding the self and the need to make choices that may go against cultural and social expectations” (1993:14). Thus, universal standards are necessary to identify empowerment.

2.1.4 Multidimensionality and Existing Frameworks

As early as 1981, Acharya and Bennett noted that status is a function of the power attached to a given role, and because women fill a number of roles, it may be misleading to speak of “the status of women”. Another early writer on the topic, Mason (1986), pointed out that the phenomenon of gender inequality is inherently complex, that men and women are typically unequal in various ways, and that the nature or extent of their inequality in different settings can vary across these different dimensions (as well by social setting and stage in the life cycle). Since that time, a number of studies have shown that women may be empowered in one area of life while not in others (Malhotra and Mather 1997; Kishor 1995 & 2000b; Hashemi et al., 1996; Beegle et al., 1998). Thus it should not be assumed that if a development intervention promotes women’s empowerment along a particular dimension that empowerment in other areas will necessarily follow. It may or may not.

Several different efforts have been made in recent years to develop comprehensive frameworks delineating the various dimensions along which women can be empowered. In Appendix A, we present the essential elements of the empowerment frameworks developed by selected authors. These frameworks employ different levels of specificity. For example, the CIDA (1996) framework includes four broad dimensions of empowerment, while Kishor’s (2000a) framework includes broad (e.g. valuation of women, equality in marriage) as well specific (e.g. lifetime exposure to employment).

We can synthesize and list the most commonly used dimensions of women's empowerment, drawing from the frameworks developed by these various authors. Allowing for overlap, these frameworks suggest that women's empowerment needs to occur along the following dimensions: economic, socio-cultural, familial/interpersonal, legal, political, and psychological. However, these dimensions are very broad in scope, and within each dimension, there is a range of sub-domains within which women may be empowered. So, for example, the "socio-cultural" dimension covers a range of empowerment sub-domains, from marriage systems to norms regarding women's physical mobility, to non-familial social support systems and networks available to women. Moreover, in order to operationalize these dimensions, one should consider indicators at various levels of social aggregation the household and the community, as well as regional, national and even global levels. In the table we group commonly used and potentially useful indicators within various "arenas" or spheres of life. Some of these indicators have been suggested within the frameworks referenced above, while others are a first effort on our part to "flesh out" this schematic for

2.1.5 Types of empowerment

Economic empowerment: this deals with financial capital of households. It is argued that women's access to savings and credit gives them a greater economic role in decision-making through their decision about savings and credit. When women control decisions regarding credit and savings, they will optimize their own and the household's welfare. The investment in women's economic activities will improve employment opportunities for women and thus have a 'trickle down and out' effect. The financial sustainability and feminist empowerment paradigms emphasize women's own income-generating activities.

In the poverty alleviation paradigm, the emphasis is more on increasing incomes at the household level and the use of loans for consumption. In the feminist empowerment paradigm, individual economic empowerment is seen as dependent on social and political empowerment.

Increased well-being: access to water facilities and the time being saved from fetching water would help women to use the time for other activities of the household thereby enhance their decision about what is being done related to their and their families' lives, which may help strengthen women's say in economic decisions of the household. This enables women to increase expenditure on the well-being of themselves and their children. This is the main concern in the poverty alleviation paradigm. Women's control over decision-making is also seen as benefiting men through preventing leakage of household income to unproductive and harmful. Other welfare interventions are advocated in addition to micro-finance, typically nutrition, health and literacy campaigns to further decrease vulnerability and improve women's skills. In the financial self-sustainability and feminist empowerment paradigms, improved well-being is an assumed outcome from increasing women's economic activities and incomes.

Social and political empowerment: a combination of women's increased economic activity and control over income resulting from their work on activities using the saved time from fetching water would improve women's skills, mobility, access to knowledge and support networks. Status within the community is also enhanced. These changes are reinforced by group formation, leading to wider movements or social and political change. The poverty alleviation paradigm assumes that social and political empowerment will occur without specific interventions to change gender relations at the household,

community or macro-levels. By contrast, the feminist empowerment paradigm advocates explicit strategies for supporting women's ability to protect their individual and collective gender interests at the household, community and macro-levels. In this regard, the project is expected to play an essential role.

2.2 Empirical literature on women empowerment

2.2.1 Low women empowerment

According to a study reported by Johi and Fawcett (2000), women empowerment domestic water project in Ethiopia. In Ethiopia, women face political, social and cultural challenges that undermine their human worth and dignity. They suffer from economic poverty, social discrimination, political disenfranchisement, and cultural subjugation. Despite women's numerical significance, and their remarkable contribution to the economic development, are place to the disadvantage position with no or weak authority and decision making power in the control and management of resources, and in social affairs. Such inequality emanated from the traditional norms and values adhered by the majority of the rural community. In the same manner the existing rules of inheritance in the target communities have placed several barriers on women through limiting their access to resource that need to advance their interest. Rules of marriage are heavily weighted in favor of men and undermine women's autonomy. Women are submissive and highly dominated by their counter parts. Despite their daily involvement in household activities, their level of decision-making is very minimal. Even when women have access

to better credit services, the ultimate decision makers on the loan received become men-husband.

Gender role differentiation is culturally defined in such a way that creates and reinforces relationships of male dominance and subordination of female. In addition, women's low level of education in the project area can be attributed to different harmful traditional practices including, female genital mutilation, under age marriage, abduction and sexual harassment that affect negatively their physical and psychological conditions.

In response to the prevailing situation that undermine women's human worth and dignity "Women empowerment project" was implemented in different regions of Ethiopia by different civil society organizations (CSOs) which were financially supported by European Union Civil Society Fund. Out of those CSOs the project was implemented in seven districts of Oromia regional State by five partner local NGOs. OSRA implemented the project in two districts, namely; Ilu in south west shoa zone and Ade`a Berga in west shoa zone. Thus, massive awareness creation on constraints and challenges facing rural women and sensitization of the target communities on the constitutional rights of women become major area of concern for this project to bring about positive changes towards realizing equality between men and women. To make this practical different women and men separate workshops were undertaken. In these workshops different constraints and challenges facing rural women identified. These include the following:

- Despite their significant contribution to the household economy, women are considered ignorant of everything and are assumed to have no contribution to the household economy.
- Despite the workload on them, women in the intervention area have no say on the property ownership.

A study conducted women empowerment and gender gap analysis Lupaze (2005) shows that great disparity in literacy by wealth, especially for women. In the lowest wealth quintile, only 19% of women are literate, compared with 47% of men. However, literacy increases sharply with wealth and the increase for women is greater than for men. Consequently, the gender differential in literacy narrows rapidly with wealth, so that in the highest wealth quintile, 90% of women are literate, compared with 97% of men. The study also shows that literacy is much higher in urban areas than in rural areas. Notably, the differential by residence for women is much greater than for men (29 percentage points for women vs. 16 for men) and the gender disparity in literacy is also much greater in rural than in urban areas.

2.2.2 Cumulative Empowerment Index (CEI)

Sonaj and Ingrid (2004) in their study showed women CEI in Bangladesh the CEI is a composite of six empowerment indicators combining both quantitative and qualitative data in order to get a comprehensive feature of women's empowerment. The quantitative part represents five categories (e.g., 1 = Very low, 5 = Very high), which has been done on the basis of total obtained score for each empowerment indicator from the survey. The

qualitative dimension stems out from total weighted scores indicated by twelve focus group participants (where 6 denotes 'very important' and 1 denotes 'less important'). Thus, a total of 77 specific attributes were added together to develop CEI in order to understand the socio-economic, familial and psychological dimensions of women's empowerment. Hence, CEI varied from 25 to 79, where 25 indicates the lowest level of empowerment and 79 means the highest level of empowerment. Maxwell (1995) followed the same procedure to measure food insecurity by developing a cumulative food security index.

2.2.3 How has Empowerment been measured empirically?

Empirical analyses of women's empowerment are heavily concentrated at the individual and household level.. Given the centrality of the household to gender relations, it is not surprising that this level of data collection and analysis has received the greatest attention. It may also be true that the feasibility of operationalizing both the agency and process components of women's empowerment in a concrete manner is more readily apparent at the household level rather than at larger levels of aggregation. And yet, a review suggests that empirical research at this level has made greater strides in operationalizing agency rather than process. With the exception of two qualitative studies which use retrospection and inference with regard to change over time, none of the household level studies operationalize empowerment by utilizing data from two points in time.

In the past two decades, researchers interested in gender inequality as it operates at the household level have made significant efforts at better capturing the agency component of empowerment by themselves designing and conducting household level surveys that interview women, sometimes their husbands, and occasionally, other family members. Within sociology and demography, the major effort has been at measuring household decision-making processes, financial control and social or familial constraints directly. This has been motivated both by interest in understanding empowerment itself as well as in outcomes such as fertility, contraceptive use, and child health and well-being. Within economics, household surveys have become increasingly sophisticated in capturing “exogenous” measures that influence household bargaining power such as assets at marriage and non-labor income as well as intra-household allocation and control of resources and income. The major outcomes of interest among economists have been household consumption patterns and child well-being. While such surveys and analyses have advanced efforts to measure empowerment in many ways, an important limitation has been the overwhelming focus on the situation of married women (or those living in unions), where empowerment is operationalized largely in terms of relations between marital partners.

The two types of indicators used almost universally in the empirical literature are those measuring domestic decision making, and those measuring either access to, or control over resources. Often, these two aspects merge since indicators on domestic decision making tend to focus heavily on financial and resource allocation matters.

The emphasis on such measures in the empirical literature corresponds well with the emphasis on resources and agency in the conceptual literature, as well as with the frequent equation of empowerment with choice, control, and power. Certainly, there is an intuitive appeal to decision-making and control as signifying important aspects of agency. At the same time, since data collection at a single point in time does not effectively allow for direct measurement of long term strategic choices, a de facto operating assumption (albeit not always directly stated) in most household level studies is that a person's ability to make strategic life choices is linked with her access to, and control over, economic and other resources and her ability to make smaller, quotidian decisions.

In the basic definition of empowerment drawn from Kabeer (2001), "strategic life choices" would refer to decisions that influence a person's life trajectory and subsequent ability to exercise autonomy and make choices. Examples include decisions related to marriage, education, employment, and childbearing. One argument is that as such strategic choices are likely to take place relatively infrequently in a person's life, it is often difficult to link them with policy and program interventions unless the time frame of the research is very long. Given the measurement constraints imposed by the infrequency of "strategic life choices" in an individual's life, it almost becomes necessary to consider "small" actions and choices if measuring empowerment in the short term. Indeed, given their scope, most household level studies that have included indicators of women's empowerment have not focused on "strategic life choices" but, rather, on what might be termed "empowerment in small things."

There is some published evidence from empirical studies that the assumption that the ability to make strategic life choices is linked with the ability to make smaller decisions is valid, but results from other studies suggest that this is not always the case. It is not easy to judge from the existing body of research to what extent the negative results are due to inadequate study designs and imprecise measurement, due to the multi - dimensional or contextual nature of empowerment, or simply the lack of implementing a research design for measurement across time. For example, it is often not easy for researchers to know whether they have included all the relevant small or large decisions that are likely to matter for women in specific circumstances the relevance of decisions is often specific to the community context, as well as ethnic and socio-economic status. Moreover, it is difficult to assign relative weights to the importance of decisions that are included in an analysis: decision making power over cooking is unlikely to be equivalent to decision making power over children's schooling or health, or marriage, but empirical studies often rely on additive indices of domestic decision making.

Similarly, the allocation and control of resources can be murkier than they appear at first sight. For example, Kabeer (2001) points out a lack of conceptual rigor in many quantitative studies in their operational definitions of access to and control over resources, both of which are often measured based on questions about women's involvement in decisions related to various household expenditures and management of money. The extent to which such decision-making merely reflects women's implementation of the tasks relegated to them by convention remains a question. On the other hand, studies also show that the fact that a woman brings resources into the home or

marriage may strengthen her position in the household, even if she exercises little control over the resource. For example, a woman's assets at marriage or participation in a micro-credit program may help establish her bargaining position in the conjugal relationship even if the actual resource utilization is in the hands of her husband (Hashemi et al. 1996).

Freedom of movement is another common indicator in empirical research at the individual/household level, especially in studies on South Asia where women's presence in the public sphere is often severely constrained. In some circumstances, freedom of movement could be seen as an empowerment resource, an enabling factor for women's agency in other areas of life. On the other hand, taking the initiative to work outside the home or bring a sick child to a health center could be seen as a form of agency in a setting. Few studies have made qualitative efforts to tease out precisely how increased freedom of movement either facilitates or reflects the process of empowerment.

At the individual and household levels, other important indicators of empowerment have been used, but much less frequently in the empirical literature reviewed. Within the domestic domain, for example, the relative value of a woman's economic contribution is used much less often than the simple fact that she brings in an income or has control over resources. Kabeer (1997) discusses the shifts in women's importance in the family because of the weight of their earnings in her qualitative study of factory workers in Bangladesh. Similarly, despite the extensive literature on the importance of time use and the domestic division of labor for defining women's life options and domestic power in

developed country settings, these indicators are rarely incorporated in research on empowerment for developing country settings. Acharya and Bennett (1983) demonstrate a relationship between time spent in market versus non-market activities and women's decision-making power. In addition, using the Indonesia Family Life Survey, Frankenberg and Thomas (2001) are able to incorporate time use in their recent analysis of domestic decision-making and power, mainly due to the unusually rich data available through this source.

Inclusion of indicators on couple communication has been limited largely to studies on contraceptive use, while efforts at measuring sexual negotiation and communication have only begun to gain legitimacy with emerging research on HIV/AIDS. Wolff et al.'s (2000) analysis of condom use in Uganda considers women's ability to negotiate and discuss sexual relations. In the same vein, it is only recently that studies on empowerment have started to include measures on physical violence or threat, even though it is clear that physical or sexual intimidation is of critical importance defining one's ability to make strategic life choices. Rao (1998) finds wife beating to be a key determinant of children's caloric intake in India. Qualitative studies (Kabeer 1997 & 1998) often find physical violence and threats of abandonment to be central elements in processes which shape women's disempowerment, but Schuler et al.'s (1996) work in Bangladesh and Jejeebhoy's (2000) study of women's autonomy in India represent the limited quantitative efforts at incorporating this element within a comprehensive conceptual framework of empowerment.

Similarly, there are valiant, but only sporadic efforts in the literature at capturing empowerment indicators for social capital and support, or women's engagement in public spaces and processes (economic, social, and political), again emerging more from qualitative rather than quantitative studies (Mayoux 2001). Although several household surveys measure contextual indicators at the community level, few consider the possibility of measuring individual women's engagement in community or political processes. Hashemi et al. (1996) include women's political and legal awareness and political participation, while Kabeer (1998) includes confidence in community interactions in their separate analyses of microcredit and women's empowerment in Bangladesh. Although not thoroughly reviewed here, qualitative studies have delved into the emotional and psychological spheres by asking women about their sense of self worth or value to others (Kabeer 1997 & 1998).

Aggregate Level Studies

Empirical measurement of women's empowerment at the aggregate level has not progressed as substantially as has household or individual level measurement. Conceptual frameworks of how women's empowerment should be operationalized at the macro level are less well-developed, and the indicators utilized in studies are less sophisticated, with continued reliance on proxy measures. The indicators used to measure women's empowerment by empirical studies at the aggregate level. Clearly, capturing either process or agency becomes much more difficult at higher levels of aggregation; most of the indicators are one step removed and tend to measure the enabling factors or conditions for empowerment in terms of labor force participation, labor laws, literacy, and education, characteristics of marriage and kinship, and political representation by

women. This inherent difficulty with measuring women's empowerment at the aggregate level analysis is compounded by the lack of consistent and adequate data on a comprehensive set of even proxy measures or enabling factors for most developing countries.

2.3 Conceptual framework of the study

This study is conceptualized four indicators of women empowerment by domestic water supply project. These are:

- a. Economic empowerment:-** women's participation in income generating activities due to time saved due to time saved from fetching water participation of women.
- b. Participation of women in health and hygiene Training:** brings social and psychological empowerment through knowledge and information.
- c. Women's participation in skill project work:-** that gives benefit of income and skill (Access to resource)
- d. Participations of women in community decision making.**

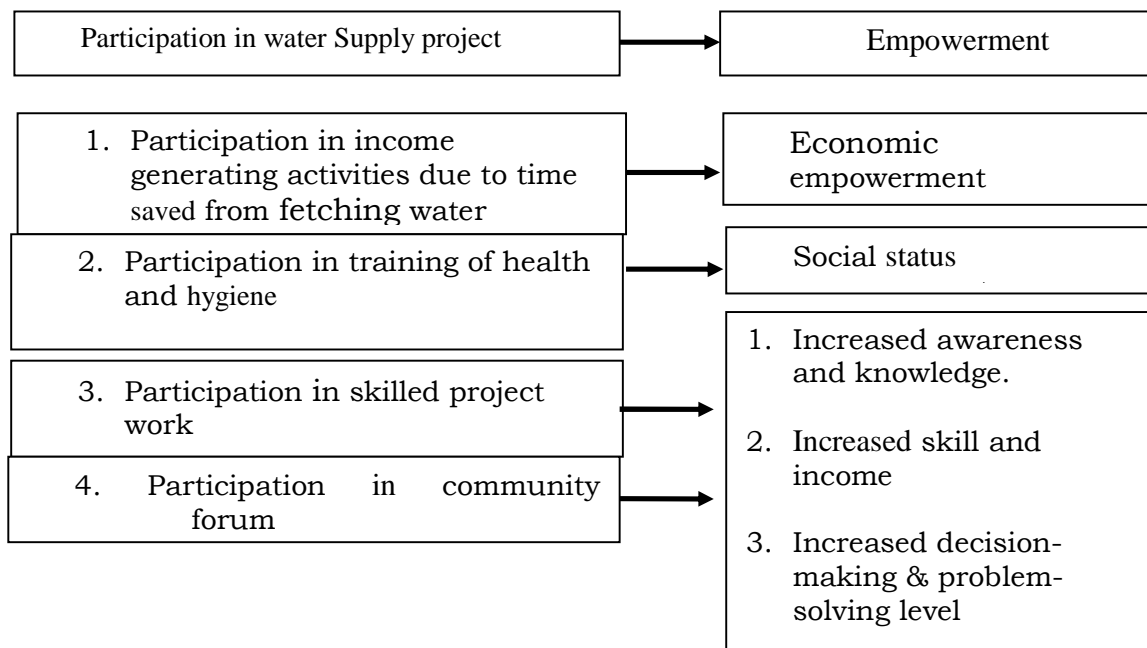
It is hypothesized that various participation in water development project will provide input such as income, education, skill and participation in community decision making leads to women empowerment.

Those forms of participation that lead to women empowerment are:-

- Participation of women in income generation activities due to time saved from fetching water.
- Participation in training that increase women's awareness of health and hygiene.

- Participation of women in skilled work to generate income and develop skill.
- Participation of women in community decision making power.

Hence participation result empowerment through developing awareness, skill capabilities and income capacity. The contribution of empowerment and can be seen in the following conceptual structure.



3. Results and Discussion of Major Findings

This is the main body of the thesis where findings of the research are discussed. The analysis tries to make comparison between clients and non-clients of the water project in order to ascertain the benefits households have obtained from the project using different empowerment indicators. The chapter is divided into nine sections. The first section discusses access to water. The second section deals with participation in income generating activities. While the third discusses membership status of respondents, the fourth section deals with participation of clients in decision-making activities. The sixth section touches upon access to credit. The seventh and eight sections discuss income benefit and membership and knowledge of sanitation of clients, respectively as compared with that of non-clients. The ninth section deals with membership and skills gained.

3.1 Access to water

Since the project was basically established to create access to potable water, it is logical to begin from the assessment of whether it has achieved its objectives it has set out to achieve. The major objective of the project was to enhance the access of women to potable water in the study area. In this regard, findings of the study, on the role of the project on making potable water accessible to beneficiaries and its impact on saving households' water fetching time, indicate that 44.4% of respondents claimed that the project helped them save very high fetching time, while 33.3% of them informed the water fetching time-saving of the project is high. On the other hand, 14.1% and 8.1% of respondents said the extent to which the project saved their time is medium and low in the order of mention. The measurement was done on a five-scale, which ranges from 5 to

1 (5 indicating very high and 1 very low). The result of the survey is depicted in Figure 5.1 below.

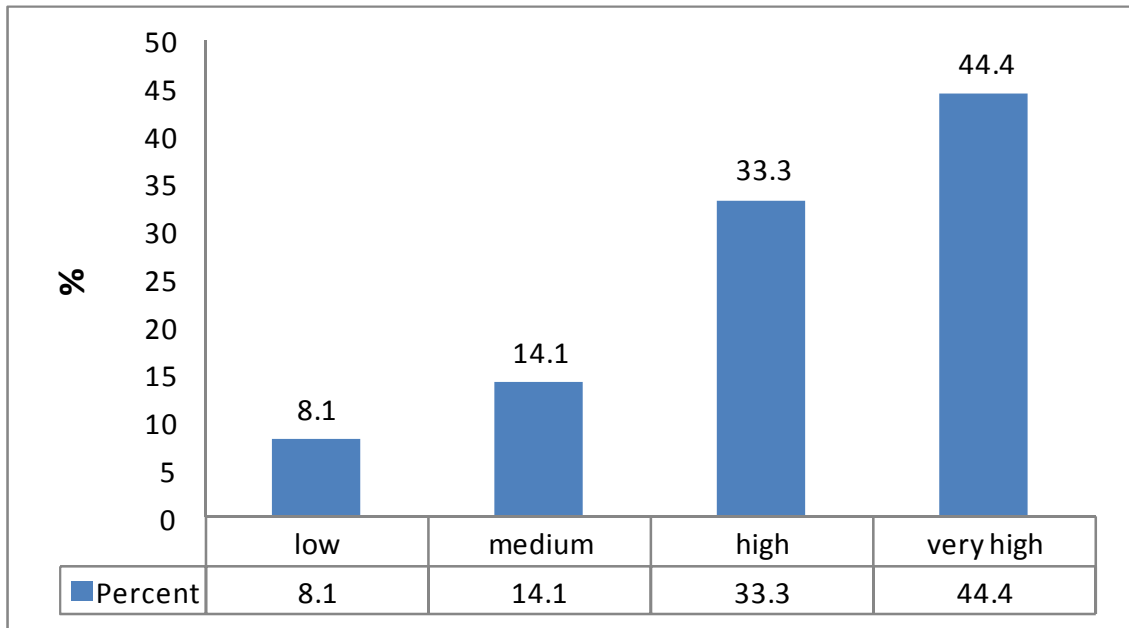


Figure 5.1: Saved time from fetching water

Source: Field survey, 2012

The case of woman explained in box 1 substantiates the argument that the project has improved the life of women in the study area.

Box 1: Access to water supply improves a woman's life

Kaba Dacha is a 42 years old widow and she is one of the women who live in Derashe woreda particularly in upper Argoba village with her five children- three girls and two boys. She struggles to manage her fields, animals and five children. She was thus unable to go three hours journey to collect water before the project make accessible the water supply. As she explained, before the HOPE international project made potable water accessible to them, she had to wake up at dawn at 3pm and spend three hours to go long distance and wait longer queuing to fetch water. During the day, she had to also send her daughters to get water from upstream. As a result they were not able to go to school. She was also afraid of facing rape and being beaten when she was traveling at dawn and long distance alone. Due to the back breaking work of carrying water long distances, she has a back pain. The water was also contaminated by animals dung and people taking shower at upper streams. Currently, because of accessibility of drinking water, she can collect water within 5 to10 minutes at any convenient time. The water supply project was also following a participatory approach that involved her in water committee in decision-making and planning from earliest stages up to completion. This helps her to develop confidence to express her needs and other women's needs. Also, she is now able to send all her daughters to school since she has got the new water system in her village.

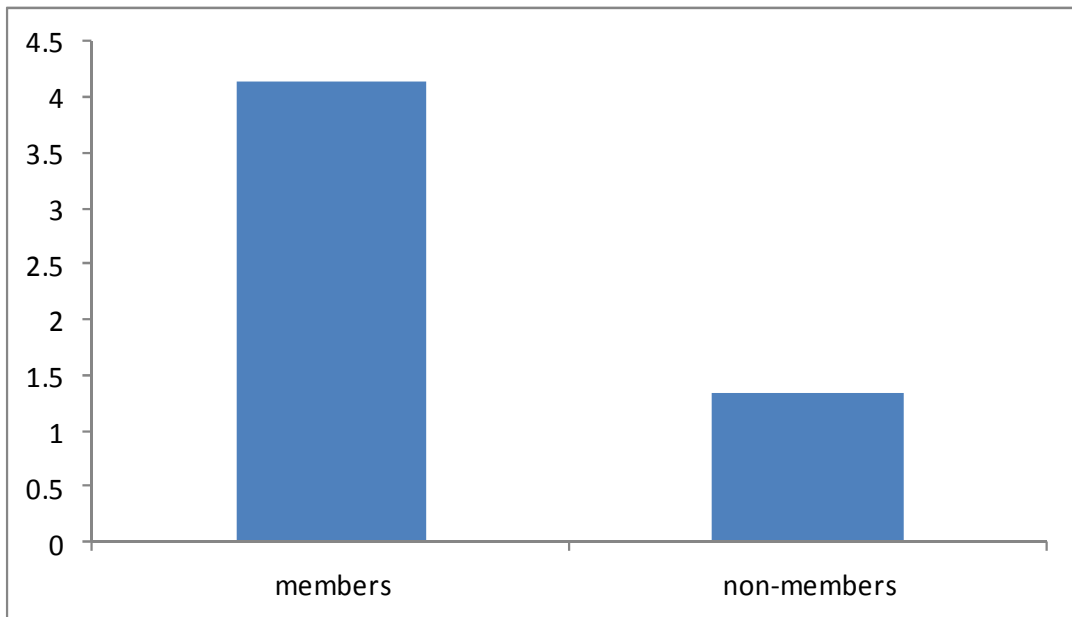


Fig. 5.2: Average time saved from fetching water (the range is 1-5 where 1 is very low and 5 is very high)

Fig 5.2 also indicates that members could be able to save a great deal of fetching time, which they would use to do other activities. Results of independent samples t-test indicate that the mean difference in saving time between members and non-members is statistically significant with t-value of 26.370 and P-value of 0.000.

The story narrated in box 2 also indicates that access to water has improved the life of communities by indicating the life of a man who is a beneficiary of a water project implemented by Hope International Development Agency.

Box 2: Access to water makes community members healthy and happy

Daniel Mulatu is 35 years old, who lives in a Derashe special *wereda* particularly in Algaye village. He is single and lives with his parents. He says “*before HOPE installed the water system to our village, we were suffering from water born diseases, as we used to fetch contaminated water from the river. I am one of the victims who grew up in this serious problem for the last 34 years.*” He said that their village had no water resources before. Therefore, the whole community especially women and girls had the responsibility to fetch from distant places. As a result, women miscarriage and were exposed to rape and unwanted pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. Girls could not go to school. Since HOPE installed a gravity water supply system to their village, he said that most of their problems are gone and they are now happy and healthy. At the result of new water system, men can now fetch water and help their family. The project also helped increase school enrollment for women and girls. Besides, water born diseases dramatically decreased as a result of the project. It is a miracle to him to see this change thorough HOPE. In this regard, he said that nothing is more than water in this world.

3.2 Participation in income generating activities

It has been depicted that the project helps households to save more time, which means that during their spare time (which they would otherwise use for fetching water in the absence of the project) households would involve in other income generating activities. Thus, the effect of the project on such matter has been scrutinized. In this regard, Figure 5.3 below shows that the project enabled 28.3% of the beneficiary households to engage

in other income generating activities, which, according to them is very high, while 23.2% and 39.45% of households were able to engage income other generating activities. They indicated that the contribution of the project in this regard is high and medium, respectively. The result of the analysis is depicted in Figure 5.3.

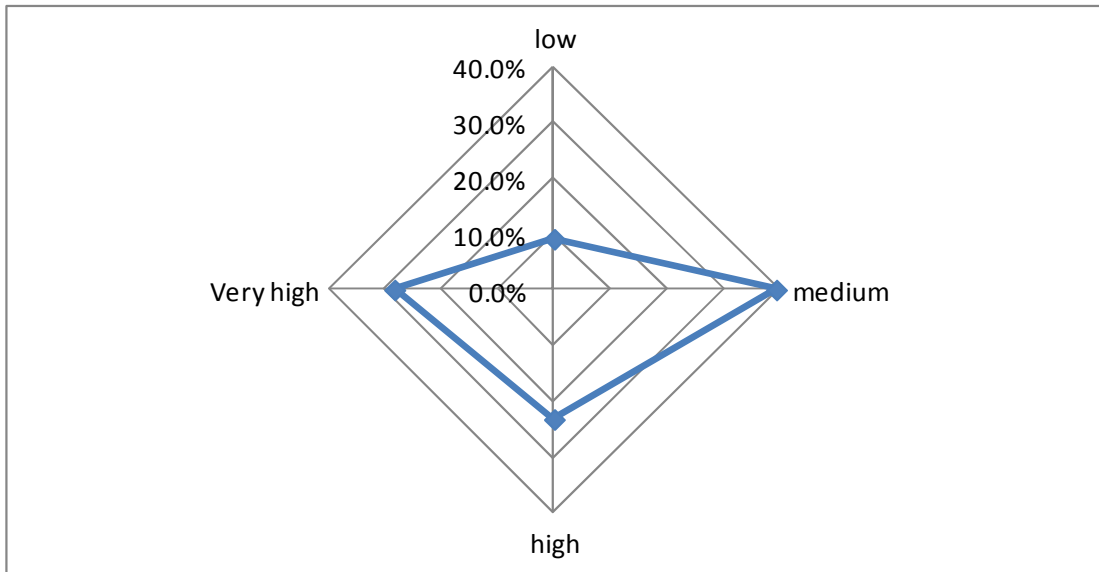


Figure 5.3: income generation

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The diagram in Fig. 5.4 substantiates the aforementioned arguments indicating that members earn more income than non-members. The difference is statistically significant at 1% level with t-value of 24.851 and P-value of 0.000 in an independent samples t-test.

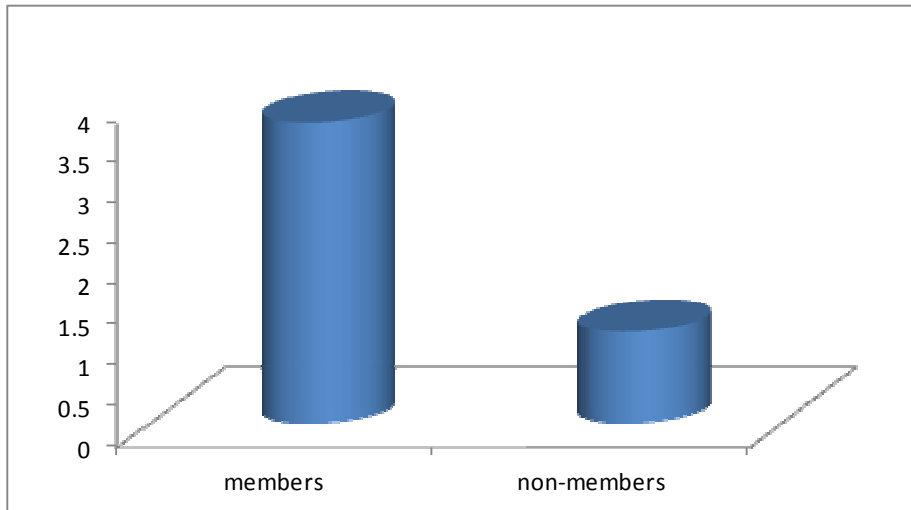


Fig. 5.4 Average income of members and non-members

3.3 Women’s membership status

The effect of the project on women depends very much on whether women’s membership status and the extent to which they are actively involved in the association. Findings of the study revealed that 42.4% of women’s involvement in the association is very high, while others fall in different categories. Findings further show that 42.4% of women’s involvement in the association is high, whereas 20.2% and 28.3% of women’s participation in the association is medium and low, respectively. Further assessment has also been made to examine what brought such difference of participation among members. In this regard, low literacy of women and negative attitude of the community towards women turn out to be the salient determinant factors. The following figure summarizes the membership participation of women.

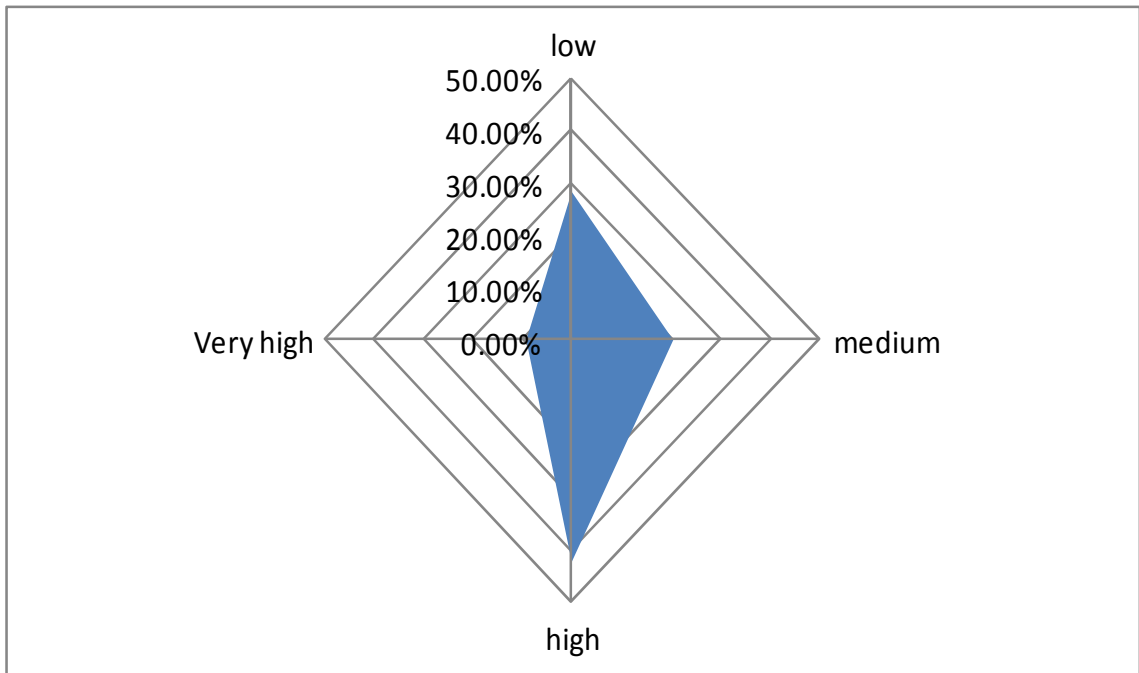


Figure 5.5: Members participation in institutions

Source: Field Survey, 2012

3.4 Participation in decision making in project management

It is known that participation of stakeholders including beneficiaries on a project plays crucial role for the fulfillment of the goals of the project. Projects which target empowering women should participate them in the decision-making process. Therefore, an assessment has been made to examine the role of women in decision making process in this project. Findings of the study, in assessing the participation of women in project planning, monitoring and evaluation, show that while 26.3% of respondents said the project's contribution is very high, 30.3% reported that it is high (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1 participation in project management

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
low	3	3.3	3.3
medium	40	40.4	70.7
high	30	30.3.	73.7
Very high	26	26.3	100.0
Total	99	100.0	

Table 5.1 further indicates that 40.4% and 3.3% of respondents reveal that the contribution of the project in project management is medium and low respectively. Therefore, the participation of women in the project is high or in good statuses. The interviewees also showed that women participate in project tasks such as site selection and labor.

3.5 Access to Training

Training is a package offered by the project to empower women. The range of participation, therefore, determines the impact of the project on the overall status of women. In developing countries such as Ethiopia, participating women on wash projects has significant impact on the overall health status of the household. This is more so in the study area, because women immensely engage in cooking, child care and other related in-home activities which directly affect the overall health status of a household. Findings of

the study show, as indicated in Figure 5.6, the extent to which women participate in wash trainings in the study area.

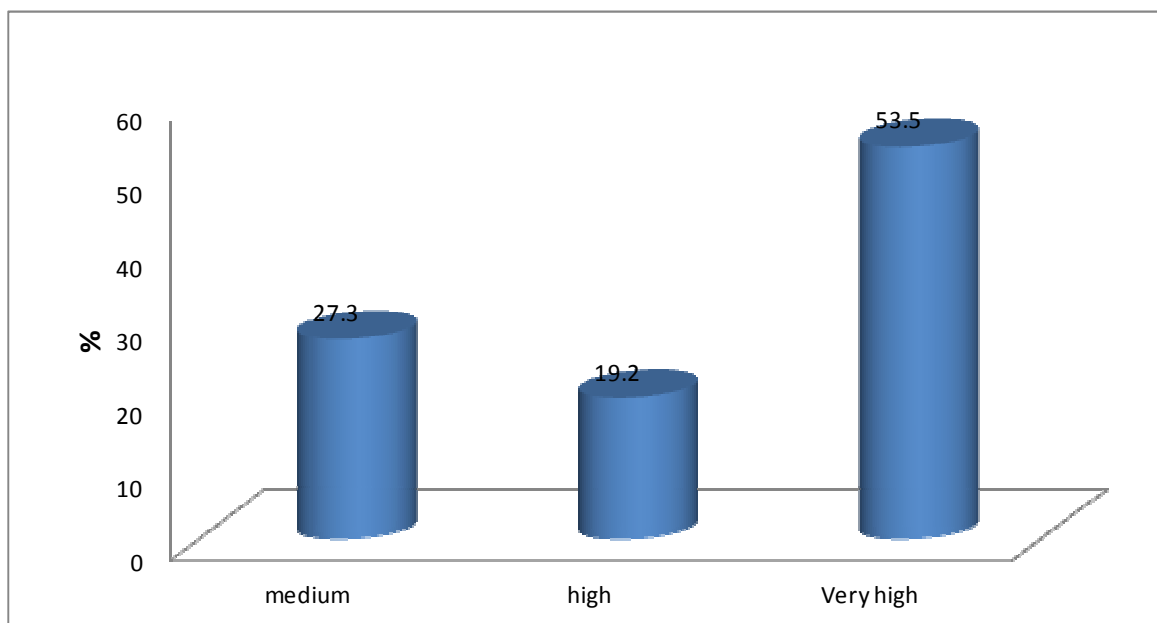


Figure 5.6: Participation in WaSH training

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Figure 5.6 shows that 53.5% of respondents claimed that their participation in wash training is very high followed by 27.3% and 19.2% of respondents who indicated that their participation in the project to be medium and high, respectively.

Similarly, awareness of women was assessed with regard to sanitation. Results (Table 5.2) indicate that 66.6% of respondents have either high or very high level of awareness about sanitation suggesting that the project has enhanced the level of awareness of respondents in the study area.

Table 5.2 Awareness level of respondents about sanitation and home management

Level of awareness	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Low	15	15.2	15.2
Medium	31	31.3	46.5
High	31	31.3	77.8
Very high	22	22.2	100.0
Total	99	100.0	

Results in Table 5.2 further suggest that the community has good awareness about the importance of health and sanitation. Hence, their social status and empowerment increases due to the project. Respondents were also asked about the extent to which the project influences the community. Findings imply that the project has multiplier effects in inculcating the benefits of sanitation in the minds of many at the community level.

3.6 Income benefit

Respondents were asked to rate the level of income they have generated through working on technical works on the project. The response from the interview also showed that women paid less as compared to men for similar work. This is because of the fact that the community has a belief that women are less effective in technical jobs as compare to men. The response from the interview also showed that 31.3% of respondents assumed that the income they generate is at medium level (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 Income benefit from technical work

Level of benefit	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
low	13	13.1	13.1
medium	31	31.3	44.4
high	33	33.3	77.8
Very high	22	22.2	100.0
Total	99	100.0	

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 5.3 further indicates that 13.1% of respondents generate low amount of income from technical job. Hence, a lot of work needs to be done with regards to changing the attitude of the community. Besides, training that develops the technical skill of women is crucial.

Membership makes households to get more income through many ways. In one hand members get skills which increase their dexterity. On the other hand, the project makes them save more of their time so that they can combine their saved time together with the skill they obtained in order to secure more income. The result confirms this fact. Among member respondents, 20% of them obtained very high income, 30% obtained high income and 30% of them get modest income (Table 5.5). This difference between members and non-members is significant in both Chi square (Pearson Chi-Square:198.000 and P=0.000) and independent samples t- test.

The narration in box 3 also substantiates the argument indicated in here.

Box 3: Project intervention becomes a real hope to a woman and her families' life

Abebech Kitila, a woman in the picture below is 38 years old. She lives in a Derashe special wereda particularly in upper Argoba kebele. She is married and has three children. She says "*before I join this scheme and become member of Building Family Ties (BFT), the whole life of my family was miserable and dark. We did not even have enough food, closing and income to support our families.*" Though she has a potential to work and enhance her living standard to a better way, there was nowhere to get seed money and no one would trust her to borrow money to run a business. Since HOPE provides her with seed money, she was able to receive loan for three rounds (Birr 500, 1000 and 1,600, respectively). With these three rounds of loan, she has been involved in animal rearing and fattening. As a result of these activities, she has become a self-employee (a business woman) and started helping her husband in buying farm tools, agricultural inputs, and also able to send her children to school with confidence, having saved some money in cooperatives she organized with other members of the community, join local monetary association (Ekub) and built a new and bigger house than she had before. She is also able to increase her annual income much better than before which has enabled her to have enough food, clothing, medication and education materials. She says she is very happy to see her life in this position through Building Family Ties (BFT) project. She said she did not dream to have such a wonderful life but happened with the help of HOPE, which is real hope for poor people to come out of absolute poverty.



Before



After

The story indicated in box 4 further explains the benefit a member has obtained from the project

Box 4: The dream of a young man comes true

Kidane Keyamo is 32 years old young man, who lives in Derashe special *wereda* particularly in Yaybe kebele. He is married and has two children. Both of them are girls. His testimony is that before he joined this scheme and became a member of Building Family Ties (BFT), all his families used to live together with his parents on a very small plot of land because they did not have money to buy enough land to build their own house. Thus, his families and parents used to share what they had in common. Due to this situation, their life was miserable, as he also had difficulties to feed his family. He says “*we did not even have enough food, closing and income to support our families; we used to totally depend on my parents.*” Though he and his wife had a potential to work and up-lift their living condition to a minimum standard than they live now, there was nowhere to get seed money and no one to trust them to borrow some money to enhance their living condition. As a result, they were in dark. Later, HOPE provided them with seed money for five rounds (Birr 100, 200, 400, 500 and 600 respectively). He then began involving in animal fattening which have made him profitable and become a self employee (a business man). He began helping his family. He built own house, bought farming tools, agricultural inputs, and managed to send their children to school with confidence. He also began saving some money in cooperatives he and other people organized in the area. He also joined local monetary association (Ekub). Now, his family is independent. He says he is very happy to lead such a wonderful life, which he used to dream like a young man.



“Such a wonderful life has been made possible by HOPE International”

Box 5: Formerly marginalized women now enjoys life because of Hope’s Intervention

The life of Tewabech Tano, a 38 year-old woman indicates further that the project has benefited women in the study area. She is married with seven children two boys and five girls. She said “we are one of the outcaste and neglected community members because of our occupation (Black smith). Therefore, no one would give us attention and help us to enhance our life in a good way we like, this is due to cultural stigma which is accepted by the whole community. At the result of this our annual income is very little even it doesn’t enough to help our survival. Though we have a potential to work and enhance our living standard to a better way than we lived in now, no where to get seed money and no one trust us to borrow even to run a business we like. Since HOPE provides them with seed money, she received three round loan Birr 200, 200 and 700 respectively. With this three round loan, she has purchased more metals to produce farming, hunting, and domestic use hand tools and buy farming land at the result of this activities, she could gain more profit than ever before and was also able to send four of her children to school. She also has savings in a cooperative they organized. She is also a member of a local monitory association (Ekub). Her income has increased and now, she manages to have enough food for her children. She says “*there are billions eyes in this world, but only very few look at the neglected; Hope International is one of these which pays attention to the poor and marginalized*”.

3.7 Mobility of women

Mobility of women refers to their freedom to move outside home to work. In a bid to evaluating the impact of the project in empowering women, respondents were asked how much they are free to work outside their home. Findings of the study show that 57.8% of respondents are highly free to work outside home and 20.2% said their movement to work outside their home is medium (Table 5.4).

Table 5.4: Mobility of women

Level of mobility	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Medium	20	20.2	20.2
High	57	57.6	77.8
Very high	22	22.2	100
Total	99	100	

Source: Field Survey, 2012

In developing countries women are less mobile than men. One of the main reasons for such incidence is women's, less vulnerability to formal and non-formal education. This makes women less skilled and urges them to confine in home based works. Thus, equipping women on some technical skilled makes to breaks such circle of influence and makes female to engage in other non-home based works. In order to see the impact of membership on making females to engage in other off -home activities, an assessment has been made. The result revealed that members are more mobile than non-members. In addition to this, the extent of mobility of workers has been measured. The result showed

that the rate of mobility of 70% of non-members is low. On the contrary, members have high rate of mobility with 60% of members who have high rate of mobility followed by very high rate of mobility (20%). This result is significant at Chi square test.

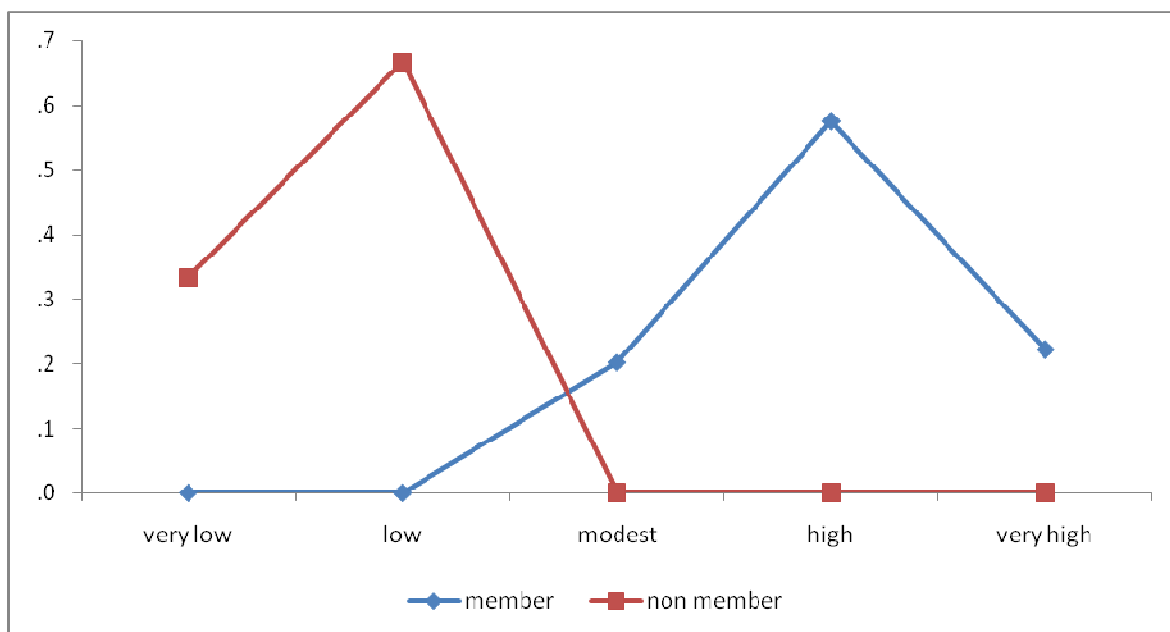


Figure 5.7: membership status and mobility

Pearson chi Square: 198 and P=0.000

3.8 Membership and knowledge of sanitation

The impact of being a member on the project has been diagnosed using its impact on the level of knowledge beneficiaries on sanitation as compared to that of non-members. Findings of the study indicate that about 50% of respondents have very high level of knowledge about sanitation based on their perception. On the contrary, significance portion of the non-participated household have poor level of knowledge on the same issue. This has been revealed by the fact that half of the non-participated households have very low level of knowledge about sanitation. This is significant in Chi square test.

Findings from independent samples t-test also corroborate this with members and non-members having a mean value of 3.61 and 1.67 on a scale of 1-5, respectively. The difference between the two groups is statistically significant at 1% level.

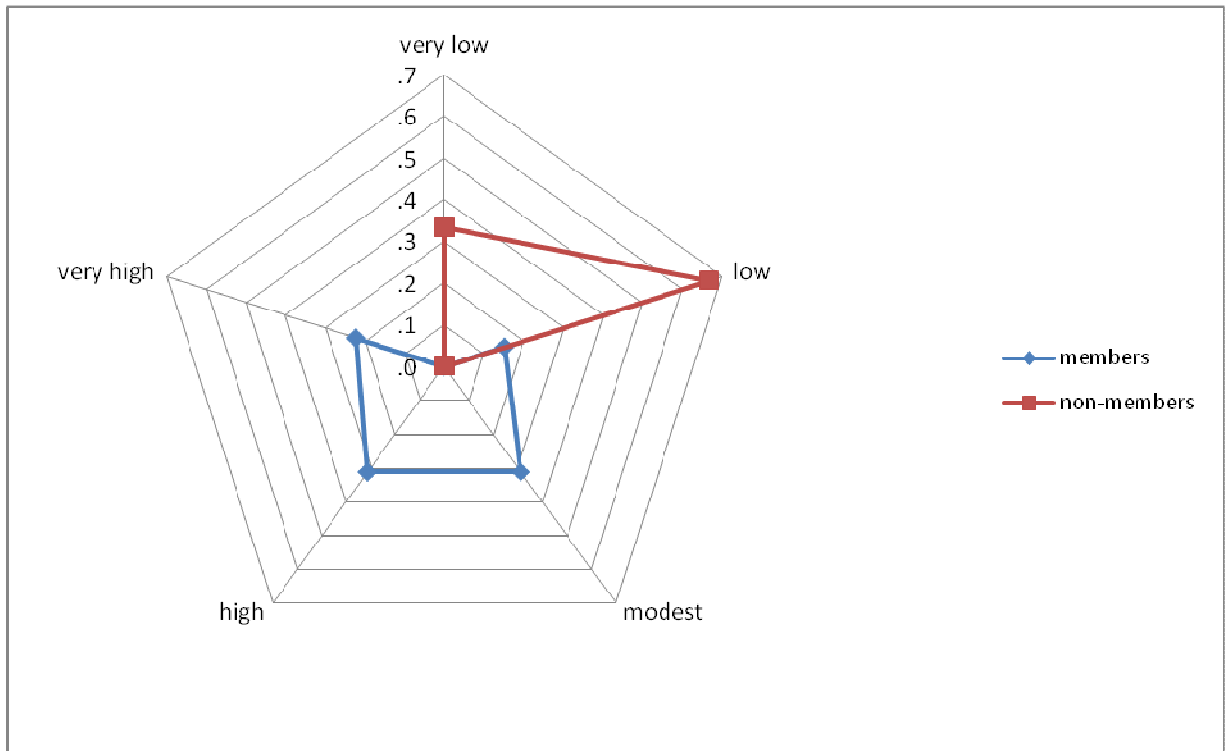


Figure 5.8: Respondents' knowledge about sanitation

Pearson Chi-Square: 149.111 and P=000

Fig. 9 also indicates that the mean value of members about their knowledge in sanitation is higher than non-members measured in an independent samples t-test with t-value of 17.465 and P-value of 0.000. This is a vivid manifestation that the project is benefiting member households in the study area.

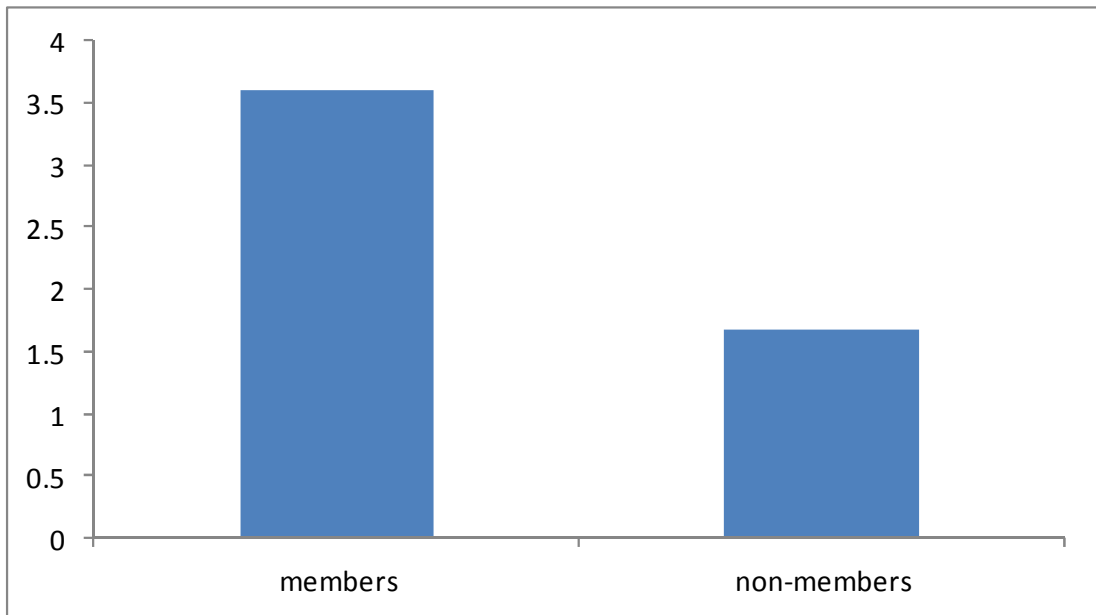


Fig. 5.9: Mean value of members and non-members with regard to their knowledge about sanitation

In fact, the project is about water and it may not come as surprise the fact that it has increased the knowledge of beneficiaries with regard to sanitation.

Box 6 narrates a story that would help substantiate the assertions made in here:

Box 6: Knowledge about Sanitation as women empowerment

Tsehay Kitimo is a 37 year-old woman who lives in a Derashe wereda particularly in upper Argoba village. She is married and has three children-one boy and two girls. She says “before I join this project I have no access to both for training and practice in keeping my house clean. I did also have no access to latrine. As a result of inaccessibility to sanitation facilities, I and all my families used open defecation behind the bush that exposed us to bitten by snakes and contaminate the environment, which affected our health”. Due to the chance given by the project, she has become a member in the formation of women’s sanitation group and participates in health and hygiene training. Her house is evaluated through a participatory healthy home survey, where homes are evaluated as being clean or dirty, and water storage practices are identified as hygienic or unhygienic, initially by hope international field staff and later by village women representatives. She becomes publicly acknowledged for having clean house and showing hygienic practices. Therefore, her status and acceptance in the community has improved. The construction of pit latrine by the project creates clean and healthy condition at her home. Besides, the latrine helps to avoid in convenience, such as having to wait until dark or early morning to walk to the toilet; decreasing the “risk of being bitten by snakes”, she says.

3.9 Membership and skills gained

Findings of the study indicate that membership in a project has its own impact on the level of technical skills gained from the interference of non-government organizations. A comparative analysis has been conducted in a bid to identifying the impact of being a member in the water project on the skills gained. In this regard, members were compared with non-members. The result from the study shows that 40% of the sampled members have got high skill followed by 20% who said that the skills they acquired is low. Whereas 30% said it is modest. On the other hand, all sampled non-members have very low technical skill. This difference is significant at Chi square. The whole intent of the idea has been indicated in Figure 5.10. Results of the independent samples t-test also witness that members score a mean value of 3.39 while non-members have a mean value of only 1. This difference is statistically significant making members to benefit more from the project.

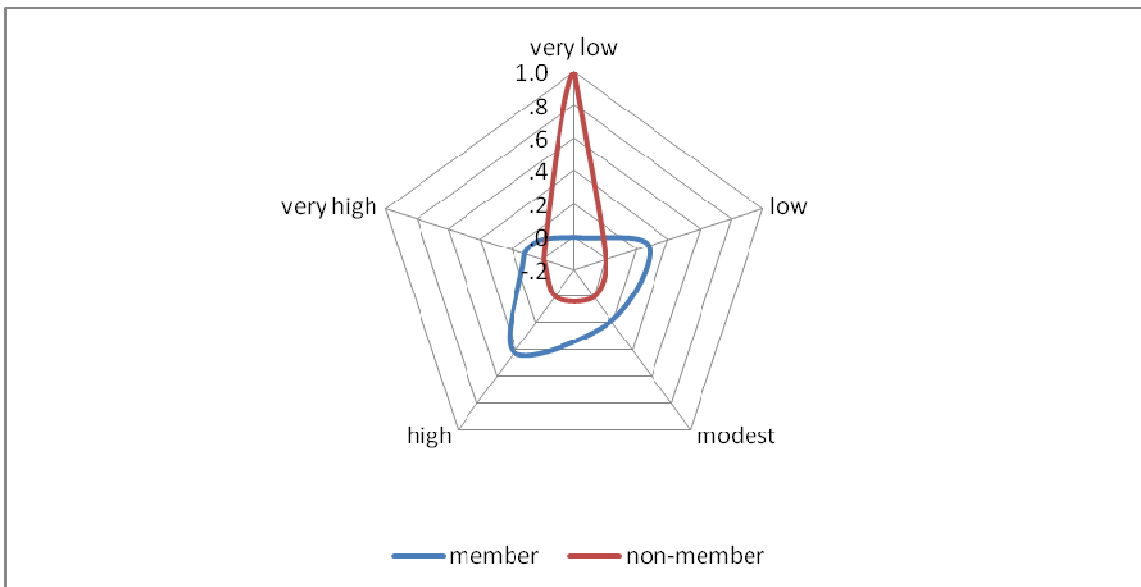


Figure 5.10: Extent of skills gained from the project

Source: Field Survey, 2012

The story narrated in box 7 substantiates the assertion about the importance of the project in inculcating the knowledge the project has brought about.

Box 7: Training (knowledge and skill gained)

Tirunesh Biratu is a 36 year-old widow. She lives in Derashe wereda. She has six children- four boys and two girls. She is one of the illiterate women in her village. She says most of mass media like TV do not reach their village, which is a very rural area. Therefore, the extent of contact with different information channels at a given period of time is low. She does not have formal or informal education. The training provided by the water project- helped her to know her right with regard to participation in planning and implementation of water projects. The knowledge she gained from the training increased her confidence to actively participate in community meeting and enhanced her acceptance in her community. She had also taken technical construction skills training. Before she gained skills through this project, she had to work very hard as a helper and the contractors would abuse her by paying her very little for my work. Now, she can build a latrine herself and earn better wage. Also, she is now a water technician for her village water system. She said she is a master of herself. She has more dignity, respect and is proud of her improved status in the community.

The project also helped raise the awareness of women and men in the study area. The case of Beyenech Behonegn-a 45 year-old woman who lives in Argoba Tenao kebele of Derashe special woreda-testifies this (Box 8).



We just born now and starts new life what people experienced.

Box 8: a woman witnesses a change in her life and awareness in communities

She is married with two boys one in the university and the other in high school. She said that he came to this village 22 years ago and there was a motorized scheme where installed by the government and work/ last for 5 month only since then we used to drinking river water. Though the river is nearby we suffer a lot with water born diseases because people who lived up stream contaminate the water. Since HOPE rehabilitates and build extend some additional water points to our village all problems are gone and we are happy and healthy now. At the result of new water system Men also fetch water and help their family, school enrollment of women and girls increased, water born disease dramatically decrees. I didn't expect to see this change in my life It is a miracle for me and I hope our children will have a better future. My final word to HOPE International is we just born now and starts new life what people experienced."

4. Conclusions and Policy Implications

The study was undertaken with the major objectives of: i) examining the contribution of water supply project to economic empowerment of women in the study area, ii) investigating the contribution of the water supply project to women's increased awareness of health and hygiene in the study area; iii) studying the contribution of water supply project to increase women's representation in community decision making activities; and iv) exploring the association between women's participation on water supply project and empowerment.

To meet the objective of the research, a descriptive survey research was used to assess the level of women participation and empowerment in the water project intervention area of Hope International taking Derashe woreda as a case in point. In addition, a quasi-experimental design was used to make a comparison of empowerment between those who have access to water supply and those who not have.

The findings highlighted that lack of formal and non-formal education, low level of income work over load due to fetching water are the main impediment factors for economic, and social empowerment and transformation in the rural areas. This research also confirmed the prevalence of the same case in the study area. It is also empirically observed that women spend much of their time fetching water and doing other in home related activities mainly driven by their poor technical skills and poor acquaintance with the external environment. Thus, the supply of water has changed the life of women and curbed the persisted and deep rooted problem of the community. It is also be noted that

supplying of water to the community, though enabled women to have excessive time which could be used for further activities, ought to be accompanied by other skill enhancement schemes in order to enable women to use their saved time by the project for other income generating activities.

Comprehensively at large, the darling water supply project needs to be integrated with training and awareness programs. The study revealed that technical trainings have made significant portion of females to engage in other business activities. This is a good indication for interventionists to consider strategies which could synchronize time saving projects such as supplying potable water to the community with offering other technical skills. It has also been addressed in the study that only some women allocated the saved time from fetching to income generation activities. This reveals that those training should be tailored to the needs of the society and should be market centered.

Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

- In order to enhance women empowerment through informal and formal education scheme and to uplift their level of awareness and understanding on income-generating skills and sanitation, knowledge should be disseminated to the larger community using mass media and other forms in the way that considers the living style of the community.

- A well devolved scheme should be designed to enable the community to engage in other income generating activities. The scheme should exhaustively understand the main growth impediment factors in the community and should come up with solutions which

enable the community to use the saved- time from projects in to other income generating activities.

➤ Ways should be designed to encourage women participation in community decision making process. A comprehensive action should be taken to do way with traditions and attitudes that discourage the participation of women from decision making process.

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PROGRAM: RURAL DEVELOPMENT (M.A(RD))

Questioner on the contribution of rural water supply project towards women empowerment at Derashe worda

Dear respondents:-

The purpose of this questioner is to collect information about the contribution of rural water supply project towards women's empowerment in Derashe district. Your cooperation in providing a genuine answer to the following question is highly important for the success of this study. Your responses will be kept confidential except that they are used only for academic purpose.

Thank you for providing your response timely and honestly.

PART I GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Agro- ecology

High land Mid land Low land

1.2 Age <25 _____ 25-45 _____ 45-55 _____ >55 _____

1.3 Sex Male Female

1.4 Education level

Illiterate Literate no school School education

College education

1.5 Monthly income: _____ birr

1.6 Family size

Children (0-14) Adult (15-64) old (64+)

1.7 Access to credit and saving: Yes _____ No _____

1.8 Access to potable water: Yes _____ No _____

1.9 Access to water and sanitation training: Yes _____ No _____

1.10 Are you a member of any local organization? Yes _____ No _____

PART II EMPOWERMENT AREA IN WATER PROJECT

Please indicate the extent to which the following empowerment dimensions are achieved by women with the help of water project. Mark in the boxes which nearly reflect your view. The liker scales are 5: *very high*, 4: *high*, 3: *medium*, 2: *low*, 1: *very low*.

I. Involvement in income generating activities due to time saved from fetching water (Economic empowerment)		1	2	3	4	5
1	More time is saved from fetching water since water is available by the project					
2	Participation of women to income generating activities increased due to saved time					
3	There is increment in women's income and access to control resource like land and livestock					
4	There is increment on credit available to women					
5	Women's ability to make small and big purchase independently					
6	The salary or wage payment difference between men and women					
7	Women involvement in visiting nearest market					
8	Women involvement in control over personal income					
II. Women's representation in community decision making		1	2	3	4	5
1	Participation of women in water and village committee					
2	The water project enhanced the awareness and skilled of women in project management and legal right					
3	Percentage of women in various position of local institutions					
4	The number of women who involved in project planning, and control of local development					
5	There is a change in attitude of men and community in nominating women to various position					
6	Women's expression of their view and interest in the community					

III. Women's increased awareness of health and hygiene		1	2	3	4	5
1	Women's clean house and hygienic practice become publicly acknowledged					
2	The participation of women in health and hygiene training					
3	Project provided enough guideline to women about health and hygiene					
IV. Women's participation in skilled project work to get benefit		1	2	3	4	5
1	Women's entry in technical project work to get benefit increased					
2	The social mobility of women to work out side home					
3	The dignity and respect given to women					
4	Income and skill acquired					
5	Self confidence of women					

PART III FOOD SECURITY

Food items (consumed per week). Ask the one who prepares food

No	Food items	Food group	Weights	Frequency
1	Maize, Maze porridge, rice, sorghum, millet pasta, bread and other cereals	Cereals and tubers	2	
2	Cassava, potatoes & sweet potatoes	>>	2	
3	Beans, Peas, Groundnuts,& cashew nuts	Pulses	3	
4	Vegetables and leaves	Vegetables	1	
5	Beef, Goat, poultry, pork, egg & fish	Meet & fish	4	
6	Milk, yogurt,& other diary product	Milk	4	
7	Fruits	Fruits	1	
8	Sugar and sugar products	Sugar	0.5	
9	Oils, fats and butter	oil	0.5	
10	Condiments	Spices	0	

PART IV GENERAL VIEW

1. What are the main factors or problems that hamper women empowerment?(Economic empowerment, community decision, e.t.c)

-
2. What should be the remedies to overcome such problems of women's empowerment?



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**The Contribution of Rural Water Supply Project towards Women Empowerment
(In Derashe woreda of SNNPRS)**

**This research proposal submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Master's Degree in Rural Development**

By

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August 2011

ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)

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1. Introduction

In developing countries, contemporary development policies consider women empowerment as one of the most crucial issues that are thrust to the top of the development agenda. As such, it is one of the MDGs countries pledge to achieve by the year 2015. Ethiopia, like other developing countries also aspires to achieve this goal by the specified time. This was necessitated by the fact that women have occupied subordinate positions for a long time now. In fact this has been the case in the world in general. Reports indicate that about 70% of the 1.2 billion poor people who live on less than a dollar a day are women (World Bank, 2007). The problem is more severe in SSA. For instance, in Kenya, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA, 2008 in Kimani and Kombo, 2010) indicates that while 50% of women are poor in rural areas of the country, the urban poor women make up 46% of the total women population in the country. In Nigeria, 70% of the poor are women (Adepoju, N.D). In Ethiopia, studies indicate that women occupy a subordinate position (Haregewoin and Emebet, 2003).

The above-mentioned facts and figures indicate that despite women play a very essential role in the economic development⁷ of many countries, they are marginalized with little or no decision making power in the access to, control over and management of resources. In order to reverse this daunting situation for the better, it has been long now since the Government of Ethiopia and other development actors have begun committing several resources through envisaging projects that would ultimately economically empower women.⁸ As a result, women empowerment has become one of the focus areas of the government of Ethiopia, which is manifested in the constitution and its national policies such as the National Policy of Ethiopian Women (1993), the Educational and Training Policy (1994), the Health Policy (1993)⁹ and the GTP¹⁰.

⁷⁷ In SSA and the Caribbean, women produce 80% of all basic foodstuffs (FAO, 2005).

⁸ A brief description of some of the CSOs engaged in women economic empowerment is given in section 3

⁹ The details can be accessed from: http://www.mfa.gov.et/policies/health_policy_amharic.pdf

¹⁰ www.ethiopians.com/Ethiopia_GTP_2015.pdf

Since women empowerment is a broader area of focus, the government alone may not tackle the problems that are abound to it. Being cognizant of this issue, the country has created an enabling environment for several NGOs to work in areas related to community-development programs and projects.

2. Problem Statement

Of the 1.3 billion people who live in the absolute poverty around the globe 70 percent are women. For those women, poverty does not mean scarcity and want. It means rights denied, opportunities curtailed and voice not listened (UNDP 1995). In fact, according to UN Human development Report 1995, the human development paradigm contains four main components:- production, equity, sustainability and empowerment. Women and Men must be empowered to participate in the design and implementation of key decisions that shaped their lives. The women's empowerment framework also re-conceptualized the development objectives of the gender responsiveness programming. Rather than focusing on economic objectives its views shifted to women's equality and women empowerment as central development objectives in their own right. The empowerment of women is an essential precondition for elimination of world poverty and the upholding of human rights (DFID 2008). In developing countries; especially in Ethiopia women constitute significant percentage of the population. However, some studies showed that women have limited role in household decision making, limited access to household resources, having domestic workloads, restricted mobility, information that lead to low women empowerment and vulnerability. As clearly stated in the introductory part, women have been marginalized in many parts of the developing world. Recently however, being cognizant of the problems women grapple with and the essential roles they play in society, their empowerment has attracted both academicians and policy makers alike so much so that the issue is considered as one of the MDGs countries pledge to achieve by the year 2015.

Taking the above problems into consideration voluntary organizations and NGOs promote a bottom up approach to develop strategic plan to address the above problems of empowerment. Using empowerment frame work they develop and implement projects to overcome obstacles of women to access socio-economic resources, productive assets, to information, training and involve women in community and family decisions. However, research works are limited showing the effectiveness of these organizations' interventions in empowering women.

Indeed, since a couple of decades, a great deal of research has been done in areas related to women empowerment. But very few of them have been attempted to address the issue of women empowerment in Eastern Africa in general and Ethiopia, in particular especially based on evidence-based analysis. Some of the studies conducted so far include measurement of women empowerment (World Bank, 2001; Malhotra *et al.*, 2003), the multidimensionality of women (Kishore and Gupta, 2004, Kabeer, 2005; Schüler, 2006; Klasen, 2006), demographic determinants of women empowerment (Jejeebhoy and Sathar, 2001).

Problems of women have both temporal and spatial variability. This is also reflected in the very definitions given by different scholars in different countries (see definition of basic concepts below). This suggests that context-specific studies are necessary clearly reflecting the situation at household level. Besides, Hope International has been committing several resources in Southern Ethiopia. The effectiveness of such women development project has to be evaluated on how much it has empowered the targeted women. In Ethiopia, little research and investigation has been done to examine the effectiveness of development projects with regard to women empowerment.

It is, therefore, with justifications that this research is intended to be conducted. This research seeks to make a formal investigation on the contribution of water development project for women empowerment at Southern Nation Nationalities and Derashe district, Ethiopia.

3. Objectives

The general objective of the study is to investigate the contribution of water supply projects to women empowerment. To address the above general objectives, the study will have the following objectives.

The specific objectives of the study are:-

5. To examine the contribution of water supply project to economic empowerment of women.
6. To investigate the contribution of the water supply project to women's increased awareness of health and hygiene.
7. To study the contribution of water supply project to increase women's representation in community decision making.
8. To explore the association between women's participation on water supply project and empowerment.

4. Literature Review

4.1. Concepts of Empowerment

Empowerment: Empowerment has different definitions by different organizations and individuals.

The concept of empowerment has a long history having its roots in the Afro-American movement in the 1960s. Since then, the concept has, gradually but exactly, evolved into its current status owing to several drivers such as Paolo Freire's theory¹¹, popular women's and feminist movements in Latin America and the Caribbean (which considered empowerment as being central to seize power thereby change gender relations in socio-economic, political, legal and socio-cultural spheres) and the development of modern thought such as the entitlements approach of Amartya Sen. In fact, from the perspective of development, the Beijing Conference marked the emergence of the concept (1995)¹²,

¹¹ This theory is based on the development of a critical conscience. Details about Freire's theory can be found at: http://www.ibe.unesco.org/fileadmin/user_upload/archive/publications/ThinkersPdf/freiree.PDF

¹² unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0012/001211/121145e.pdf

Women empowerment: is a process that result fundamental redistribution of power within and between families/ society and induce a mechanism of change to words women's equality and development.

Women empowerment include several interrelated and mutually reinforced components these component include **socio-economic empowerment, participation in household decision and psychological / social empowerment.**

The empowerment of women requires conditions that enable them exercise their autonomy. This facilitation includes socio-economic empowerment through access to and control resources and productive asset.

The participation of women in decision making also involve their ability to control their labor and income. The increased role of women in household's decision making would enable to improve their self determination, bargaining power, status within households (Malhotra et al 2002)

The psychological or social empowerment of women also depends on perception on gender awareness with regards to basic rights of women. In which case women's access to education, training, information have potential to increases women's psychological /social empowerment.

Empirical literature on women empowerment

According to study reported by (Deepa Johi and ben Fawcett 2000) women empowerment is can be achieved in domestic water project through participation of women in:

- Women's participation in income generating activities due to time saved from fetching water.
- Women's participation in skilled work of project implementation.
- Women's awareness of health and hygienic aspect of water management.
- Women's representation in community decision making.

which (under section 13) considers women's empowerment as a key strategy for development by suggesting: "*Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace*".

There is no universally accepted definition of empowerment. According to Sen and Batliwala (2000) "*Empowerment is the process by which the powerless gain greater control over the circumstances of their lives*". However, there are commonalities among the different approaches of defining the concept. While some define as the process to acquire "power" individually and collectively that enables people to make own decisions regarding matters that affect their life and society, others suggest that the notion of empowerment forms part of the vision to acquire power, to control one's life and make choices. This notion of "making choices" has been broadly debated by Kabeer (2001), who expanded the notion to *people's ability to have access to things and to make choices*. Kabeer (2001) defines empowerment as '*The expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them.*' In very general terms, empowerment includes the abilities of people both at individual and collective level, which ultimately provides them with windows of opportunities to seize a socio-political space and access to and control over resources. Empowerment is also considered as a process and an outcome whereby both men and women take control over their lives i.e. setting their own agenda, gaining skills, increasing self-confidence and -reliance and solving problems (CIDA, 1994; in CIDA, 1996). The key components of empowerment are, thus, women and men's sense of confidence to face life, right to make choices, power to control their own lives and influence social change.

The empowerment approach therefore operates on two levels: (i) in relation to its capacity for personal change and (ii) in relation to political and social change.

Empowerment in development sense refers to:- the process whereby people can freely analyze, develop and voice their needs and interest without pre-defined or imposing them from above by planners or other social sectors (cleaver 1997) .

The above forms of participation increase income, knowledge, and decision making of women. Hence it leads to economic, social and psychological empowerment.

However in their study they have found that in many developing countries water supply projects, there are a lot of problems that create barriers to women's participation and empowerment.

(Shahuaj.p and Ingrid. 2004) have investigated or measured women empowerment. Using six indicators:

- A. Contribution to household's income.**
- B. Access to resources**
- C. Ownership of Assets**
- D. Participation in house hold decision making**
- E. Perception on gender awareness**
- F. Coping capacity to house hold shocks**

In their study they have conclude that education, training and exposure to information have the potential to increase women's empowerment. Therefore, effective initiatives or projects undertaken by the concerned agencies in improving women's education, skill acquisition training and access to information could enhance women's empowerment.

Conceptual frame work of the study

This study is conceptualized on four indicators of women empowerment by domestic water supply project. These are:

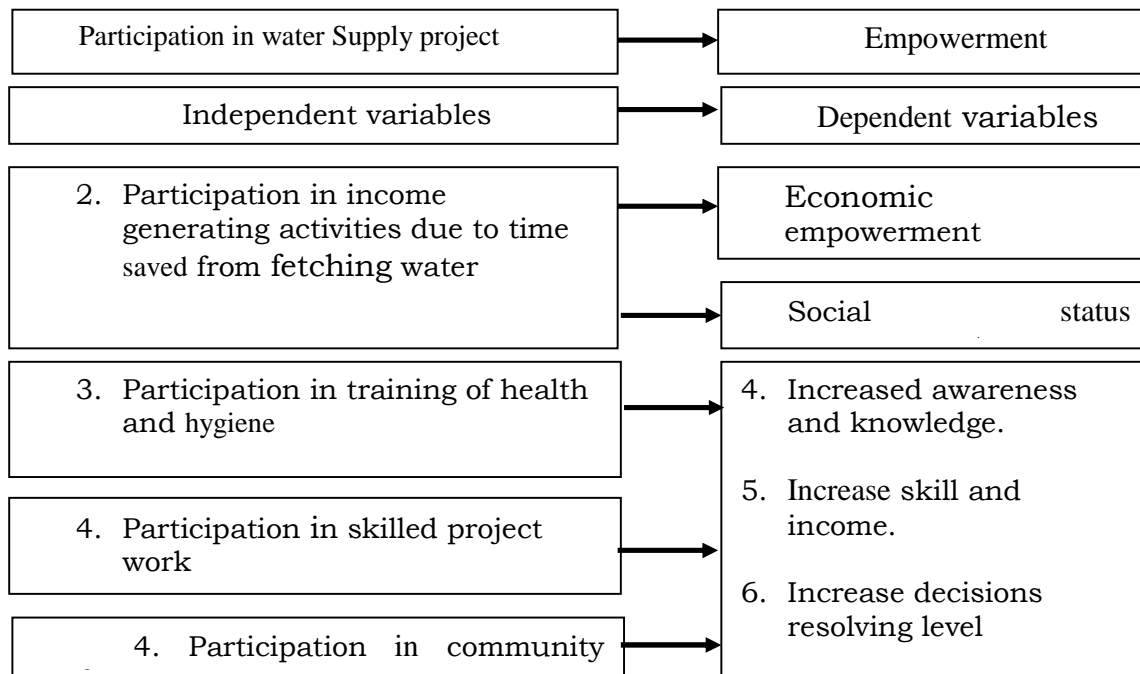
- e. Economic empowerment:-** women's participation in income generating activities due to time saved due to time saved from fetching water participation of women.
- f. Participation of women in health and hygiene Training:** brings social and psychological empowerment through knowledge and information.
- g. Women's participation in skill project work:-** that gives benefit of income and skill (Access to resource)
- h. Participations of women in community decision making.**

It is hypothesized that various participation in water development project will provide input such as income, education, skill and participation in community decision making leads to women empowerment.

Those forms of participation that lead to women empowerment are:-

- Participation of women in income generation activities due to time saved from fetching water.
- Participation in training that increase women’s awareness of health and hygiene.
- Participation of women in skilled work to generate income and develop skill.
- Participation of women in community decision making power.

Hence participation result empowerment through developing awareness, skill capabilities and income capacity. The contribution of empowerment and can be seen in the following conceptual structure.



5. Significance of the Study

The increment in women participation and empowerment in water supply project increase project effectiveness and efficiency.

1. HOPE International Development Agency: Which is the sponsor of this study and project implementer in the study area will get valuable information; that helps to take corrective technical and managerial actions that promote women's empowerment and project effectiveness.
2. Scholars who want to make deep investigation in the area or in similar projects will benefit from the information that would be generated by this study.
3. Policy makers in Ethiopia will also get valuable information to direct their approaches that enhance women empowerment.

6. Research Questions

1. Does the water supply project contribute to women's economic empowerment?
2. Do women participate fully in water supply project?
3. Does the water supply project increased women's awareness of health and hygiene?
4. Does the water supply project contributed to increased women's representation in community decision making?
5. What is the association between participation and women empowerment?

7. Methodology

7.1 Area background

Derashe woreda is located in Ethiopia Segen Area people's zone of SNNPRS. Giddole a capital town of the woreda, is located at a distance of 554 km south of Addis Ababa and 329 kms southwest of Hawassa the capital of SNNPRS. Geographically the woreda is bounded in the east by Kamba, in the west, north and south by Arbaminch zuriya wereda and in the South and West by Alle woreda. According to the woreda Rural Development office the wereda population estimated to be 117,354 of which 51% are female. The wereda comprises 16 rural and 2 town kebeles.

The altitude of the woreda ranges from 800-4270m a.s.l. agro ecologically the woreda is classified as 50% dega (highland), 26.4% woinadega (midland) and 24.6% kola (lowland). Its annual average temperature ranges from 10.1-27.5 °c. Whereas its annual average rainfall ranges from 600-2200mm.

The economy of the population is based mainly on subsistent agriculture, which is characterized by mixed farming. Regarding the water coverage of the woreda were 7% only in 1995 G.C but after HOPE International Development Agency undertake water development activities the availability of potable water in terms of quality, quantity, social and economic benefit are raised up and the coverage also increased by 84% in 2011.

7.2 Research design

To meet the objective of the research a descriptive survey research will be used to assess the level of women participation. In addition, aquasi:- experimental design will be used to make a comparison of empowerment between those who have access to water supply and those who not have.

7.3 Sampling

Explanatory study will be conducted to collect basic data. This helps to have baseline information about the study area. During explanatory survey the following data will be collected. These data are location of the study area, Agro-ecological difference services coverage such as potable water, health services, education services and socio-economic data.

7.3.1 Sampling Technique and Procedure

The Woreda will be selected using purposive sampling. This is

Because the area is a place where domestic water supply project is conducted for several years. Therefore, it is easy to assess the contribution the project women's empowerment.

In this regard the area experience and exposure of the researcher to Woreda will also help to build confidence and facilitate the study.

Stratified sampling will be used to stratify the District sixteen farmer associations in to two strata based on the level of the domestic water supply project coverage. The basis for stratification is the degree of access to water points done by Hope international development agency. The first strata include villages which have full access to domestic water supply and the second strata are those villages which has low or no access to domestic water supply project.

Stage three, two farmers association will be selected randomly from each strata. Finally a total of 150 households from those who have access and from non-accessibility will be selected proportionally. The households with low or no access to potable water supply point will be used for comparison purpose.

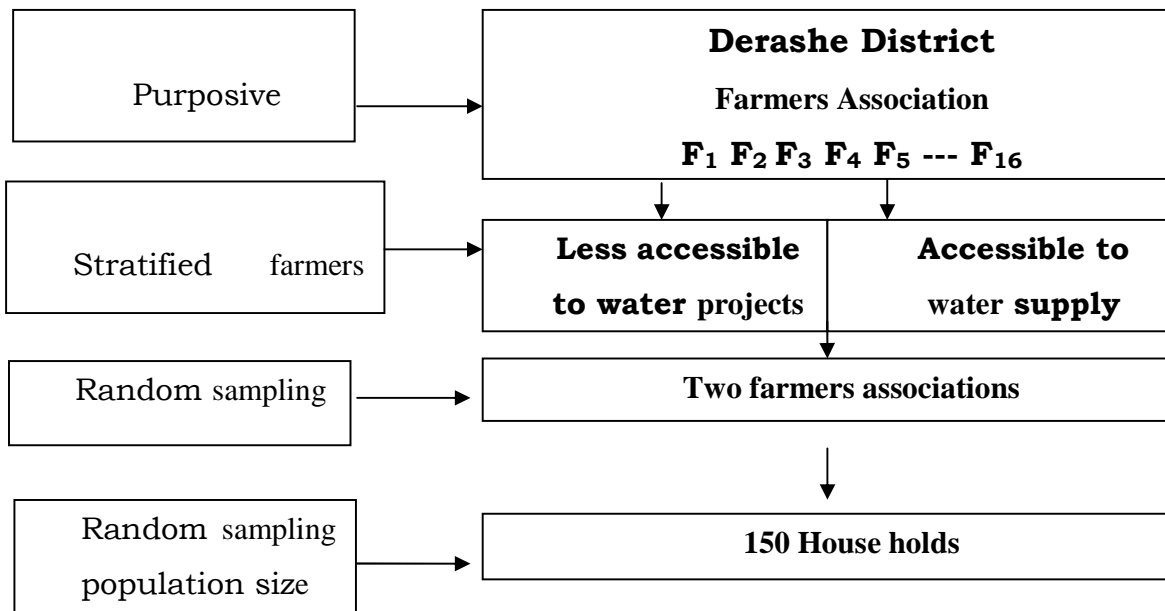


Figure sampling procedure.

7.4 Data Collection and Sources

Both primary and secondary data will be collected during the study.

Primary Data Collection

Primary data will be collected using structured questioner and interview.

Measurement

The questioner design include four parts such as

1. Participation in income generating activities due to time saved in fetching water.
2. Skills and economic benefit gained by participating in project implementation.
3. Social empowerment due to awareness and training of health and hygiene.
4. Women's participation in community decision making.

Respondents will be provided a list of items under each of the above four parts and they will be asked to indicate their response using 1-5 scale (not participated to 5 very much participated).

Empowerment will also be measured using achievement test.

Interview

Interview will be conducted with key informant so that to collect detail qualitative data that cannot be captured with questioner. This helps which women participated, how they have participated and how the process had been empowering them.

Secondary Data collection

Secondary sources such as various project reports of Hope International Development Agency and Government evaluation reports will be consulted to collect baseline dates and the change brought on woman's life due to the water supply project.

8. Data Analysis

Data that will be obtained from structured questioner and interview and from secondary source will be checked for completeness, consistency and accuracy before the analysis is made.

Both quantitative and qualitative data analysis will be conducted in this study.

8.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

The data collected using structured questioner or scale will be analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean score, frequency, distribution and percentage that show the level of participation and empowerment. Regression analysis will also be used to analyses the relationship between participation and empowerment.

8.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data that will be collected using interview will be analyses using concept, opinion analysis and grouping and triangulation to show how women participated, empowered in the process of the water project management.

9. Work Plan

This thesis research work is to be carried out to the following tentative plan of action or schedule. This schedule will be changed if there is problems beyond the scope of the researcher are encountered.

No	Activities	Duration
1	Preparation of questioner	Oct – Nov 30, 2011
2	Training for enumerators	Dec 1 st - Dec 15, 2011
3	Conduct the survey	Jan 1 st - Feb 1 st , 2012
4	Data checking and analysis	Feb 1 st -Feb 15, 2012
5	Draft thesis writing	Feb 15- March 15, 2012
6	Draft thesis submission	April, 2012

10. Budget

An indicative for the budget requirement for the implementation of this thesis research work is summarized and presented below in the form of categorical cost breakdown.

10.1 Stationary and expendable Supplies

No	Items	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amount
1	Flash disk 4GB	No	1	500.00	500.00
2	Photocopy paper	Rim	2	120.00	240.00
3	Printer paper	Rim	2	120.00	240.00
4	Clipboard	No	6	25.00	150.00
5	Pen	No	20	2.50	50.00
6	Pencil	No	12	2.50	30.00
7	Easer	No	10	5.00	50.00
8	Note book	No	5	20.00	100.00
9	SD Card 4GB	No	1	550.00	550.00
10	Document bag (plastic)	No	10	5.00	50.00
11	Stapler	No	1	50.00	50.00
12	Staples	Pkt	5	12.00	60.00
	Sub total				2,070.00

10.2 Personal expenses (Prediem/day)

No	Items	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Amount
1	Enumerator (6 people x20 birr x30 days)	No	6	30	3,600.00
2	Advisor (1 person x10 days x500 birr)	No	1	500	5,000.00
	Sub total				8,600.00

10.3 Traveling Cost

No	Paid to	Purpose	Amount
1	Advisor	Roundtrip (2x) air ticket Addis to Derashe and Addis	3,600.00
	Sub Total		3,600.00

10.4 Miscellaneous Cost

No	Expenditure cost only	Annual
1	Interview recording, processing and editing	1,000.00
2	Communications (Telecommunication, Fax, Email ...)	500.00
3	Photo copy, secretarial work and binding	1,500.00
	Sub total	3,000.00

10.5 Budget summary

No	Expenditure cost only	Annual
1	Stationary & expendable supplies	2,070.00
2	Personal expenses (enumerator & advisor)	8,600.00
3	Traveling cost	3,600.00
4	Miscellaneous expenses	3,000.00
	Grand Total	17,270.00

Budget sources: HOPE International Development Agency (HIDA)

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PROFORMA FOR SUBMISSUN OF M.A. (RD) PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL

Signature : _____

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Enrolment No. : 099122225

Date of Submission : 16, November 2011

Name of Study Center : S.t Mary's University Collage

Name of Guide : Bamlak Alamirew Alemu (PhD)

Title of the Project : The contribution of rural water supply project toward women empowerment (in Derashe)

Signature of the Student : _____

Approved / Not Approved

Date: 17, November 2011

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled **THE CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT TO WARDS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT (In Derashe)**

(write)the title in Block letters) submitted by me for the partial fulfillment of the M.A. in Rural Development to Indira Gandhi National Open University, (IGNOU) New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier either to IGNOU or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any course of study. I also declare that no chapter of this manuscript in the whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

Place : S.t Mary's University Collage

Date : 20 July 2012

Signature: _____

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