

**PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES OF RURAL WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT IN OROMIA REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA**

THE CASE OF GUDURU WOREDA

A THESIS

BY

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation entitled Practices and Challenges on Rural Women Empowerment .The cases of Guduru Woreda, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia submitted by me for partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master of art in rural development to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi is my own original work and has not been submitted earlier 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 whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this report from any earlier work done by me or others.

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ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Conventions on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GDP	Gross Domestic Products
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
RWE	Rural Women Empowerment
INFO	Information Access
PAR	Social Participation
VIO	Violence against women
PAU	Women's Freedom of Mobility
CUL	Culture of the Society
ASST	Access and control over lands)
CRED	Access to Credit Services
SAV	Access to Saving
DEC	Women's participation in Decision making position
BOWCA	Bureau of Oromia Women and Children Affaires

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to identify practices and challenges in rural women through assessments of determinant factors in Guduru Woreda of Oromia Regional State taking rural women at household level of four rural kebeles, one rural town and some public sectors women civil servants. Thus, three hundreds and two rural women replied their responses based on designed questionnaires as the sample for the study. A structured interview schedule was used to collect the data from the woreda administrative and woreda women and children affairs office. Focus group discussion was also conducted taking some elite peoples, elders, religious leaders and civil servant found at kebele levels. The data was analyzed by using both descriptive statistics and econometric analysis methods by using binary regression

The empowerment level of rural women through taking nine most important indicators was (78.8) percent of the respondent confirms that still rural women empowerment was low at the study area. Lack of information access, low participation of rural women in social affairs and their own matter, lack of freedom of mobility and violence against rural women were the major problems of rural women empowerment at the study area. Poor economic condition of the rural women and lack of law enforcement on gender inequality as well as lack of enthusiasm of policy makers to mitigate harmful traditional act on rural women, low level of rural women participation in decision making position including lack of access to asset and control over economic resources were the major reasons for low level in empowerment of rural women.

It is a fact that any political, economic and social activity that doesn't involve and benefit women cannot be fruitful because such an activity is based on half the society. Though women's rights to equal participation and benefits, with men, can't be seen separately from the overall economic and political progress in society, it is an established fact that women's rights need special attention in the change process. Therefore, the study strongly recommends the decision makers to ensure adequate awareness regarding the importance of rural women's active participation in the development democratization and peace agenda .Organizing forum with a view of encouraging rural women's participation and ensuring that women's rights as emplaced in the Constitution, the family code and other provisions.

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing an individual to think, behaves, take action and control work in an autonomous way to take control of one's own destiny. It includes both control over resources (Physical, Human, Intellectual and Financial) and over Ideology (Belief, values and attitudes) (Batliwala, 1994).Therefore, individuals become empowered when they obtain, the right to determine choices in life and to influence the direction of change, through the ability to gain control over material and non-material resources (Rowlands, 1997).

Moreover, empowerment is about gaining power and liberty, it is the ability or capacity to act, the strength and influence to accomplish a common community and citizenship duty. It is the vital energy to make choice and decisions to overcome deeply embedded practices and to cultivate higher, more effective ones (BT Costantinos: 2005). Hence, empowerment in general and women's empowerment in particular involves an improvement in women's ability to manage their own lives. This is obtained through increased access to key resources and activities. It is the activities improving the ability of women to access the constituents of development in particular health, education, earnings opportunities, rights, and political participation(World Bank:2001)

The definition described above clearly indicates that, empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building which leads to greater participation and greater decision making power and point to the conclusion that it is necessary for poor as whole and marginalized women to the specific to improve their situation. The process of empowering women will improve their ability to manage their lives in all aspects. This improved ability to manage their own lives entails an expansion of women's opportunities in socio-economic and also equal opportunities in comparison with men. Therefore, empowerment of women is nothing but strengthening of their innate vitality which should enable the women or group of women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life and also equal partner in development process.

The major or key means of empowerment factors are: political empowerment, legal empowerment, social empowerment, cultural empowerment and economic empowerment and of

all these, economic empowerment for the women is the major one. Specifically, the major factors affecting the rural women empowerment were access to land, independent earning, community participation, decision making and self-confidence. Further education and social participation, also affect the empowerment of rural women (Bharathamma G.U; 2005)

Taking into consideration all the reality discussed above, the Federal government of Ethiopia also has put its commitment towards various policy improvements to enhance economic, political, social and legal empowerments of women. From the political view point, the policy improvements to realize women empowerment includes presence of National Women Policy, presence of women's reserved seat in the parliament, presence of Women Affairs Office at regional and sector levels, presence of different women associations, commitment of the government to reform the civil service by mainstreaming gender at all levels

In relation to legal empowerment, revised legislative reform were made that has powerful for empowering women and girls and safeguarding their rights .Moreover, ratification of international conventions on women rights like Conventions on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, Women's Rights Protocol on Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP), the Beijing Platform for Action and others as well as presence of strong criminal laws for cases of violation against women and girls (Ministry of Women's Affairs Annual Report, 2007) .

In economic empowerment of women, the major activities carried out by the government in the past two decades includes : promoting women's participation in developing economic policies and managing the economy, enhance rural women's equal access to and control over productive resources and services (land, oxen, extension, credit) in order to make them food secure and come out of the poverty trap, improve the Lives of Pastoral Women, Enhance urban women's and disabled women's access to and control over economic resources and services (land, credit, employment, training), reduce women's workload and provide special social and economic safety and security to poor urban and rural as well as disabled women which is important in gender sensitive poverty reduction strategy are among revised and implemented core activities in economic policy of the country.

From the social view point, the government has been made a notable achievements in the past two decades in realizing women empowerment related activities like educating girls to translates into better conditions for the whole household, in terms of better health, nutrition and education for the family. An educated woman is more likely to delay marriage, practice family planning resulting in a smaller family size, more available food for the family, and resources to educate the children. Investing in girls' education therefore has high social and economic returns and is instrumental in achieving sustainable development and economic growth.

Being part and parcel of the country, the Oromia National Regional State has made a number of efforts towards effective and smooth implementation of these political, social and economic as well as legal related empowerment of women including international conventions and constitution too, though some changes were found to be difficult to address the deep rooted women's problems as needed to be. Therefore, this research proposal titled as practice and challenges for rural women empowerment in Oromia Regional State at Guduru woreda is projected to identify the factors affecting their empowerment and to propose the policy intervention necessary to curb the problems for the policy makers and other concerned bodies like stakeholders in the area.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Women empowerment can be viewed as a means of creating a social environment in which one can take decision and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens their innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and experience. Having the deep insight of this realities, the government of Ethiopia recognized that the empowerment of Ethiopian women would not only go a long way to bring about socio-economic development, but is in fact the pre condition, and indispensable catalysts for sustainable development, good governance and achieving the MDG agenda. To this effect, much progress has been made in addressing gender equality and empowering women through continued and enhanced implementation of the policies and strategies that made a significant difference over the past 20 years.

Among the major government policies on gender are: the 1995 FDRE Constitution in its Article 35 (3) that took a historic measure on gender equality in a country where history vexed with

traditions and religious matters made women to suffer due to their sex. In addition, the revised Federal Family Code enacted on 4 July 2000 (Proc. 213/2000) deals with equality between sexes in their interaction concerning marriage related issues, Labor and Public Service proclamations (Labor Law: Proclamation 377/2003: Art. 87) in which no sex-based discrimination and female candidates are given preferential treatment to fill vacancies (Public Servants Proclamation 262/2002: Art. 13); Widows and widowers have been given equal status in pensions (Proc. 190/99) by amending Article 4 of the Public servant law of the 1962 that discriminated women concerning pension. The other policy amendment on gender and related issues are land use administration laws (Art. 5 and 10 of Proc. 89/97) ensured equal rights of women in respect to the use, administration and control of land with respect to transferring and bequeathing holding rights. Finally, there was the Laws on Violence against Women enforced since July 2004 harmful traditional practices (HTP) are penalized like; female genital mutilation, rape, sexual abuses, abduction and other have merited tougher and graver penalties. .

It is believed that women's empowerment play a vital role in empowering and enhancing the decision- making capacity of women. (*Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report*). While much progress has been made still addressing women empowerment remain the most challenging one in socio-economic aspects. The Global Gender Gap Report (2010) ranks Ethiopia as 121 among 134 countries in terms of the magnitude and scope of gender-based disparities. Prevailing social attitudes favor men/boys over women/girls with regards to food, health care and education while leaving women/girl with limited opportunities for participation in formal sector employment Therefore, in the areas of both social and the economic empowerment, women in Ethiopia are systematically disadvantaged relative to men.

In addition, according to the 2007 national census, Less than half (42.7 percent) of the population of Ethiopia were literate. The proportions of literate persons by sex show the existence of wider gap between sexes. Slightly more than half or 50.7 percent of male were literate while the proportion of literate females (34.6 percent) was far less than their male counter parts. Though large steps have been made in closing the gender gap in primary education, the gender gap remains with marked rural /urban and regional discrepancy. Disparities increases at the levels of

higher, secondary and especially, at tertiary education, where only 24% of students are female (*Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report*)

In the area of the economic empowerment of women, Ethiopia is largely a rural economy in which the GDP is primary based on agricultural products in which 84% of the populations reside in rural area. Sex-disaggregated indicators related to economic empowerment show that Ethiopian women often lack access to productive assets and business development services including micro finance; only insignificant numbers of women are landholders, while their landholdings are not usually prime fertile land and less number of women working in agriculture has been able to access credit to boost production. Women with no independent means of supporting themselves are less likely to leave violent relationships: those who do may end up trafficked or in commercial sex work and therefore exposed to greater levels of violence.

Despite the fact that there was a significant improvements in relation to political and leadership empowerment comparing with the previous elections period, still the level of women's representation in the federal parliament is low in proportion to the total number of women in the country. In the first parliament (1995 election), 13 women (2.74%) were represented out of 547 seats while in the second parliament (2000 election) around 42 (7.7%) of the elected members of the parliament were women. In the third parliament (2005-2010), the number of women holding seats rose to 117 (22%). During the third election, the government had strived to increase the number of women legislators to 30-50% of the house, through different measures. The number of seats held by women in the House of Federation has now reached 21 (18.75%) (*Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report*).

Apart from the political empowerment of women, training women on leadership is the major mechanism undertaken to strengthen women's capacity in decision making .In this regard, they are still largely underrepresented in decision-making positions at all levels. They have also not made major progress in attaining political power in legislative bodies. Findings of the current status of women in the political and public decision making positions indicate that: the constitutional commitment of the government to grant Affirmative Action has not been translated into concrete action at all levels; the number of elected women representatives is still low; more and more women are engaged in formal employment, but are underrepresented in middle and

higher management positions; and the number of women leaders and decision makers at the various level of the decentralized government structure is still very low.

This study therefore, intends to find out the challenges and practices on rural women empowerment in Oromia regional state particularly in the study areas and to recommend the solution for identified problems .To this effect, the study is proposed to answer the following key research questions.

1. To what extent the women in the study area are empowered?
2. What are the factors affecting women empowerment at the grass root level particularly in the study areas?
3. What are the major challenges in empowering women socio-economic aspects?
4. What policy intervention needs to be proposed to ensure women empowerment in the rural area?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study was to investigate practices and challenges of rural women empowerments in the study area. To this end, the specific objectives were:

1. To identify the current status of rural women decision making power
2. To identify the factors affecting rural women empowerment in the study area
3. To identify the most determinant factor affecting rural women empowerment
4. To identify policy interventions to facilitate rural women empowerment

1.4. Significance of the Study

Most of the earlier studies have concentrated on development of rural women, of late there is a shift from development to empowerment of women, economically through income generating activities. Socially through accessing different social services and politically improving their decision making capacity through participating in different leadership development activities. The present study was likely to provide valuable information to the government and nongovernment agencies about the extent of empowerment of the rural women.

The output of this research was to identify the major women's empowering and sustainable livelihood factors in socio-economic and cultural factors and come up with possible remedies for

those problems. It also aims to find out the integration of success factors in empowerment that leads to sustainable livelihood in rural women's life.

Further, this study is initiated to generate and add some information to the existing knowledge of socio-economic factors that have contributions for empowering women and sustainable livelihood. The findings of this research would provide multipurpose information to different users, including practitioners in donors, policy planners, academicians and the public at large. To the specific, women's empowerment promoters and development policy makers could use the findings of this study to improve women's participation in all aspects as well as to justify investment in the sector. In addition, it raises questions for further research and study.

1.5. Limitation of the Study

It was a single student investigation, which places limitations on time, resources *etc.*, which obviously lead to the purposive selection of the locale of the study. The study was expressed in opinions of the respondents, which may not be free from their individual perception and bias in spite of the researcher's efforts to get them as objectively as possible. The study was proposed to deal with specific woreda among the total woreda found in the region. Hence, it may not be representative of other woredas. Further, financial and time constraints will compel the researcher to limit the sample size and the scope of the research. Therefore, generalization may not be free from the limitation. The research also focuses only on women found in the study area. It also restricts itself to assess a few empowerment indicators, particularly changes in economic decision-making, community participation and social position.

1.6. Delimitation of the study

The study was limited to one Woreda with 31 rural Kebeles and three rural towns located in the Woreda found 280 kilometers from finfinnee and 60 kilometers from the zonal administration of that woreda. It will limit the upcoming of some important women empowerment issues existing in other Woredas of the zone and region. Nevertheless, this study will hopefully give insight to women empowerment aspect in rural area of Oromia Regional State.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Concept of empowerment

The concept of empowerment was the outcome of several important critiques and debates generated by women's movement throughout the world, and particularly in the Third World (Wickramasinghe, 2000).

The term empowerment is used to refer to self-reliance and self-respect in order to enable each person reach his/her God given potential (Cheston and Kuhn, 2002). According to Rowlands (1995), the definition of empowerment is bringing people on the outside of a decision process into it. It is also considered as the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making. Individuals become empowered when they obtain the right to control over material and non-material resources to determine choices in their life.

Staples (1990) defined the term empowerment as means (a) to gain power (b) to develop power; to take or seize power; (c) to facilitate or enable power and (d) to give or grant or permit power.

Sen (1997) based on a case study in India, stressed the importance of empowerment of an individual in order to gain control over assets. According to her, empowerment is about change in favour of those who previously exercised little control over their lives. This change has two components, the first is control over resources (financial, physical and human) and the second is control over ideology belief, values and attitudes. She concluded that government, non-government organizations (NGOs) and other institutions do not empower people, but people empower themselves. But, through policies and actions government can either create a supportive environment

Sudharani *et al.* (2000) defined empowerment as the process of challenging existing power relations and gaining greater control over the sources of power. Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation to greater decision making power and control to transformative action.

Dr. K. Lalitha *et.al.*(2011).Empowerment can be viewed as a means of creating a social environment in which one can take decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens one's innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge power and experience. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives, communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important.

BT Costantinos (2005). Empowerment is about gaining *power* and *liberty*, it is the *faculty* or *capacity to act*, the *strength* and *potency* to accomplish a common community and citizenship duty. It is the vital energy to make choice and decisions to overcome deeply embedded practices and to cultivate higher, more effective ones. Empowerment, the feeling of security, and guidance, brings about true wisdom which in turn becomes the spark or catalyst to release and direct power. Tandley Omprakash Sridevi (2005) explains the term 'empowerment' as a process by which the disempowered individuals and groups gain the power to control their lives and the ability to make strategic life choices.

From the above reviews, it is very clearly revealed that empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building which leads to greater participation and greater decision making power. It also revealed that empowerment is considered as the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making and gaining power and liberty to enhance the capacity in political participation. Moreover, it indicates that empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives, communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important.

2.2. Importance of Rural Women Empowerment

G.U.,Bharathamma (2005), analyzed the women empowerment with the corresponding levels of discrimination and effectiveness of decision-making by women in different rural enterprises and concluded that the female headed households were effective in taking decision in respect of work mobility, schooling, health care, asset creation, employment generation and social participation in low social status households. The informal empowerment was wide spread through women earning members, their decisions were subjected to various degrees of discrimination by males.

Ministry of Women's Affairs (2006). Gender inequality is deep-rooted in social, economic, cultural and political structures and thus closely intertwined with every development challenge ranging from the elimination of poverty to the promotion of peace and democracy. In other words, countries will not be able to combat poverty, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and ensure sustained development without a deliberate attempt to overcome gender inequality.

G.U.,Bharathamma (2005) also revealed that empowerment of women is nothing but strengthening of their innate vitality which should enable the women or group of women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life and also equal partner in development process.

Manisha Desai, (2010).Empowerment is about mobilizing grassroots women, encouraging their participation and giving them voice in predetermined development strategies without giving them the power to challenge existing narratives of development and to articulate new alternatives

G. S. Ogato et.al (2009), Empowering rural women through improved access to key productive resources and agricultural services is the right choice for developing countries like Ethiopia where rural women's contribution to agricultural production and food security is quite immense.

Hemantha (2001) cited in G. S. Ogato et.al (2009) that empowering women has comprehensively given the parameters of empowerment of women as follows,

- Enhance self-esteem and self-confidence in women.
- Build a positive image of women by recognizing their contribution to the society and economy.
- Develop in them an ability to think critically.
- Faster decision-making action through collective process.
- Enable women to make informed choices in areas like education, employment and health especially reproductive health.
- Ensure equal participation in development process.
- Provide information, knowledge and skill for economic independence.

- Enhance access to legal literacy and information related to their rights and entitlements in the society with a view to enhance their participation in all areas.

From the above reviews, it is very clearly revealed that rural women empowerment has paramount importance in taking decision in respect of work mobility, schooling, health care, asset creation, employment generation and social participation in low social status households. In addition to this, it helps women to enhance their self-esteem and self-confidence and ensure equal participation in all development process

2.3. Factors affecting empowerment of rural women

G. S. Ogato et.al (2009), clearly revealed that the major factors affecting the empowerment were access to land, independent earning, community participation, decision making and self-confidence. Further education and social participation, also affect the empowerment of rural women.

Manisha Desai, (2010).Most measures like the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) focus on a few indicators at the aggregate level and actually measure gender equality rather than empowerment. GEM is essentially a measure of three indicators: control over economic resources, measured by men and women's earned income; economic participation and decision making, measured by women and men's share of administrative, professional, managerial, and technical positions; and political participation and decision making, measured by male and female share of parliamentary seats.

UNFPA (2008) .Until recently, variables such as education and employment were commonly used to capture empowerment and other related concepts such as women's autonomy and status. Their use is justified by the fact that they have strong positive correlation with the direct empowerment indicators. A woman's level of education, her employment status, particularly employment for cash, and media exposure are expected to be positively related to empowerment. Women who are educated, employed, and exposed to the media are likely to be better equipped with the information and the means needed to function effectively in the modern world. Together these factors are expected to influence women's inherent abilities as well as their attitudes on gender roles.

Taking the perspective of people in households, Friedman (1992) cited in Nazrul Islam et al (2010) argues that they potentially have access to three kinds of power: *social*, *political* and *psychological*. „Social power“ requires „access to certain “bases” of household production such as information, knowledge and skills, participation in social organizations, and financial resources “. This form of empowerment therefore includes key features of social capital, which has been identified as an essential element of sustainable rural community development.

The concept of women’s empowerment splits into three components, each measured separately: Inter-spouse consultation index, which seeks to represent the extent to which husbands consult their wives in household affairs; individual autonomy index which represents women’s self-reported autonomy of physical movement outside the house and in matters of spending money; and the authority index, which reports on actual decision-making power (which is traditionally in the hands of the patriarch of the family). Comparable components of empowerment are included in the eight indicators also like mobility, economic security, ability to make small purchases, ability to make larger purchases, involvement in major decisions, relative freedom from domination by the family, political and legal awareness, and involvement in political campaigning and protests.

P. Murugesan, and D. Namasivayam(2012). Recent experiences have shown a strong link between education and empowerment, literacy levels and nature of education, employment access and productive earnings of female from Agriculture, non-agriculture are the concerns regarding women empowerment. Income plays a positive interventionist role in creating gender equality, or acts as an agent of basic change in the status of women. Women’s low status and subordination is ascribed to their lack of education, low economic status, lack of access to resources and low decision making power expressed by many as having no voice.

From the above reviews ,the determinate factors of women empowerment are summarized as Education , health, Land ownership , Ownership of other assets (other than land) , Control over income contributed by her to the family, Control over the income of the family, Savings ,Access to credit ,Social participation ,Cash income earned from income generating activities, community

participation, decision making and self-confidence , political participation and decision making, measured by female share of parliamentary seats —etc.

2.4. Constraints Experienced by Rural Women

Bharathamma G.U (2005) stated that rural women are facing personal problems like lack of education, lack of freedom to take decision, over burdened with responsibility of performing both household and economic activities, lack of social mobility and insufficient loans.

Pitamber S.,et.al (2004). The most critical problem facing the women empowerment in Ethiopia is that of inadequate **capacity** at different levels as reflected in the technical capacity of the staff, outdated methodologies, approaches and tools to promote gender mainstreaming, adequate information exchange and knowledge sharing, as well as inadequate equipment and information technology. Training and updating of knowledge and skills is among the critical constraint.

Farida Shaheed (2009) lists some challenges in women's empowerments as; **Simply ensuring numbers** as provided for in the MDGs indicator, does not guarantee progress on gender equality and women's empowerment as called for in the Platform. In some countries, the House of Representatives raised the quota of women's representation in political parties to 35 percent, even though no party had managed to fulfill the previous 30 percent quota for women in the parliamentary elections. Women still make up only low percent of the House and in regional legislatures.

The other constraints are **supporting women as rights claimants**. All out efforts are required to ensure that women are supported to be rights claimants. The basic approach cannot be piecemeal, increasing women's decision-making and hence power has to be seen as a comprehensive agenda. Not only must women exercise free choice in deciding amongst available options, women must be supported to formulate the choices that exist. In this efforts must be made to address the sources of legitimization used to justify the existing disempowering structures of power. In planning measures for women's empowerment t is important to realise that a relaxation or redefinition of the gender rules in one aspect of life does not transfer automatically to another. For example, a woman may be able to break previous rules in order to earn a

livelihood, but this does not at all mean that she will therefore gain the right to socialize with whom she wants. Unfortunately there are no easy solutions.

The formidable barrier of culture & threatened or actual violence .Various civil society review on women in politics and decision-making in Asia Pacific concluded that progress was impeded by both institutional and cultural barriers to women's participation. The persistence of male dominated social structures and socialization processes seriously impede women's meaningful participation in political and decision making processes. Party politics and electoral systems are generally biased against women. Women continue to be assigned traditional domestic roles confined to the household, and models of political leadership and participation continue to privilege masculine traits while feminine qualities are deemed unsuitable for political leadership.

Tradition, culture and religion are used to keep women disempowered. Women are made to believe that changing their lives and gender-roles is contradictory to the values and precepts of their traditions, culture or religion. Women themselves will buy into such notions. Social cultural notions of appropriateness/inappropriateness will function as gatekeepers to change.

Gender-based violence when women do challenge such notions, they can face violence, a key mechanism of control exercised at the family and community level. Gender-based violence – both threatened and actual acts of gender based violence is used to deny women rights, power over self and access to decision-making forums, including but not only the formal political processes. To eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, it is crucial that people first reject the 'cultural' excuses that justify and thereby perpetuate such violence. Violent practices in the name of culture are serious impediments to women's power and decision-making.

Support systems for decision-making .It is important to identify which support mechanisms, institutions and actors women can and most frequently access in different environments for which issues. Decision-making is often predicated on accessing some support. One reason that women decide to forego their inheritance, for example, is in order not to alienate their brothers

who are perceived as the main source of support should problems arise in their marriages. For women to exercise decision-making requires ensuring women's access to safe spaces (e.g. shelters, meeting rooms, safe spaces) that would enable them to discuss their issues and arrive at meaningful and empowering choices.

From the above reviews, the major constraints in rural women empowerment are lack of education, lack of freedom to take decision, over burdened with responsibility of performing both household and economic activities, lack of social mobility and insufficient loans and lack of capacity building through training. In addition to these, system of supporting women for decision making, traditional culture and religious and gender based violence are among the constraints for their empowerment.

2.5. Ethiopian Women's Overall Situation

Ethiopia is a country whose peoples were victims of direct abuse and oppression due to being subjected to an age old backward and UN democratic systems. Obviously women, who constitute half of the population, were victims of this abusive and oppressive system that was imposed on the whole population. As if the abuse they endured as part of the population was not enough, it is an irrefutable fact that they were also exposed to serious problems due to the extra abuses committed against them because their sex. As a result of this, our country's women have had to endure double oppression and were exposed to higher suffering and maltreatment when compared to their male counterpart (Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012).

It is known that the both male and female people of Ethiopia never gave their blessings to the oppression and abuse imposed on them. Ethiopian women for example waged a relentless struggle to end the era of oppression and abuse. They were active in the fields of peaceful as well as armed struggles and paid immense sacrifices to overcome oppression and establish a democratic system.

After the chapter of the struggle that Ethiopian women waged, along with their male compatriots to remove the dictatorial Derg regime (1974-91) was completed, they moved into playing a key role in the struggle to build a new democratic and developmental order in our country. The

backward production system maintained the ancient, just as backward attitude and culture. Backward attitude, thus, it is believed that the women's struggle will continue until all manner of backwardness is completely eradicated. Based on this basic concept our county's women have intensified their struggle in various fields after the downfall of Derg. They have also been able to achieve new victories that ensure women's participation in all fields and their benefits. The current situation of Ethiopian women is stated, in detail, as follows (Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012).

2.6. A Good beginning

In the last 15 years of development, democracy and peace in our country; encouraging results have been observed with regards to ensuring women's benefits. Ethiopian women have significantly benefited from the peace that prevails in our country. Women's equality has been given constitutional guarantee for the first time, as their issue has merited great attention in the federal and regional Constitutions. Based on the Constitution, the Family law was also legislated in each region. Accordingly, a corner stone has been laid to enable women enjoy equal rights and responsibilities with regard to the family. They have constitutional protection in their struggle to get rid of customs and norms that perpetuate men's dominance and oppression (Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012).

Women's participation in councils and executive bodies of the government at every level is increasing. In the Federal and Regional councils, the number of women elected in the 2nd round of the nation wide polls was more than the 1st round and there was a significant improvement in the 3rd round election too. Women's seats in the Federal Parliament have tripled in three consecutive elections. Their participation in District and Kebele Councils has also shown a tremendous improvement. They now control about fifty percent of the seats in four of the nine regions(Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012)..

Commendable results are being achieved with regard to developing women's participation and ensuring their benefits. In rural development, women's participation and benefits are increasing in various fields such as agricultural packages as well as credit and cooperatives services. In urban areas; the number of women, who are engaged in small and micro enterprises and production firms, has shown real progress. Women's participation in education and training has also shown improvement. Among pupils who are currently at primary schools, girls make up

45% they are 35% in secondary schools and 22.1% in institutions of higher education. Women teachers' role in education has also shown a significant growth. The number of women at the federal and regional levels of the civil service has shown an increase and all these facts prove that attention is now given, in all fields, to increase women's participation in development.

With regard to health, promising results are achieved in pre and post partum examination, mothers and children's vaccination, family planning and reproductive health services in both rural and urban areas. Activities regarding potable water services, infrastructure and technological development to alleviate women's work load, are also being implemented.

These positive beginnings and promising results shall further be enhanced and strengthened. The positive results register so far are only indicators that prove change can and will be achieved. But, they don't actually indicate that fundamental changes have been made in ensuring women's all round participation and benefits. It needs to be said that we still have a long way to go in this regard (Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012).

2.7. Ensuring women's economic, social and political participation and benefits requires continuous efforts.

Though encouraging results have already been achieved in different fields as mentioned earlier, we have to admit that due to the country's overall economic, social and political conditions and the deep rooted nature of women's problems, there are still several challenges that need to be addressed with relentless and focused attention.

With regard to the economic condition of rural and urban women, though their descriptions may vary, dependence, failure to implement the right to equal access and control of resources in the family (as provided in the constitution) etc. Have exposed them to various challenges. In particular, women in rural areas spend 13-18 hours burdened with heavy work load. Grinding flour fetching fire wood and water over long distances, weeding, digging and other duties are some of the chores with which rural women are burdened on a daily basis. Moreover, they are not beneficiaries and owners of the fruits of their work. Their right to equal power isn't given due recognition by the family or the communities they live in. Except in Tigray and Amhara regions, where radical land redistribution was carried out, their right to land ownership and use is not guaranteed anywhere in the country. Women's share in credit services is also low. There are

problems causing women not to benefit from credit services, that boil down to simple excuses. Their contribution in non agricultural income generating activities is very limited and there is also a visible and real problem expressed through ignoring women's participation in the planning and implementation of various developmental activities.

In many ways, women are the major victims of social afflictions. Their participation and benefits in basic health services and education have actually not reached the desired level. Though encouraging work is underway in spreading education to the rural areas, parents prefer their daughter to stay home and assist their mothers rather than go to school with the belief that girls can achieve nothing by learning. On the other hand, non availability of sufficient schools in is also a problem. Even if schools exist, there is a tendency to prevent girls from attending for fear of violence against them if they need to walk long distances. Due to all these reasons, female participation is lower than that of the male. Even those girls who had the opportunity go to school won't move beyond the 2nd cycle due to economic problems as well as fear of attack when schools are at distant locations. Providing non formal education to mothers and other women with no access to schools has also not progressed as desired.

Vaccination and reproductive health services for to women in rural areas are only at the initial stage. The number of women, who are exposed to serious health problems due to harmful traditional practices, is still significant. Female circumcision, early marriage, abduction, rape, etc.... are causing serious health problems to women and children. Due to age old, deep rooted gender dominance, women's rights in the economic field has not been ensured. Thus, their economic significance and benefits are minimal considering the opportunities that are available today. Women don't get adequate credit facilities that would enable them to access economic resource and increase their incomes en par with men. In the past women were not provided with training or capacity building to enable them utilize economic opportunities or to be engaged in self employed. This fact forced women in urban areas to be exposed to social & economic challenges such as unemployment and poverty. Though women are benefiting from the broad economic programs of the current government, it needs to be said that they are still being exposed to serious problems due to the prevalent deep rooted inequality poverty and backwardness. Thus, enabling women to become participants in and beneficiaries from the economic growth of the country is the most burning issue today.

As Ethiopian women have lower participation and benefit in the economic field, their social condition is still lower than expected, its constant improvement not with standing. Though urban women's participation in education is better than that of rural women, it is still lower than that of men. Among students who join institutions of higher learning women's share is only 16.2% in diploma, 22.5% in Degree, 9.2% in Masters Programs and 6.4% in the Doctoral Degree program. Women don't still enjoy inexpensive health services that would enable them to overcome various natural and man made health risks. Though the reproductive health and vaccination services are better than in the rural areas they too have not reached a level where they can address the needs of urban women adequately. Women in urban areas are also exposed to various harmful traditions and other cultural problems. They also have no fore where their issues can be identified and solutions suggestion. Thus, urban women's participation and benefits have not been adequately ensured yet(Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012).

Though both rural & urban women are participants in and beneficiaries of the overall democratic system that is already in place their political participation in and benefits from development have not reached the desired and expected levels.

To ensure women's participation and their benefits, the crucial agenda must address their economic, social & political needs. The agenda must be designed with the participation of the women themselves who must discuss the issues and conduct all round and organized activities to effect their implementation. Moreover, women must be engaged in an organized participation in the common agenda of the communities they live in. It is through this process that both their participation and benefits will be ensured. Together with this, work must be done to develop women's participation at different leadership levels within their own communities. When women's leadership participation is developed, their agendas will have a better chance of becoming part of the communities' important agenda.

However there are no significant activities meant to design & implement agendas that involve women massively. Although, with time some progress has been observed in this regard there are no facilities that are capable of igniting a broad and continuous participation of women. Watching the issue from this board view, it is a fact that women themselves have not exerted enough efforts to engage themselves at the desired level. The problem in this regard is that the women's effort for the respect of their rights and benefits in an integrated and organized manner.

They do not adequately challenge forces with ulterior motives bent on advancing their own narrow agendas contrary to that of the broad masses of women.

The government's effort to build women's leadership capacity is still insignificant and women's participation in different leadership levels is extremely low. These problems are further boosted by deep rooted cultures and attitudes that impact women negatively.

Thus; to solve the problem of this isolation caused by backward economic and political systems, cultures and attitudes as well as lack of organized an struggle for a real movement that ensure women's equality and benefits, activities should be carried out to have meaningful organized political participation. This can be applied either through the women's demand or by addressing issues raised with in the society. In general both in rural and urban areas women face serious economic and social challenges. The prevailing poverty and backwardness in the country also affect women more than men. The already started developmental activities and various plans are not alleviating women's unemployment, lack of income, high cost of living etc. at the desired speed or level. Thus, women are developing sense pessimism and even despair on issues related to their equality and benefits.

In the political field, no facility has been arranged to enable women enjoy full participation. As a result they are developing a sense of isolation and aloofness towards the political struggle in the country. Thus, so as to apply our country's commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDGS) and solve women's economic, social and political problems, decisive action needs to be applied in a sustainable manner. It is through their process that the basic problems that cause this desperation and aloofness can be effectively addressed.

2.8. Why the desired change has not been achieved so far?

According to Annual Report of MoWCA, 2012, the reason why the desired changes has not been achieved was summarized under the following three headings

2.8.1. Existence of male chauvinism

Ensuring women's equality requires avoiding gender dominance in all fields. Male chauvinism, that claims that women are not equal to men, has prevailed in our country, for ages, and was even endorses by the law, all religions and traditions. Men's dominance exists not because it is inherent in men's behavior or as a result of men's desire to dominate but the socio economic

system that ensures women's equality does not exist in reality. Chauvinism is not based on men's desire to oppress. It is, rather, caused by the fact that women were prevented from equally participating, with the men, in the economic, social and political activities of society.

Currently, a system that ensures women's equality, is being implemented in our country and there is no legal or political reason for male dominance to prevail.

A Conducive environment, that ensures women's equality in the economic and social spheres, is in the process of being created now. However; gender inequality that has various expressions, is still an obstacle to women's rights. As it is a deep rooted problem it is not possible to eradicate it within a short period of time. This is manifested by the attitude that refuses to accept the truth that women can and should be equal to men. It is also manifested by claiming to accept that women should be equal to men but failing to practice it and refusing to be ready to work towards ensuring women's equality at all.

The problem also exists at different levels of government structure, the family, and the society at large. It is a fact that this state of affairs has made a significant contribution to hindering women from equally participating in and benefiting from our country's development, democratization and peace agenda. To enable women engage in any job that is compatible with their capacity, knowledge and experience, increase their income and improve their lives is a real challenge as there are circumstances where they are denied the opportunity through various backward and unjust excuses. Thus, to give special attention to solving this injustice and eliminate it, altogether women's and the societies continuous struggle is of almost importance.

2.8.2. Low conscious participation of women

It is a fact that women's problems can only be solved through their own active and committed struggle and participation. By women's active participation is meant that all women are aware of the fact that the challenges that face them can only be overcome through their own struggle, through their own awareness, and capacity and participation. After ensuring this, women must advance to the implementation process and ensure their effectiveness, in practically, by developing their own capacity. It must be said, though, that this process is still very weak in our country.

Though it may vary from one region to another, it is a fact that there is no significant activity regarding women's emancipation in all the regions of our country. The so called women's associations are weak and it is impossible to claim that there is an unprecedented, visible and organized struggle meant to change the women's lot. Women scholars, who would be expected to play a front line role in the women's struggle are not engaged in activities that aim to change the overall condition of women, in our country.

2.8.3. Lack of competent Political Leadership

There is lack of competent political leadership on par with what it takes to ensure women's equality which can only be ensured through a multi-pronged, enter connected and coordinated struggle. There should be correct policies and strategies that address the economic, political social and cultural challenges that face them. Which need to be part and parcel of the over all struggle which should be waged not only women but also by the whole society. Women must also be aware that all these can only be implemented through their own awareness and relentless organized effort and struggle.

The existence or non existence of competent political leadership has an extremely significant role to play in properly addressing women's issues. In the last 15 years, the role of the political leadership at each level in addressing women's issues was truly insignificant. Though women's issues can not be addressed in isolation of the overall economic, social and political struggle of the whole society enough work that understood this point was not in place at all.

It can be said that the, attention given by the political leadership to the question of women's equality is not at all at the desired level. The problem starts when women are prevented from having sufficient participation at the leadership level. Satisfactory work has not been done to build the political capacity of women as to enable them to be active participants in political work. Due to lack of accurate and strategic responses only, fluctuating activities have been performed, so far. This has in turn caused the women's struggle to be lacking in strength not to be and political leadership. This state of affairs negatively impacted the implementation of the developmental policies strategies and good governance programs that benefit women.

Thereby, opened a door for forces who wanted to benefit and fulfill their own agenda by the expense of women.

2.9. Framework of Analysis for the Study of Rural Women Empowerment

An effective rural women empowerment is very important to institutionalize empowerment of rural women in socio-economic and political aspects in the country. Hence, improving empowerment of rural women in social aspects like access to information, participation of women in social activities and organizations, freedom of movement of rural women without the consent of their spouse, cultural influence and violence against rural women (traditional harmful practices) has paramount significance.

In addition, economic empowerment of rural women also has important relationship with economic factors that includes access to and control over assets, access to credit and saving services. Moreover, the legal or political aspect that mainly focuses on participation of women in decision making positions are important in rural women empowerment strategies. Finally, the model presented in the Figure 1 defines the relationship amongst the rural women empowerment and the socio-economic and political factors.

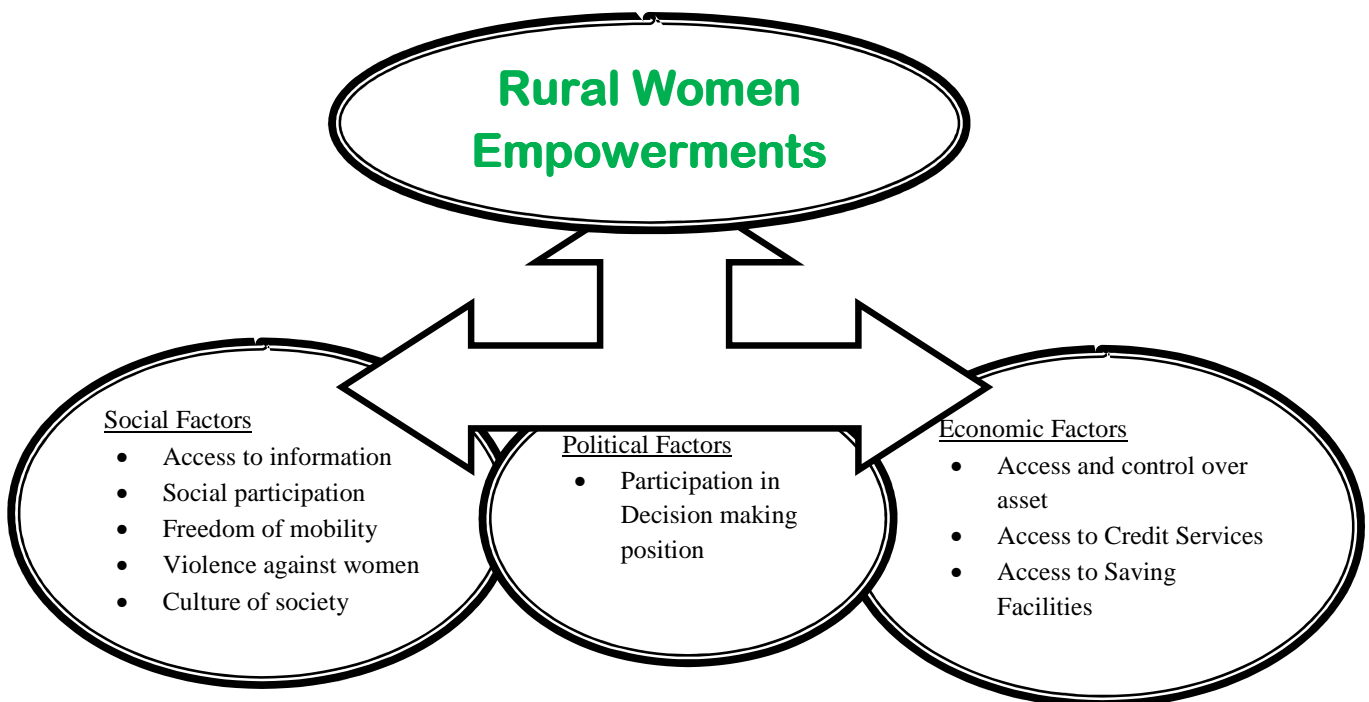


Figure 1: *Determinant factors and process for rural women empowerment*

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1. Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Guduru district (figure 1) one of the districts found in Horo Guduru Wollega Zone of Oromia Regional State. It is located on the Eastern part of the zone. Currently the district is sub-divided in to 31 Farmer Associations, three rural town and 16 farmers' service co-operatives with the total members of 2,316,093. Kombosha is the capital town of the district located about 65 km from the zonal capital town Shambu and about 260 km from capital town of Oromia known as Finifine (Addis Ababa).

The district possesses a total area of **1411.7 km²** which divided into three types of geographical areas with different proportions. High land (9.18%) mid-land (60%) and low land (6%) and also the district has three types of soils. These are loam soil (80%) clay loam soil (5%) sand soil (15%). The district is belongs to a sub humid climate zone with of dry season from October to February and the long raining season occurred from June to September and to short spell of showers b/n mid February and April. The mean annual rainfall of the district is about **1400mm**; the mean daily temperature is low-17 c^o, medium-22 c^o and high-27c^o. There is only one mountain in this district namely Tulu Habib with 2430 meters above the sea level.

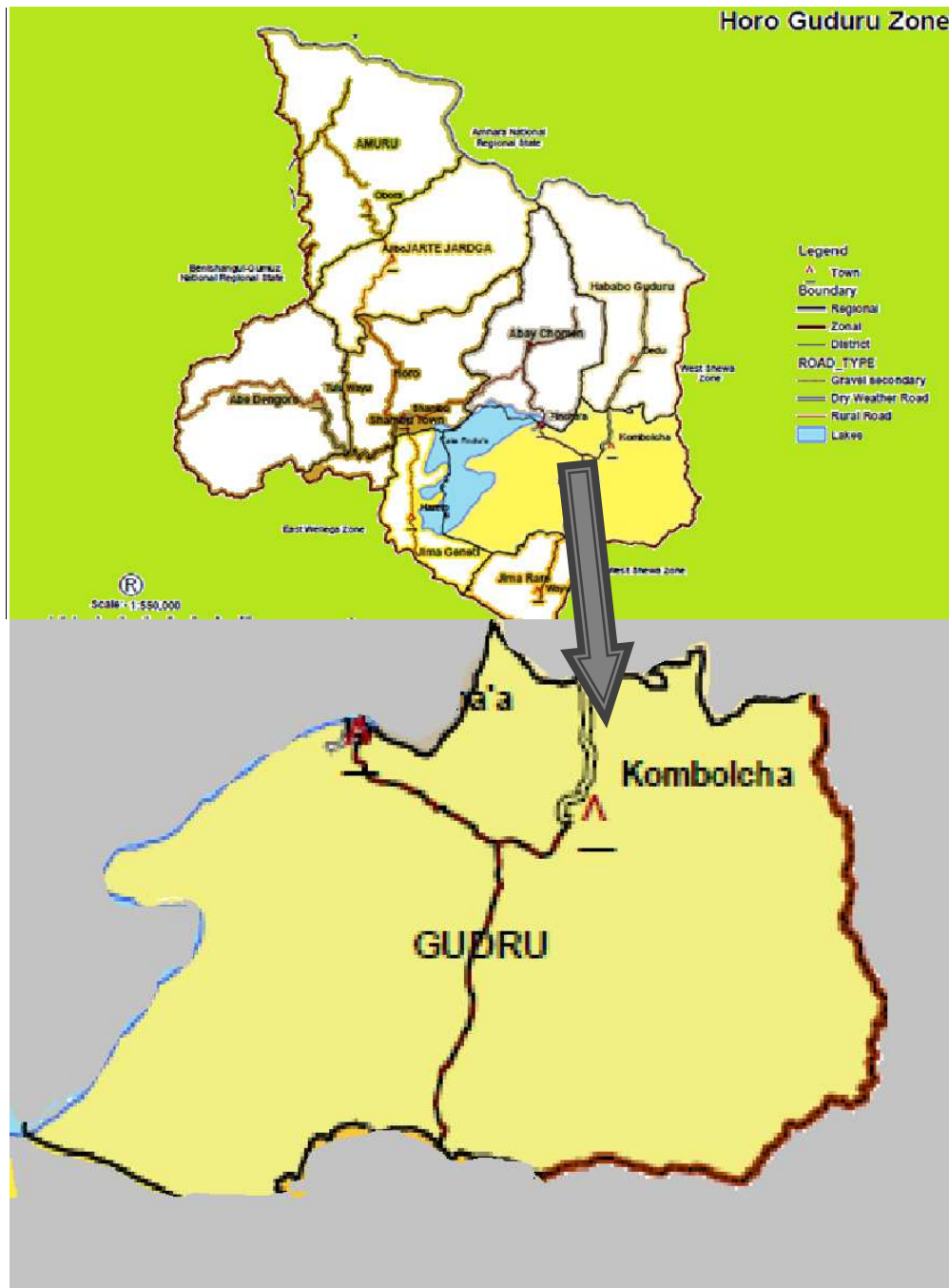


Figure 2: Map of the Study Area/Guduru District

Source: Bureau of Finance and Economic Development of Oromia Regional State

The 1999 population and housing census result is the base of population projection all over the country. Based on this census result the population of Guduru district is projected to be 106489 of which 6.7 % was urban population and 93.3 % was rural population in 2002 E.C. Of the total

population in the district, about 50.4% of the population was female and the remaining 49.6% was male, which directly sustains his life and the neighboring urban dwellers by the agricultural and similar activities.

The Agro-ecology of the district is favorable for diverse agricultural production. Of the total area of 1411.7 km² of the district land, around 33.36% was land under crop (annual and potential crop, 37.75% of the land is reserved for the future land uses, 12.18% is posture/grazing land, 14.4% is forest land and 2.26 is swampy and marphy land. Among cash crops sesame has the major contribution and the leading place for household consumption as well as for local market. Vegetables and fruits are also among those crops grown in the district out limited area of coverage. In 2001E.C. & in 2002E.C.there was somewhat considerable increments registered both in terms of quality and quantity of crop production. According to the district agricultural bureau, the major crop pests such as, locusts, army -worms, birds, apes and diseases were occurred at some places in the district occasionally. Live stock play a great role in day-to-day life of society, especially in peasant life. They provide meat and milk, transport, manure, skin and hide & furnish regular & easily realizable cash income. But, in contrast to the size of the live stock population, physically and value productivity are low.

3.2. Research Design

The research design adopted for the present study was summarized on the table below:

Table1: The research design for the study

No	Nature of the data	Tools Employed	Nature of the sample	Sample size
1	Quantitative	Survey Questionnaires	Rural women households	216
			Rural town women house holds	54
			Women civil servant in the district	32
2	Qualitative	Interview Question	District Administrative office	2
			Women's and Children affairs office	3
		Focus Group Discussion	Elders', religious leaders' and kebeles administrative and civil servant found at selected kebeles	52

The quantitative nature of data collection was based on structured survey questionnaires that include questions on practice and the challenges of rural women empowerments. Basic information was collected on demographic and socioeconomic and legal aspects situation of survey respondents. The qualitative nature of data was collected using both structure interview and focus group discussion mainly focused on the practice and challenge of rural women empowerment at the study area.

3.3. Sampling Techniques and Sample Size

The source of population is the current total number of women at household level aged (15-59) in the selected woreda. The organized data that describes the physical and socio-economic profile of the woreda indicates that there were about **17,520** grand total populations of women aged (15-59) at rural kebeles, towns and public sectors as of 2004 E.C consisting of 16,362 in 31 rural kebeles and 1,158 in urban town including public sectors in the district

Based on the identified population number, the sample size determination techniques from among different methods were the one which has developed by Carvalho (1984), cited by Zelalem (2005) will be used. The method is presented in the following table.

Table2: Sample Size Determination technique

Population size	Sample Size		
	Low	Medium	High
51-90	5	13	20
91-150	8	20	32
151-280	13	32	50
281-500	20	50	80
501-1200	32	80	125
1201-3200	50	125	200
3021-10000	80	200	315
10001-35000	125	315	500
35001-150000	200	500	800

As indicated above the population size of the study area was 17,520 which ranges between 10,001 – 35,000 according to Carvalho’s sample size determination indicated in the table 1. Thus , taking in to account a small population size variance and the cost of getting each samples and time consuming for large sample size , medium sample size is more appropriate applying in accordance with the given population size. Therefore, 315 respondents were selected as a sample size and questionnaires were distributed for the selected sample sizes though 302 questionnaires were replayed.

Next to the sample size determination as well as considering the heterogeneity of the population, first the district was categorized into four strata (as East, West, Northern and Southern part). From each stratum, using random sampling techniques (lottery system), one kebele and from three rural town also one rural town was selected. Hence, four rural kebeles and one rural town was selected as a sample area. The remaining sample was collected from women civil servant in the district by selecting sectors (Health, Education, Women Affairs , Administration offices, Finances and others) using purposive methods of sampling. Therefore, 4 rural kebeles, one urban town and public sectors in the district were used as a sample area. From the identified kebeles ,rural towns and public sectors , appropriate sample size for questionnaire administration was again selected by using **proportionality sampling technique** to give equal weights for each selected kebeles , towns and public sectors. Once the total sample size from each kebele , towns and public sectors were determined, appropriate respondents from the kebeles ,towns and public sectors were selected by **using random sampling technique**. Accordingly, the sample size for the study was identified and summarized in the following tables:

Table 3: Sampling Techniques

No	Name of kebele/Town/Sectors	Number of Respondents	Percents(%)
1	Baro kebele	52	17.20
2	A/Robi kebele	55	18.20
3	I/A/Tolera kebele	61	20.20
4	Sirba kebele	48	15.90
5	Kombolcha Rural Town	54	17.9
6	Health Sector	9	3.1
7	Education Sector	8	2.6
8	Administrative Office	4	1.3
9	Justice Office	3	1.0
10	Others	8	2.6
	Total	302	100

3.4. Method of Data Collection

Both the secondary and primary data was used in the study. The secondary data was collected from the regional, zonal and district levels like reports, journals, magazines, brochures etc that helps the researcher to have more concepts about the practices and challenges of rural women empowerments.

Similarly, the primary data was collected by using triangulation techniques (cross checking) data collection techniques from four data sources. First, the primary data was collected from women found at households' levels in the selected rural kebeles, selected rural towns and civil servants of the study area using designed questionnaires. Second, the data was gathered from district administrative office leaders and women affairs office leaders at the study area by using structured interview question .This category of interview helps the researcher to identify how much women in the district were beneficiaries from socio economic and legal aspects enacted based on their proportion in the total population. Thirdly, the data was collected using group discussion with elders', religious leaders' and professionals as well as civil servant found at selected kebeles to know the perception of the society concerning rural women empowerment. .

Therefore, questioners, interview, group discussion and personal observation were used as the data collection tools.

The research questionnaire was originally prepared in English. It was carefully articulated and translated to the local language *Afan Oromo*, so that language should not be barrier to respondents to spell out what they have in mind. The translated version of the questionnaire was carefully cross-checked with the initial English version and was similar in content and structure to avoid error during data entry.

A pre-test was conducted before actual data collection using small representative sample to find out whether the questions are measuring what was intended to be measured. Clarity of wordings in view of respondents' level of understanding was checked on the pre-test to avoid research bias. It was proved that respondents have good understanding of questions presented in the questionnaire. Pre-test survey respondents were not included in the main survey to avoid bias on responses. The main data collection was conducted from January to mid of February 2013.

3.5. Data processing and analysis

3.5.1. Data processing

Quantitative raw data collected using questionnaires was organized and pre-processing test was carried out right after the field data collection was completed. Method of data entry was arranged categorically and carefully using the latest version of **SPSS 16.0**. Questionnaires were coded by rural women households, rural town women households and the women civil servants in districts with different sectors to facilitate analysis of questions on which respondents were required to specify their opinions and to facilitate analysis of the open-ended question on the questionnaire. Responses on these questions were carefully collected and summarized. Outputs were categorized into different components relating relevant variables for convenient use in analysis of findings.

Qualitative data collected through interviews, focus group discussions and observations were put into different categorical variables. Major themes were identified and analyzed thematically in line with research questions and were summarized for use in descriptive and econometric

analysis. Identified themes of the qualitative survey were related to categorical arrangements of the quantitative survey outputs.

3.5.2. Quality and Ethical Consideration

The researcher received official permit from the host institution namely Oromia Public Service College to collect the data from the study area found 260 km from Addis Ababa (the capital city of the country) to the study area. The district women's affairs office, administration office and the others were willing to assist the researcher. Quantitative data collection respondents and qualitative data collection informants were provided detail explanation about the overall objective of the study ahead of time. Interview was administered on free will of interviewees. Information provided by interviewees will not be transferred to a third party or will not be used for any other purpose apart from this study.

3.5.3. Method of Data Analysis

As far as the methodological issues are concerned, both descriptive and econometric model was used to analysis and find out the results.

3.5.3.1. Descriptive Method of Data Analysis

The descriptive method of data analysis was important to analysis the demography of the population in the study area in terms of age, educational background, number of children, marital status, spatial distribution ...etc. of the respondents and overall population. To this end, the descriptive methods of statistical analysis like percentage, mean standard deviation and appropriate graph and chart line tools were used at the study area.

3.5.3.2. The Econometric Model for Data Analysis

Logistic regression is useful for situations in which you want to be able to predict the presence or absence of a characteristic or outcome based on values of a set of predictor variables. It is similar to a linear regression model but is suited to models where the dependent variable is dichotomous. Logistic regression coefficients can be used to estimate odds ratios for each of the independent variables in the model. The practices and challenges for rural women empowerment is **binary or dichotomous** in its nature .It may be low or high based on the outcomes. Hence, the binary

logistic distribution function for the practices and challenges of rural women empowerment is specified as:

$$pi = \frac{1}{1+e^{-zi}} = \frac{e^{zi}}{(1+e^{-zi})} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where pi is the probability of higher empowerment for i^{th} rural women and it ranges from 0 – 1 and zi is a function of m explanatory variables (x_i) and is expressed as:

$$Z_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots \dots \dots + \beta_n x_n \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where β_0 is the intercept and $\beta_{1,2}$ are slope parameters in the model. The slope tells us how the log odds in favor of women’s empowerment change as independent variable changes. However, the meaning of a logistic regression coefficient β_1 in the binary logistic regression is not as straightforward as that of a linear regression coefficient. While β_1 is convenient for testing the usefulness of predictors, $\text{Exp}(B)$ is easier to interpret. The dependent variable of the model was represented by the practices and challenges of rural women empowerment (**RWE**) at Guduru worda. It is variable dichotomous in which the decision to high empowerment is represented by 1 and low empowerment is represented by 0

3.5.3.3. The Independent Variable

There were various numbers of explanatory variables so far identified and have strong bond with the rural women empowerment in the study area. For the purpose of detail investigation, the **nine** explanatory variables were identified and discussed below.

i. Information Access (INFO)

With increasing socio-economic and political development of any country, the need for information dissemination and communication among member of society is increasing. The monthly local meetings, annual general meetings, and all awareness creation held to keep the women aware of socio-economic, and to discuss issues such as gender and related policies and strategies, rule and regulation have paramount importance in women empowerment. This variable is operationalized as the extent to which the respondent participate in gender and related issues and used the mass media channels *viz.*, radio, television and newspaper as a source of information.

ii. Social Participation (PAR)

Rural women membership in different organization increases their social empowerments through developing self confidence and acquiring some financial independence. Therefore, this variable was operationalized since the respondents are more participate as a member in any organization is assumed to increase their empowerments.

iii. Violence against women (VIO)

Promoting Constitutional guarantees of equality by removing the impediments of societal belief, harmful traditional practices and prejudices increases rural women empowerment in social affairs by eliminating all forms of violence against them in the country. Therefore, the variable is operationalized as reducing violence against women increases their empowerment in societal aspects and the two are hypothesized as they are inversely correlated.

iv. Women's Freedom of Mobility (PAU)

Most of the earlier research findings show that in many cases the freedom of movement of the rural women is also restricted (Kishore, et al. (2004). The women are not allowed to go elsewhere alone and any delay from the place of work is often considered a violation of the norm. Under these circumstances, women are not empowered since they are restricted to move anywhere without the permission of their husband. Hence the variable takes into account the mobility of the women as the most important indicator to judge whether the rural women are empowered or not.

v. Culture of the Society(CUL)

Women's participation is often met with enormous challenges deeply ingrained in traditions and customs that have for a long time constituted societal practices. The traditional harmful beliefs of women are good as cooks, sex providers and juniors are still persistent. The contributing factors to low level of women's empowerment were cultural influence, and husbands influence through limiting their physical mobility and contacts by making them subordinate of the male members of the family.. Within the culture of the society, women were seen as subordinate to men, and the husband plays a dominant role and religion has a big influence (*Bedru Hassen Ergicho, 2011*).

vi. Access and control over lands(ASST)

Access denotes women's access to factors of production on an equal basis with men such as equal access to land, labor, credit, training, marketing facilities, public services and benefits, etc. Of all, land is the basic means of production in the study area. Providing women with access to productive resources, particularly land will significantly help to ensure their empowerment so boost food security and livelihoods in rural areas. The variable is operationalized as women more access and control over land, it increases their empowerment and vice-versa.

vii. Access to Credit Services (CRED)

When credit facilities and micro-finance support reach large number of poor and disadvantaged rural women for borrowing, it increases women's ability to earn income that can support the well-being of women and their families. Even though credit support and microfinance facilities are very important for poverty reduction and empowerment of rural women, various studies reveals that most of rural women do not have access to credit and micro-finance support (Bedru Hassen and Ergicho, 2011). Microfinance enables poor women to become economic agents of change by increasing their income and productivity, access to markets and information, and decision-making power (World Bank).Accordingly, it is hypothesized as rural women have more access to credit services ,it indicates that they are more empowered and vice-versa

viii. Access to Saving (SAV)

When saving facilities and micro-finance support reach large number of poor and disadvantaged rural women, it increases women's ability to increase their income that can support the well-being of women and their families converting into capital or fixed asset in the long run. However, access to saving support are very important for poverty reduction and empowerment of rural women, various studies reveals that most of rural women do not have access to saving and micro-finance support (Bedru Hassen and Ergicho, 2011). Microfinance enables poor women to become economic agents of change by increasing their income and productivity, access to markets and information, and decision-making power (World Bank).Accordingly, it is hypothesized as rural women have more access to saving services ,it indicates that they were more empowered and vice-versa

ix. Women's participation in Decision making position (DEC)

Women's status in public sector is low. They are still largely underrepresented in decision-making positions at all levels. There were no progresses in attaining power in legislative bodies (Ministry of Women's Affairs, 2006). Therefore, was operationalized as the women's participation in decision making was increased, their empowerment was also increased and vice-versa.

CHAPTER 4

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Assessments of rural women empowerment depends on several key socio-economic and legal factors that differ from place to place. This study conducted over Guduru woreda was one of the woreda found in the western part of Oromia Regional State in Ethiopia, attempted to include those variables that have direct relevance with rural women empowerment in the study area. The appropriate data analysis techniques were both the descriptive statistics and responsive econometric models. Firstly, descriptive data analysis was used via frequency, percentage, graphs, mean, standard deviation, etc. Finally, the data analysis was undertaken using the econometric model identified.

4.1. Characteristics of survey respondents

Quantitative data is collected and analyzed on demographic and social characteristics of the respondents. They were asked about their spatial distribution, marital status, age of marriage, number of children, educational status and others background.

4.1.1. Spatial Distribution of the Respondents

As can be seen in the table below, 71.5% of the respondents were from the rural households and about 18% of them were from the urban level women households and the remaining percent were from the women civil servants in the study area.

Table 5: Spatial Distribution of the Respondents

Spatial Distribution	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Rural Households	216	71.5	71.5	71.5
Urban level Households	54	17.9	17.9	89.4
Civil Servant	32	10.6	10.6	100.0
Total	302	100.0	100.0	

4.1.2. Age Distributions of the Respondents

Of the total respondents, 55% were aged between 25 to 35 years followed by 25.2% which were aged 25 years. Only 11.3% were between 36 to 40 years old while a further 5.3% were between 41 to 50 years. Therefore, the study covers women from different age groups and more than 50% of the respondents were between 25 to 35.

Table 6: Age distribution of the respondents

Educational Status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
below 25	76	25.2	25.2	25.2
25-35	166	55.0	55.0	80.1
36-40	34	11.3	11.3	91.4
41-50	16	5.3	5.3	96.7
51-60	7	2.3	2.3	99.0
61 and above	3	1.0	1.0	100.0
Total	302	100.0	100.0	

4.1.3. Educational Status

The variable education was operationalized as the number of years of formal education acquired by the rural women. The categorization of women respondents' educational status was done based on illiterate, non-formal education, first cycle of primary education(1-4) ,second cycle of primary education(5-8) ,secondary school education(9-10), preparatory level(11-12) ,Diploma ,BA degree and above. Accordingly, the educational status of the respondents in the study area was summarized as follows.

Table 7: Educational Status of the Respondents

Educational Status		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Illiterate	157	52.0	52.0	52.0
	Non-Formal Education	36	11.9	11.9	63.9
	1-4	22	7.3	7.3	71.2
	5-8	25	8.3	8.3	79.5
	9-10	12	4.0	4.0	83.4
	11-12	14	4.6	4.6	88.1
	Diploma	27	8.9	8.9	97.0
	BA and above	9	3.0	3.0	100.0
	Total	302	100.0	100.0	

As shown in the table 7 above, the educational level of the respondents indicates that 52% of them were illiterate, about 12% of the respondents had non-formal education and the remaining 36% of the respondents had received their educational level from 1-4 and above. When we see the educational status of the respondents in terms of the spatial distribution, of the total illiterate respondents, 87.3% of the illiterate women households were from the rural area and the remaining 12.7% illiterate respondents were from the urban level women households.

4.1.4. Marital Status of Respondents

The table below indicated that, 73.2% (221 women) of the respondents were married which was followed by 19.2% of the women respondents single and whereas 5% and 2.6% are widow and divorced respectively. Hence, it is clear that 7.6 % (23) of the women respondents were female headed households.

Table 8: Marital status of the respondents

Marital Status		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Single	58	19.2	19.2	19.2
	Married	221	73.2	73.2	92.4
	Divorced	8	2.6	2.6	95.0
	Widowed	15	5.0	5.0	100.0
	Total	302	100.0	100.0	

The Table 9 below indicates that, among married women respondents (221), nearly 91.5% (202) were categorized under women at household level. Moreover, of the total married respondents, 80% (177) agreed on low empowerment level and only 20 % of them categorized under high empowerment level. Moreover, it is clear that there is relationship between empowerment level of rural women and their marital status. Hence, the married women were categorized under low empowerment level due to higher work overload and child carrying responsibility.

Table 9: Empowerment of women and Marital Status of the respondents

Level of Empowerment	Marital Status of respondents				Total
	Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed	Single
EMPoRW High	16	44	4	0	64
Low	42	177	4	15	238
Total	58	221	8	15	302

4.1.5. Duration of Marriage Life

According to Gizachew Birmata, BOWCA, (2012), prevalence of early marriage seems dropped from 31.1% in 1997 to 21.4% in 2009 across the country and about 1 in 5 Ethiopia women are married by their 15th birth day. However, as can be depicted in the table 9 below, among the total married women respondents, 38.4% of them were concluded their marriage at below 18 years age followed by about 21% of age between 19-21 years of age.

Table 10: Duration of Marriage Life

Duration of Marriage Life	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0	47	15.6	15.8	15.8
below 15	13	4.3	4.4	20.1
15-18	103	34.1	34.6	54.7
19-21	63	20.9	21.1	75.8
22-25	54	17.9	18.1	94.0
26 and above	18	6.0	6.0	100.0
Total	298	98.7	100.0	
Total	302	100.0		

In addition, among the total married women respondents who have number of children 5 and above, about 64% of them were those who concluded their marriage below 18 years age and this fact realizes that early marriage increases the maternal fertility rate. Moreover, among the total married women respondents who have number of children 5 and above (119), about 91% of them (108) belonged to the low empowerment categories and only 9% of them categorized under high empowerment level.

Therefore, it is interesting to note that early marriage accompanied with higher maternal fertility rate significantly erodes the rural women empowerment in all aspects because they face higher levels of responsibilities with respect to their health issues, education, and other child related issues. Since more time is devoted to these issues, lesser time is allotted for other things. Thus there is a negative relationship between the number of children and the empowerment level of the rural women in the study area.

Table11: shows number of children of the respondents

No of Children	No. of Children						Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5 and above	0
0	47	0	0	0	0	0	47
below 15	0	0	6	0	0	7	13
15-18	3	17	0	10	4	69	103
19-21	3	14	12	6	9	19	63
22-25	15	16	3	0	0	20	54
26 and above	0	7	4	0	3	4	18
Total	68	54	25	16	16	119	298

4.1.6. Information Access

Accessing any types of information or media is the window to the world that can play a pivotal role in acquainting the women about their rights and updating them in accordance with the present dynamic world. It indicates the highest influencing power of concerned variable on women empowerment at the study area. Accordingly, among the total respondents only 13.8% of women has come in contact with media mainly electronic and about 86.2% of the respondents were have low access to any type of media or information. In terms of sources of information used for rural women, 79.2% of them agreed that they uses radio as a sources of information followed by TV access which accounts about 12.5%.

4.1.7. Participation

Because women also have less access to education, this may also limit their participation, particularly in decision making and social activities. Among the total illiterate respondent women in the study area, about 92 % of them belong to low level of participation and only 8% of illiterate respondents belong to high participation in their own affairs. Conversely, of all respondents women belongs to low participation (268), 144 of them were women of educational status under the categories of illiterate which accounts 53.73% followed by non-formal education level 12.3%. Moreover, of total respondents belong to low empowerment (238), 92.4% of them were those respondents categorized under low participation

Table12: Educational Status Vs Women Participation in Social Affaires

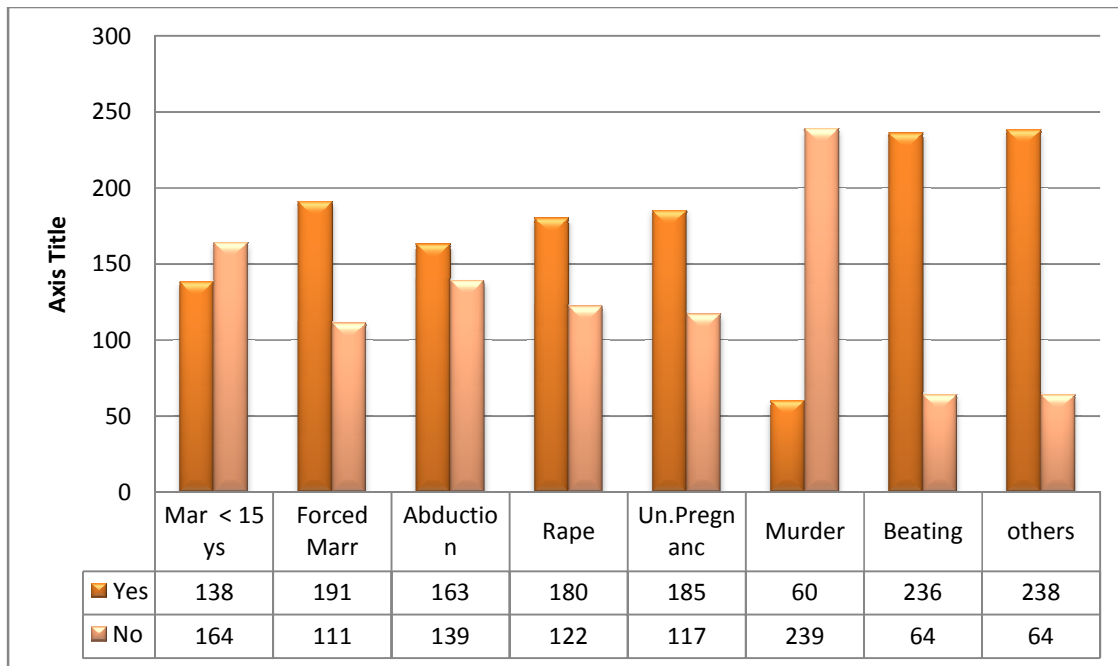
Educational Status	Participation		Total
	High	Low	High
Illiterate	13	144	157
Non-formal Education	3	33	36
1-4	2	20	22
5-8	4	21	25
9-10	1	11	12
11-12	4	10	14
Diploma	4	23	27
BA and above	3	6	9
Total	34	268	302

4.1.8. Violence against Rural Women

According to the revision made on the Ethiopian penal code of 1957 on the violence against women which was enforced since 2004, harmful traditional practices including domestic violence likes rape, sexual abuses, abduction and the others have merited tougher and graver penalties. However, as can be depicted in the following graph, of the total respondents in the study area, 56% of them were confirmed that there is violence against women particularly on the rural women including rape, abduction, sexual harassment, marriage below 18 years old and other harmful traditional practices. When we see the intensity of such violence against women separately, the graph below indicated that most husbands in the study area were highly beating their wives at household level. Forced unwanted marriage, unwanted pregnancy and other types of violence that implicitly indicate the husband and parents' dominancy on the women affects their empowerments.

In terms of educational status of the respondents who confirmed the existence of higher violence against rural women, about 57.4% of them was categorized under illiterate and non-formal educational level. Therefore, most of the rural women who have no education access and lack of information about their rights were victims of the harmful traditional practices.

Graph 1: Level of violence at the study area



4.1.9. Access and Control over Assets

The new Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) adopted in 1995, guarantees the women right to acquire, manage and transfer land & other property which gives them equal right with men with respect to use, transfer, administration and control over it. However, the data collected and organized from the study area indicated that 64.2% of the respondents were confirmed that rural women households have low access to asset and other property compared to their husbands. It is also interesting to note that among the total respondents 99% of them realized that land was registered and certified in the name of their husband .Moreover, the assets obtained by the family member was totally under the control of husband (the family head).These indicates that rural women still have lower access and control over agriculture land and other properties .Hence, their rights are generally derived from their husbands.

Provision of life skill trainings to make women to equip with basic techniques to engage in different business support development activities that enable them economically self reliant, socially sound participant and politically active and competent. However, most women in the

study area lack business development supports and information access to take up such business development supports. Of the total respondents, on average 65% of them strongly agree that there is no skill training to make women to equip with basic techniques to engage in different business development activities.

4.1.10. Culture of the Society

Women suffer from work stereotype and gender distribution of labor, more are occupy in economically invisible work. Different research findings clearly projected that traditional customs, taboos, norms etc. affects women in variety of ways. Regarding the traditional norms at the study area , 79.8% of the respondents believed that there was discrimination between male and female that have significant negative impact on rural women empowerment. There is socially constructed and identified activities or works between sex categories. Specifically, collection of firewood, washing of the family clothes milking and milk processing activities and others are highly laid on the shoulder of female family members. Moreover, Female early marriage and increased fertility rate, forced marriage concluded by parents and marriage by abduction and other traditional harmful practices confirmed through interview and focus group discussion. In addition to this, women in the study area were also routinely beaten, raped, abducted etc.

4.1.11. Participation in Decision Making Position

Women in our country occupy low status in the society .In spite of their contributions to the well being of their family and community affairs, women experience lower socio-economic status in general and hence are marginalized from making decisions at all level (World Bank, 2003). The number of women leaders and decision makers at the various level of the decentralized government structure is still very low. Women's in the study area were still largely underrepresented in decision-making positions at all levels. Of the total respondents, 95% of them strongly agreed that the overall level of participation of women in decision making position was low. Specifically, the respondents confirmed that women's participation in leadership position, social affairs, micro and income generating and others activities were low.

Further, the women respondent at household level clearly opined that the decision to have more children or not was decided by their husband. However, in case of some women the desire of having more children is found. Finally, there was insignificant number of rural woman who was able to decide about the number of her future children. Among the total respondents, 52.3% of them agreed that the decision on limiting number of children was on the hands of their husbands followed by 41.1% who agreed that the decision made by both husband and wife, where as the remaining 6.6% believed that the decision was made by the wife.

4.1.12. Access to Credit and Saving

Experiences indicate that women can benefit more from credit services because they are good at paying back their loans. For this reason, rural credit service providing institutions will be made take this into consideration and provide due attention to women customers (MoWA, 2004E.C).

The availability of credit is essential for improving productivity and enhancing income, and also, at times, for making up seasonal shortfalls. Short-term credit services for purchase of seeds and fertilizers, and long-term credit for tools or animals fattening, and perhaps to set up a small-scale enterprise, such as a poultry farm, petty business etc. In the study area, the interesting point to note is rural women has higher access to credit services. Of the total respondents, 66.9% of the them agreed that there was higher access to credit services particularly from private micro finance institutions. But the great threat of the respondents was the higher interest rate charged by the micro finance institution which was 24% interest rate per annum. However, the credit services helped the rural women particularly to get seed, fertilizers and other inputs to start their agriculture activities as well as to food production and other business activities during the off farm activities.

Further, the micro finance also serving the rural women not only in terms of accessing to credit but also saving. Among the total respondents, 63.6% of them pointed out that they have access to saving their money at private micro-finance institution found in the area.

4.1.13. Freedom of Mobility

The traditional beliefs, attitudes and practices are deep rooted in women's lives that hinder their empowerment. Among such factors, spatial mobility is the most influential one that enhance

their empowerment. The women are not allowed to go elsewhere alone and any delay from the place of work or nearby marketing is often considered a violation of the norm. Of all respondents, 53% of them confirmed that women at rural area have no spatial mobility. They have no freedom of physical movement (travel, visit) without permission of husband or senior member of the household. The remaining 47% disagree that rural women households have freedom of mobility at the study area.

From the discussion above, the overall summary of descriptive analysis of the variables were summarized in the table 13 below.

Table 13: Percentage distribution of response pattern of Explanatory Variable

Variables	Level	Number	Percentage (%)
Empowerment Level of Rural women	High	64	21.2%
	Low	238	78.8%
Level of Information access	High	41	13.6%
	Low	261	86.4%
Level of participation in social affairs	High	34	11.3%
	Low	268	88.7%
Level of freedom of mobility/	Yes	142	47.0%
	No	160	53.0%
Level of Violence against women	High	169	56.0%
	Low	133	44.0%
Level of land and other asset ownership	High	108	35.8%
	Low	194	64.2%
Level of participation in Decision making	High	31	10.3%
	Low	271	89.7%
Access to saving service	Yes	192	63.6%
	No	110	36.4%
Access to Credit Service	Yes	202	66.9%
	No	100	33.1%
Total		302	100.0%

4.2. The Dependent Variable

Assessments of rural women empowerment depends on several key socio-economic and legal factors that differ from place to place. This study conducted over practice and challenges on rural women empowerment at Guduru district attempted to include those variables that have direct relevance with rural women empowerment. The appropriate responsive methods of analysis also used a binary regression models to estimate the result. The model is more appropriate to examine the effect of nine explanatory variables on rural women empowerment.

Table 14 below portrays the degree of correlation between independent variable. According to the correlation results, except the two variables (Discrimination between male and female in work of the family and violence against women), all the other explanatory variables shows positive relationship with each other. In the case the two variables, discrimination between male and female in work of the family and society as a whole and violence against women, they are negatively related to the dependent variable (rural women empowerment).The reason is that the higher the violence against rural women, the lower their empowerment .Similarly, traditional socio-cultural norms have a significant negative impact on the rural women empowerment. That means, the higher the discrimination between male and female on the work due to cultural and traditional taboos in the society ,the lower in access to information, participation in decision making and other social and economic affairs which decrease their empowerments.

On the other hand, increasing access to information, participation in social affairs, freedom of mobility and having the active participation in decision making position whether in family matter and political aspects, their empowerment is increasing so that such variables have positive correlation with the dependent variable.

Table 14. below depicts Correlation between Explanatory Variables

Variables	INFO	PAR	PAU	VIO	ASSET	CULT	CRED	SAVE	DEC
INFO	1.000	.046	.416	-.043	.176	-.025	.052	.059	.328
PAR	.046	1.000	.008	.033	.305	-.270	.154	.167	.297
PAU	.416	.008	1.000	.005	.161	.093	-.084	-.083	.215
VIO	-.043	.033	.005	1.000	.056	-.031	.147	.142	.070
ASSET	.176	.305	.161	.056	1.000	-.435	.182	.225	.273
CULT	-.025	-.270	.093	-.031	-.435	1.000	-.264	-.236	-.154
CRED	.052	.154	-.084	.147	.182	-.264	1.000	.887	.192
SAVE	.059	.167	-.083	.142	.225	-.236	.887	1.000	.178
DEC	.328	.297	.215	.070	.273	-.154	.192	.178	1.000

Goodness-of-fit statistics helps us to determine whether the model adequately describes the data. The Hosmer-Lemeshow statistic indicates a poor fit if the significance value is less than 0.05. In this case the fit of the model in each woman empowerment at the study area was adequately fits the data based on the Chi-square value of (.771).

Table 15. Hosmer and Lemeshow Test

Step	Chi-square	df	Sig.
1	.000	0	.
2	.101	2	.951
3	1.960	2	.375
4	2.854	5	.723
5	4.072	7	.771

In the linear regression model, the coefficient of determination, R^2 , summarizes the proportion of variance in the dependent variable associated with the predictor (independent) variables, with larger R^2 values indicating that more of the variation is explained by the model, to a maximum of 1. However for regression models with a categorical dependent variable, it is not possible to compute a single R^2 statistic that has all of the characteristics of R^2 in the linear regression model, so these approximations are computed instead using **Cox and Snell's R^2** based on the log likelihood for the model compared to the log likelihood for a baseline model.

However, with categorical outcomes, it has a theoretical maximum value of less than 1, even for a "perfect" model. Nagelkerke's R^2 is an adjusted version of the Cox & Snell R-square that adjusts the scale of the statistic to cover the full range from 0 to 1. Hence, the model with the largest R^2 statistic is "best" according to this measure. Thus, the value of Nagelkerke R Square was computed as 0.583 at the study area indicates that all the variables included in present binary logistic regression model accounts for about 58.3% of variance in the dependent variable of rural women's empowerment in the district.

Table16: Model Summary

Model Summary			
Step	-2 Log likelihood	Cox & Snell R Square	Nagelkerke R Square
1	198.088 ^a	.066	.105
2	189.066 ^b	.104	.166
3	180.366 ^b	.139	.223
4	171.437 ^b	.174	.278
5	167.359 ^c	.190	.583

Table 16 depicts the link exist between the dependent variable and the independent variables in the district. To conduct the analysis, nine (9) determinant factors were considered in the study. Hence, of the total independent variable used in the analysis, finally five (5) factors, viz, information access, women's participation in social and economic activity, violence against rural women, rural women access to credit facility and rural women freedom of movement were found to be statistically significant through binary logistic regression as the significance level of the Wald statistic is small (less than 0.05), then the parameter is useful to the model. Hence, the p-value associated with each predictor factor is the position of the log odds ratio due to that factor. The largest Wald value 13.568 at p-value < 0.05 (.000) of the information access to the rural women empowerment which was followed by Wald value 12.264 at the p-value < 0.05 (0.000) of women participation in social affairs are the most determinant factors on rural women empowerment. It is also well followed by other independent variable like rural women access to credit with Wald value 6.942 and p-value <.05 (.008) as well as the predictor violence against rural women with Wald value of 5.973 and p-value <.05 (.015) strongly statistically significant. Finally, the predictor freedom of rural women mobility is also significantly contributed on rural

women empowerment at the study area with Wald value 3.802 and p-value < .05(.040). The meaning of a logistic regression coefficient in the binary logistic regression is not as straightforward as that of a linear regression coefficient. While B is convenient for testing the usefulness of predictors, Exp (B) is easier to interpret. For instance, Exp(B) for the independent variable information access to rural women at the study area was 8.101 which means that the odds ratio of rural women who has the information access are 8.101 times higher of their empowerment compared with those who have no or low information access for their empowerment provided that all other things remain constant. In the same way, Exp(B) of the independent variable women participation in social affairs at the study area was 12.603 which means that the odds ratio of rural women empowerment who has the opportunities of participation in social aspect are 12.603 times more empowered than the those who have no access to participate in social affairs

Table 17: Variables in the Equation

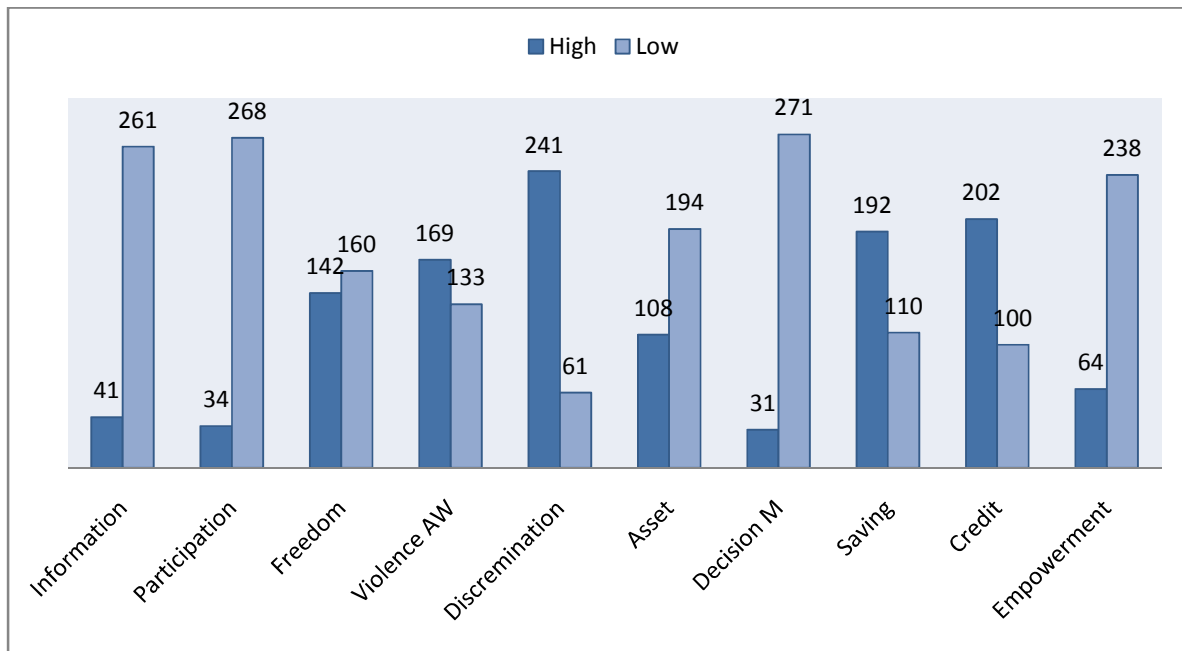
Variables	B	S.E.	Wald	Df	Sig.	Exp(B)
Step 1 ^a Info1	1.668	.424	15.443	1	.000	5.300
Constant	1.599	.771	4.300	1	.038	.202
Step 2 ^b Info1	1.628	.439	13.757	1	.000	5.092
Vio1	-1.101	.376	8.564	1	.003	.333
Constant	.158	.983	.026	1	.872	1.171
Step 3 ^c Info1	1.574	.459	11.772	1	.001	4.825
Part1	1.870	.625	8.954	1	.003	6.488
Vio1	-1.209	.394	9.430	1	.002	.299
Constant	3.142	1.506	4.354	1	.037	.043
Step 4 ^d Info1	1.755	.476	13.568	1	.000	5.781
Part1	2.350	.671	12.264	1	.000	10.481
Vio1	-1.062	.406	6.851	1	.009	.346
Credit6	1.220	.426	8.209	1	.004	.295
Constant	2.745	1.520	3.262	1	.071	.064
Step 5 ^e Info1	2.092	.512	16.698	1	.000	8.101
Part1	2.534	.712	12.651	1	.000	12.603
PerAout1	-.888	.455	3.802	1	.040	.412
Vio1	-.998	.408	5.973	1	.015	.369
Credit6	1.154	.438	6.942	1	.008	.315
Constant	2.471	1.547	2.550	1	.110	.084

Women empowerment indicates developing their ability to collectively and individually to take control over their own lives. However, women's low status in Ethiopia, as anywhere else, is expressed in different forms including in their lack of assets to ownership, leadership and decision making opportunities and their multiple role that made them lag behind every endeavor (Meron Genene,2003). The present study analysis the practices and challenges in rural women empowerment at Guduru woreda one of the woreda found in the western part of Oromia regional state in Ethiopia. The main objective of the study was to assess the level of empowerment by identifying the determinant factors that affects the rural women empowerment at the study area .To this effect ,nine determinant factors were identified and discussed in the analysis parts namely; rural women access to information, their participation in all process, violence against women ,women's freedom of mobility ,access and control over assets ,culture of society on rural women empowerment , their position in decision making position, access to saving and credit facilities.

Among the nine determinant factors, finally 5 factors, viz, information access, women participation, violence against women, freedom of mobility and credit facilities are found to be statistically significant through using binary logistic regression method. Of the five factors, information access is the most determinant factors for rural women empowerment which is followed by the women's participation in all social and economic endeavors. The factors which have insignificance of the p-value are: access and control over asset, saving, involvement in decision making position and culture of the society. The data were collected using different tools including the questionnaires, structured interview and focus group discussions. The detailed description of factors included in the Binary Logistic Regression Analysis is given in the Table 17.

Generally, the level of the nine determinant factors in the study was described in the line chart below:

Graph 2: The Level of Nine Determinant Factors on Rural Women Empowerment



4.3.1. Information Access

Access to information is the window to the world. It plays a pivotal role in acquainting the women about their right and updating them in accordance with the present dynamic world. It indicates the highest influencing power both in descriptive and econometric analysis of concerned variable on women empowerment at the study area. Accordingly, among the total respondents only 13.8% of women has come in contact with media mainly electronic and about 86.2% of the respondents have low access to any type of media or information. This fact realizes that information media could not reach rural women effectively at the study area. In terms of sources of information used for rural women, 79.2% of them use radio as a source of information followed by TV access which accounts about 12.5%. Similarly, the largest Wald value 16.698 at $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ (0.000) of the information access to the rural women empowerment was statistically significant. It is also has a positive coefficient (2.092) with rural women empowerment. That means a one unit increases in information access for rural women increases their empowerment by 2.092.

Therefore, information access strongly supports the rural women empowerment. However the interviewee and group discussion made with different groups of the society leaders confirmed that they have lower access to information. The reason for rural women lower access to information was due to their burdened with heavy work load. According to FMOWC 2004 report, women in rural areas spend 13-18 hours burdened with heavy work load. Grinding flour fetching fire wood and water over long distances, weeding, digging and other duties are some of the chores with which rural women are burdened on a daily basis. There is a saying that in Ethiopia women at rural area **eat the least at the last**. Therefore, because of such heavy work overload they have no time to get information regarding their rights and benefits from socio-economic and political endeavors. The group discussion and interview conducted with some leaders indicates that most likely the sources of information for rural women were their husbands.

Therefore, lack of information access by rural women prevail their low level of awareness including the Constitution and the National Policy on Women, awareness of laws, their interpretation and application which is vital in order to discharge their responsibilities and utilize benefits from the policy and strategies. Moreover, rural women low level of empowerment has negative impact on their economic aspect like the information access for agricultural extension service, credit and saving service and other economic endeavors. In addition, information access like mass media such as radio and television has paramount importance in social aspect to create awareness about issues affecting daily life, family planning programmes, poverty alleviation programmes, gender issues, human right issues etc.

4.3.2. Participation

Participation, which can be seen and gained in a variety of ways, has been argued to be the most beneficial form of gender empowerment. It includes the participation in the household, school and the ability to make choice for oneself. To the specific, rural women participation as a membership in different organization increases their social empowerments through developing self confidence and acquiring some financial independence.

However, the questionnaires collected and organized from 302 respondents in the study area revealed that 88.7% of the respondents confirmed low social participation and only the remaining 11.3% of them agreed that there was high social participation of women. Moreover, the results of chi-square seen in the table 17 indicates the existence of high significant association between empowerment and social participation with the Wald value 12.651 at p-value $<.05(.000)$. In addition to the questionnaires collected and organized, the interview made with key respondent as well as focus group discussion was confirmed that the rural women participation in social activities were low.

The focus group discussion pointed out that the major reason for rural women low participation in social endeavor was their less access to educational level. Among the total illiterate respondent women in the study area, about 92 % of them belonged to low level participation categories and only 8% of illiterate respondents belonged to high participation of women in their own affairs. From the inference, it was explicitly true that radio is an important source of information for rural women at the awareness stage influencing even uneducated rural women. With the increased mass media use women become aware of their issues including, knowledge improvement, attitude change, which ultimately leads them to empowerment.

It is a fact that rural women's problem in terms of participation cannot be solved by their own active and committed struggle. Rather, through collaboration with different institution like women's association. However, the women's association found at the study area is weak and it was lacked to claim that there is an unprecedented, visible and organized struggle to bring a change. Women scholars, who would be expected to play a front line role in the women's struggle are also not engaged as much as expected in activities that aim to change the overall condition of women, in the study area.

The other most determinants factors of women low participation in social affairs were because of work overload in the family, having more number of children which have intern cumulative effect on lower access to information. It is apparent that when the rural women have a larger number of children, they face higher levels of responsibilities with respect to their health issues, education, and other child related issues and their participation in social and economic endeavors. Since more time is devoted to these issues, lesser time is allotted for participation in

different association and other activities. Thus there is a negative relationship between the number of children and their level of participation in different social activities which also has negative impact on their empowerment level.

From the cross tabulation of data result between the number of children of the respondents and their level of participation, of the total women categorized under who have number of children five and above (119), about 94% of them belongs to low level participation of rural women. Moreover, their participation level was influenced by their level of information access. Women's participation is limited outside the home because of certain social norms, attitudes and taboos which highly erodes their confidence. Thus, the low self esteem of women accompanied with their low status in the society highly impedes women's participation on decision-making at all level.

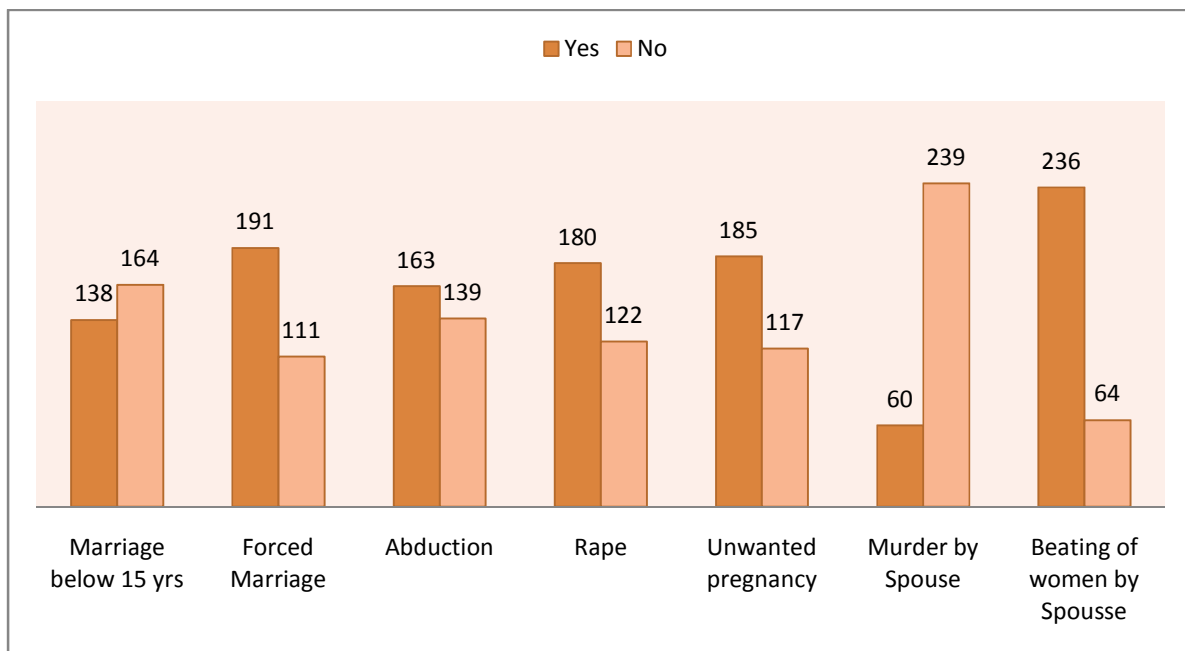
4.3.3. Violence against Rural Women

Tradition represents the sum total of all behaviors that are learned, shared by a group of people and transmitted from generation to generation. It includes language, religion, types of food eaten, and methods of their preparation, childrearing practices and all other values that hold people together and give them a sense of identity and distinguish them from other groups (Dawit Assefa, et.al : 2005). By the same talking, harmful practices, is all practices done deliberately by men on the body or the psyche of other human beings for no therapeutic purpose, but rather for cultural or socio-conventional motives and which have harmful consequences on the health and the rights of the victims(Dr Morissanda KOUYATÉ:2009).

Violence against rural women was one of the traditional harmful practices that indicate the highest influencing power both in descriptive and econometric analysis of the dependent variable on rural women empowerment at the study area. Accordingly, from descriptive analysis result on table 13 among the total respondents, 56% of them were confirmed that there is violence against women particularly on the rural women including rape, abduction, sexual harassment, marriage below 18 years old and other harmful traditional practices. Moreover, the result of chi-square showed in the table 17 indicates the existence of negative correlation between empowerment and violence against rural women with the Wald value 5.973 at the p-value $< .05(.015)$. That means increasing the violence against rural women indicates decreasing rural women empowerment.

When we look at the intensity of such violence against women separately, the chart line below summarize the practices against rural women in the study area in terms of rape, abduction, sexual harassment, marriage below 18 years old, forced marriage, unwanted pregnancy and others types of violence that revealed the husband and parents dominancy on the women which affects their empowerments as follows.

Graph 3: Harmful Traditional Practices at the study area



As can be seen from the chart line above, excluding for two variable (marriage below 15 years and murder by spouse),the respondents were strongly agree that the remaining traditional practices namely forced marriage, abduction, rape ,unwanted pregnancy and child bearing and beating of wife by the husband is highly prevalent. However, from the group discussion made with target groups in the area, there was remarkable progress due to consultation, technical supports and awareness creation provided by the rural health extension workers. Of all harmful traditional practices prevalent in the district, beating the wives by their husband was the most commonly known harmful practices frequently seen on the rural women.

These traditional harmful practices were experienced intentionally to some extent and due to lack of awareness that indicates blind enforcement of the legislation lead too often to undesired outcomes or to result running contrary to the expectations. However, the 1957 Penal Code has been revised to incorporate provisions for violence against women and improve the existing

ones, and is enforced since July 2004 including rape, sexual abuses, abduction that has merited tougher and graver penalties.

4.3.4. Freedom of Mobility

The traditional beliefs, attitudes and practices are deep rooted in women's lives that hinder their empowerment. Among such factors, spatial mobility (freedom of movement) is the most influential factors in women's social, economic and political affairs that enhance their empowerment. Of all respondents, 53% of them confirmed that women at rural area have no freedom of movement. They have no freedom of physical movement (travel, visit) without permission of husband or senior member of the household. However, the remaining 47% of them disagreed that rural women households at the study area have freedom of mobility. Moreover, the result of chi-square showed in the table 17 indicates that variable (freedom of mobility) is statistically significant with the Wald value 3.802 at the p-value $< .05(.040)$.

In addition to this, among the total respondent on questioner prepared and asked regarding the frequency of rural women generally visiting their natal houses like (visiting their parental home, visiting hospital without the consent of their husbands, visiting nearest market without the consent of her husbands, Control over personal income and watching T.V and reading newspaper/magazines) ,the result revealed that 57.9% of them agreed on visiting **sometimes** which is followed by those who agreed on **never** to make visit which accounts 32.1% and the remaining (9.9%) agreed on frequent movement and visit their natal house and nearby local market including visit for hospital.

From this fact and group discussion result, we can conclude that though promotion of women's freedom is necessary to make them capable of making their own choices, to change their attitudes, to improve their social networks and above all other improve their self confidence to make decision on their own matters, the women at the study area needs permission and consent of their senior member of the households to move freely. Thus, the lack of women's physical mobility deprives them of getting better livelihood opportunities and giving them the confidence they need to tackle gender inequalities.

Ensuring women's equality requires avoiding gender dominance in all fields. Male prejudice, that claims women are not equal to men, has still prevailed in the district. Men's dominance exists not because it is inherent in men's behavior or as a result of men's desire to dominate but the socio economic system that ensures women's equality does not exist in reality. Chauvinism is not based on men's desire to oppress. It is, rather, caused by the fact that women were prevented from equally participating, with the men, in the social and political activities of society and make decision on their own matter including physical movement.

4.3.5. Access to Credit Facility

When credit facilities and micro-finance support reach large number of poor and disadvantaged rural women for borrowing, it increases their ability to earn income that can support the well-being of women and their families. The availability of credit is essential for improving productivity and enhancing income, and also, at times, for making up seasonal shortfalls. Short-term credit may be for seeds and fertilizers, and long-term credit for tools or animals, and perhaps to set up a small-scale enterprise, such as a poultry farm, petty business etc.

Even though credit support and microfinance facilities are very important for poverty reduction and empowerment of rural women, various studies reveals that most of rural women do not have access to credit and micro-finance support (Bedru Hassen and Ergicho, 2011). However, in the study area, the interesting point to note is rural women has higher access to credit. Of the total respondents regarding to access for credit services, 66.9% of the them agreed that there was higher access to credit services particularly from saving and credit micro finance institutions. Moreover, the results of statistical inference showed in the table 17. indicates that variable(access to credit services) is statistically significant with the Wald value 6.942 at the p-value < .05(.008). In addition, Exp(B) for the independent variable access to credit facility to rural women at the study area was .315 which means that the odds ratio of women who has the access to credit facilities are .315 times higher of their empowerment compared with those rural women who have no or low access to credit facilities provided that all other things remain constant.

From the focus group discussion and informal and unstructured interview made with the micro finance institution at the area, the higher interest rate charged by the micro finance institution which was 24% interest rate per annum was the great threat of the borrowers. However, the credit services helped the rural women particularly to get seed, fertilizers and other inputs to start their agriculture activities as well as to food production and other business activities during the off farm activities.

4.3.6. The other Factors

In an effort to encourage women to take full part in the political life of the country, special attention has been given to empowering women in all spheres of life so that they can be decision makers at all levels of governance. However, women's in the study area were still largely underrepresented in decision-making positions at all levels. Of the total respondents, 95% of them strongly agreed that the overall level of participation of women in decision making position was low. Specifically, the respondents confirmed that women's participation in leadership position, social affairs, micro and income generating and others activities were low. Nevertheless, the variable is statistically insignificant.

Women suffer from work stereotype and gender distribution of labor. Different research findings clearly projected that traditional customs, taboos, norms etc. affects women in variety of ways. Regarding the culture of the society on empowerment of rural women at the study area shows that 79.8% of the respondents believed that there was discrimination between male and female that have significant negative impact on their empowerment. There is socially constructed and identified activities or works between sex categories. Specifically, collection of firewood, washing of the family clothes milking and milk processing activities and others are highly laid on the shoulder of female family members. Moreover, Female early marriage and increased fertility rate, forced marriage concluded by parents and marriage by abduction and other traditional harmful practices confirmed through interview and focus group discussion. In addition to this, women in the study area were also routinely beaten, raped, abducted etc. However; the variable is statistically insignificant to infer the result.

The new Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) adopted in 1995, guarantees the women right to acquire, manage and transfer land & other property which gives them equal right with men with respect to use, transfer, administration and control over it. However, the data collected and organized from the study area indicated that 64.2% of the respondents were confirmed that rural women households have low access to asset and other property related to their husbands. Even though the variable is statistically insignificant in the analysis using the model, it is worthwhile to note that among the total respondents, 99% of them realized that land was registered and certified in the name of their husband .Moreover, the assets obtained by the family member was totally under the control of husband (the family head).These indicates that rural women still have lower access and control over agriculture land and other properties .Hence, their rights are generally derived from their husbands.

Finally, the variable included in the study but statistically insignificant one was the access to saving for the rural women which has lion share in the empowerment of rural women. Hence, the micro finance found at the study area also serving the rural women not only in terms of accessing to credit but also saving. Among the total respondents, 63.6% of them pointed out that those rural women have access of saving their money at rural micro-finance institution found in their premises.

CHAPTER 5

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. CONCLUSION

The governments in all corners of the world countries focus on gender equality and women's empowerment not only as human right, but also because they are a pathway to achieving the millennium Development Goals and sustainable development. The interest of all institution is to ensure that women have a real voice in all governance structure, from the judiciary to civil service as well as in the private sector and civil society, so they can participate equally with men in public dialogue and decision making and influence the decision that will determine the future of their families and countries (UNDP, MDG Report, 2012).

In line with this, the Ethiopian Constitution also provides for the right to equality of women in a clear manner. This stipulates that the Ethiopian government also has the responsibility to enable the implementation of its relevant provisions to that effect. As a result, each government entity is in the country required to combat and eradicate any form of institutional discrimination against women.

With this background, the present study at Guduru Woreda Oromia Regional State has been formulated with the objectives intended to investigate practices and challenges of rural women empowerments through identifying the current status of rural women decision making power, determinant factors for rural women empowerment and to propose policy interventions.

Literature reviewed in this study reflected that the major constraints in rural women empowerments are lack of education, lack of freedom to take decision, over burdened with responsibility of performing both household and economic activities, lack of social mobility and insufficient loans and lack of capacity building through training. In addition to these, system of supporting women for decision making, traditional culture and religious and gender based violence are among the constraints for their empowerments

Both the secondary and primary data was used in the study. The secondary data was collected from the regional, zonal and district levels like reports, journals, magazines, brochures etc that helps to have more concepts. Similarly, the primary data was collected by using triangulation techniques (cross checking) data collection techniques from four data sources like households levels in the rural kebeles, selected rural towns and civil servants of the study area through designing and testing the applicability of the questionnaires. Second, the data was gathered from district administrative office leaders and women affairs office leaders at the study area by using structured interview question. In addition, the data was collected using group discussion with elders', religious leaders' and professionals as well as civil servant found at selected kebeles.

FDRE Constitution, Policies, strategies and codes enacted on equality between sexes in their interaction concerning marriage related issues were investigated. All this articles approved that it is non-discriminatory on the basis of sex following the FDRE constitutional commitment on gender equality. However, the assessment conducted on rural women empowerment from analysis made using descriptive and econometric method using selected indicators shows that it is not efficiently gender sensitive to address existing challenges on their empowerment.

Lack of information access by rural women prevail their low level of awareness including the Constitution and the National Policy on Women, awareness of laws, their interpretation and application which is vital in order to discharge their responsibilities and utilize benefits from the policy and strategies due to heavy work overload. Rural Women's low participation in social affairs because of work overload in the family coupled with having more number of children have negative effect on their access to information. Harmful traditional practices including men's highly beating their wives and lack of women's physical mobility deprives them of getting better livelihood opportunities and giving them the confidence they need to tackle gender inequalities are the major findings of the study.

Finally, the other variable included in the study but statistically insignificant one were women's asset ownership and control over it, participation in decision making position, culture of the society and the access to saving for the rural women which have lion share in the empowerment

of rural women. Hence, all respondents of rural women at household level confirmed that their participation in decision making power, access to saving and control over asset was low.

5.2. RECOMMENDATION

Women constitute half of the Ethiopia population. It is a fact that any political, economic and social activity that doesn't involve and benefit women can not be fruitful because such an activity is based on half the manpower, half the knowledge, half the effort, etc...of that which is available in the country. Though women's rights to equal participation and benefits, with men, can't be seen separately from the overall economic and political progress in society, it is an established fact that women's rights need special attention in the change process. Hence, this study clearly points out existence of gaps in rural women empowerment at four rural Kebeles and one rural town in Guduru Woreda of Oromia Regional state. Therefore, the study strongly recommends some of the most important factors to be considered by the decision makers while introducing any policy initiative for empowering rural women as follows:

5.2.1. Ensure adequate awareness regarding the importance of rural women's active participation in the development democratization and peace agenda.

- Ensure that rural women have sufficient awareness about the fact that their emancipation they themselves are the main force that can solve the problem of oppression.
- Help women overcome the dependency syndrome and patronage that hinder their emancipation through their own efforts and struggle.
- Help women overcome their inferiority syndrome and develop an attitude that affirms that they can perform any task to bring about change in all sectors, just like men.

5.2.2. Organizing forum with a view of encouraging rural women's participation

- Organize various forum where rural women can discuss the challenges they face and suggest solutions.
- Ensure that in these forums, rural women can build a consensus for implementing solutions.

- Ensuring that the forum become platforms where rural women from all walks of life have effective dialogue and discussions to promote their cause.
- Ensure whether various forum organized develop women's capacity to solve their own problems and to make adequate preparation for the implementation of their objectives.
- Enable women fight tendencies that hinder their competent participation in any forum and make them effective in promoting rural women's struggle and rights.
- Facilitate the creation of linkages between various women's organizations so as to affect their advance to a federal structure and to develop organized rural women's capacity building activities.

5.2.3. Enable women to competently implement the set Directions and Become Beneficiaries of Results.

- Overcome backward attitudes and the demeaning challenge of inferiority complex that rural women endure while at the same time developing their confidence and ensuring that they, the rural women themselves, actively participate in the development and democratization processes in their communities.
- Help them become industrious and willing to do any work, compatible with their capacities and develop a culture of using their incomes frugally.
- They must be encouraged play a frontline role in the struggle against harmful traditional practices that militate against women's quest for equality.
- Young women must become role models for their peers and use all educational and training opportunities, adopt new democratic attitudes to become frontline leaders in eradicating harmful practices.

5.2.4. The Government has to implement the package in a compelling manner

- Design policies, laws and plans that take in to consideration, rural women's participation and benefits at all levels.
- Carry out training and capacity building activities to enable rural women to actively and competently participate in all fields.

5.2.5. Ensure rural women's land ownership

- Ensure the land ownership of rural women (equally with men) assisting them in acquiring and maintaining their right of becoming beneficiaries and enabling them acquire land certificates equally with men.
- Give due attention to ensuring maximum utilization of rural women's on land. This would mean that it would not only solve rural women's economic problems but also have a significant contribution to the country's production. Thus, facilities will be in place to enable rural women who have land to join hands with landless youths and work together for mutual benefits.
- Ensure that rural women's benefits are guaranteed when leasing their land.
- Ensure that women heads of households who own land spend maximum time utilizing it so as to use their labour for development.
- Assist the community to properly understand and internalize the significance of women's labor in development, so as to render them due respect.
- Enable women become equal beneficiaries, with men, in agricultural technology and extension services.
- Assist rural women to increase their income by engaging in non-agricultural activities
- Enable rural women to benefit from credit and savings schemes.

5.2.6. As rural women are burdened with heavy household chores programs shall be designed and promoted to alleviate this burden.

- Provide informal (adult) education in Kebeles for mothers and girls (who lack access to formal schooling for personal reasons).
- Promote rural energy technology that benefits families at the kebele level.
- Introduce time and energy saving modified appliances to every kebele and ensure that women have access to these technologies.
- Provide incentives to investors who install flourmills in rural areas.
- Provide clean water in rural areas i.e in the vicinity of rural women and ensure their participation in the running of the water service as committee members, also ensure their engagement in the technical aspect of clean water supply.

5.2.7. Ensure Elimination of Harmful Traditional Practices Against Rural Women

- Efforts shall be exerted to ensure that rural communities are aware of the problems that rural women face due to backward, harmful practices and to commit themselves to eradicate these practices. By promoting best experiences in the regions and, using the local governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) as well as various cultural structures and religious leaders, an integrated struggle will be waged to eradicate those practices.
- Create a condition in which rural women's associations effectively lead the women's struggle to eradicate harmful traditional practices.
- Teach pupils and students about rural women's rights and how to tackle the despicable challenges facing women as a result of harmful practices.
- Eliminate harmful traditional practices that negatively affect rural women's health and create a mass movement by joining hands together with local elders, religious leaders, etc.

5.2.8. Conduct continuous and focused activities that result in attitudinal and cultural changes among rural women

- Focus on eliminating rural women's sense of inferiority and overcome gender based discrimination. Perform tasks that prove men and women are equal.
- Help rural women accept that they should not apply harmful practices on themselves and their daughters and help them become front line leaders in the struggle to change society for the better.

5.2.9. Strengthening leadership capacity and participation

- Help women to make efforts to move to senior positions and give proper attention to their legitimate demands and develop a sense of ownership among the rural women themselves to make a real contribution through their professions and knowledge to solve problems that face rural women.
- Promote and develop rural women's political participation and decision making at every level.
- Ensure that women competently and sufficiently participate at different levels of the various councils.

- In particular, ensure that they have equal representation in the district and kebele councils.
- Enable young and educated women in rural areas to become members of the executive bodies, thus, developing their participation in kebele and district administrations.
- Build women's capacity, continuously, to enhance their participation and its sustainability and provide training designed to develop their leadership capacity.

5.2.10. Ensuring that women's rights as provided in the Constitution the family law and other provisions are implemented and respected. Also strengthening the legal protection of women

- Ensure that the family law is implemented in a comprehensive manner and prevent the violation of women's human and democratic rights.
- A condition will be created in which the legislative, the judiciary and the executive bodies give due attention and conduct coordinated activities to ensure that women's rights are respected.
- Develop the knowledge of rural women about family law, other laws and policies with regard to their own rights.
- Strengthen institutions that provide assistance to women to ensure that their legally endorsed rights are respected.
- Ensure that women's quest for justice is rapidly addressed by the judiciary to make them equal beneficiaries of the justice system and fight gender based abuses.
- Develop women's participation in the justice system and give special attention to increasing the number of women, in regular and social courts as well as in the police force and the prosecutor's office, thus bringing about real and tangible change for the better regarding women's rights.

5.2.11. Ensure that the mass media give due attention to women's issues in their work

- The mass media at the federal and regional levels will report on rural women's economic, social and political challenges as well as the solutions and their achievements.

- All mass media institutions will consciously manage their output, making sure that no programs, features, news etc reflect gender bias or demeaning contents regarding women. They must give careful attention to the contents so that all messages, promote women's equality and confidence to democratize our culture.

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ANNEXE - I: PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSE PATTERN OF EXPLANATORY VARIABLE

Variables	Level	Number	Percentage (%)
Empowerment Level of Rural women	High	64	21.2%
	Low	238	78.8%
Level of Information access	High	41	13.6%
	Low	261	86.4%
Level of participation in social affairs	High	34	11.3%
	Low	268	88.7%
Level of freedom of mobility/	Yes	142	47.0%
	No	160	53.0%
Level of Violence against women	High	169	56.0%
	Low	133	44.0%
Level of land and other asset ownership	High	108	35.8%
	Low	194	64.2%
Level of participation in Decision making	High	31	10.3%
	Low	271	89.7%
Access to saving service	Yes	192	63.6%
	No	110	36.4%
Access to Credit Service	Yes	202	66.9%
	No	100	33.1%
Total		302	100.0%

ANNEXE - II: LIST OF SELECTED VARIABLES FOR EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS

Code	Explanatory Variables	Description of Explanatory Variables	Expected Correlation
INFO	Access to Information	Access to any information =1 if high or = 0 if low	positive
PAR	Social participation	Social participation =1 if high or =0 if low	positive
VIOL	Violence Against Rural Women	Harmful Traditional violence =1 if high or = 0 if low	negative
PAU	Freedom of Mobility	Freedom of mobility =1 if yes or = 0 if not	Positive
CUL	Culture of the Society	Traditional Culture =1 if yes or = 0 if not	negative
CRED	Access to Credit Service	Access to financial service = 1 if yes or = 0 if not	Positive
SAV	Access to Saving	Access to saving service = 1 if yes or = 0 if not	positive
ASST	Access and Control over land	Women having access to assets =1 if high ,or = 0 if low	positive
DEC	Participation in decision making	participation in decision making = 1 if high or = 0 if low	Positive

PERFORMA FOR SUBMISSION OF MA.(RD) PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL

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Name & Address of the Student : _____

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Enrolment No : _____

Date of Submission : _____

Name of the study center : _____

Name of Guide : _____

Title of the project : _____

: _____

Signature of the student : _____

Approved/Net- Approved : _____

Date : _____

**PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES ON RURAL WOMEN
EMPOWERMENT IN OROMIA REGIONAL STATE, ETHIOPIA**

(The Case of Guduru Woreda)

A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

BY

WAKITOLE DADI

**A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL
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ACRONYMS

CEDAW	Conventions on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
HTP	Harmful Traditional Practices
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
GDP	Gross Domestic Products
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
RWE	Rural Women Empowerment
INFO	Information Access
PAR	Social Participation
VIO	Violence against women
PAU	Women's Freedom of Mobility
CUL	Culture of the Society
ASST	Access and control over lands)
CRED	Access to Credit Services
SAV	Access to Saving
DEC	Women's participation in Decision making position
BOWCA	Bureau of Oromia Women and Children Affaires

CHAPTER ONE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Back Ground of The Study

Empowerment is the process of enabling or authorizing an individual to think, behaves, take action and control work in an autonomous way to take control of one's own destiny. It includes both control over resources (Physical, Human, Intellectual and Financial) and over Ideology (Belief, values and attitudes) (Batliwala, 1994). Therefore, individuals become empowered when they obtain, the right to determine choices in life and to influence the direction of change, through the ability to gain control over material and non-material resources (Rowlands, 1997).

Moreover, empowerment is about gaining power and liberty, it is the ability or capacity to act, the strength and influence to accomplish a common community and citizenship duty. It is the vital energy to make choice and decisions to overcome deeply embedded practices and to cultivate higher, more effective ones (BT Costantinos: 2005). Hence, empowerment in general and women's empowerment in particular involves an improvement in women's ability to manage their own lives. This is obtained through increased access to key resources and activities. It is the activities improving the ability of women to access the constituents of development in particular health, education, earnings opportunities, rights, and political participation (World Bank:2001)

The definition described above clearly indicates that, empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building which leads to greater participation and greater decision making power and point to the conclusion that it is necessary for poor as whole and marginalized women to the specific to improve their situation. The process of empowering women will improve their ability to manage their lives in all aspects. This improved ability to manage their own lives entails an expansion of women's opportunities in socio-economic and also equal opportunities in comparison with men. Therefore, empowerment of women is nothing but strengthening of their innate vitality which should enable the women or group of women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life and also equal partner in development process.

The major or key means of empowerment factors are: political empowerment, legal empowerment, social empowerment, cultural empowerment and economic empowerment and of

all these, economic empowerment for the women is the major one. Specifically, the major factors affecting the rural women empowerment were access to land, independent earning, community participation, decision making and self-confidence. Further education and social participation, also affect the empowerment of rural women (Bharathamma G.U; 2005)

Taking into consideration all the reality discussed above, the Federal government of Ethiopia also has put its commitment towards various policy improvements to enhance economic, political, social and legal empowerments of women. From the political view point, the policy improvements to realize women empowerment includes presence of National Women Policy, presence of women's reserved seat in the parliament, presence of Women Affairs Office at regional and sector levels, presence of different women associations, commitment of the government to reform the civil service by mainstreaming gender at all levels

In relation to legal empowerment, revised legislative reform were made that has powerful for empowering women and girls and safeguarding their rights .Moreover, ratification of international conventions on women rights like Conventions on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, Women's Rights Protocol on Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP), the Beijing Platform for Action and others as well as presence of strong criminal laws for cases of violation against women and girls (Ministry of Women's Affairs Annual Report, 2007) .

In economic empowerment of women, the major activities carried out by the government in the past two decades includes : promoting women's participation in developing economic policies and managing the economy, enhance rural women's equal access to and control over productive resources and services (land, oxen, extension, credit) in order to make them food secure and come out of the poverty trap, improve the Lives of Pastoral Women, Enhance urban women's and disabled women's access to and control over economic resources and services (land, credit, employment, training), reduce women's workload and provide special social and economic safety and security to poor urban and rural as well as disabled women which is important in gender sensitive poverty reduction strategy are among revised and implemented core activities in economic policy of the country.

From the social view point, the government has been made a notable achievements in the past two decades in realizing women empowerment related activities like educating girls to translates into better conditions for the whole household, in terms of better health, nutrition and education for the family. An educated woman is more likely to delay marriage, practice family planning resulting in a smaller family size, more available food for the family, and resources to educate the children. Investing in girls' education therefore has high social and economic returns and is instrumental in achieving sustainable development and economic growth.

Being part and parcel of the country, the Oromia National Regional State has made a number of efforts towards effective and smooth implementation of these political, social and economic as well as legal related empowerment of women including international conventions and constitution too, though some changes were found to be difficult to address the deep rooted women's problems as needed to be. Therefore, this research proposal titled as determinant factors for rural women empowerment in Oromia Regional State at ----- district (woreda) is projected aiming to identify the factors affecting their empowerment and to propose the recommendable solution to policy makers and other concerned bodies like stakeholders in the area.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Women empowerment can be viewed as a means of creating a social environment in which one can take decision and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens their innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge, power and experience. Having the deep insight of this realities, the government of Ethiopia recognized that the empowerment of Ethiopian women would not only go a long way to bring about socio-economic development, but is in fact the pre condition, and indispensable catalysts for sustainable development, good governance and achieving the MDG agenda. To this effect, much progress has been made in addressing gender equality and empowering women through continued and enhanced implementation of the policies and strategies that made a significant difference over the past 20 years.

It is believed that women's empowerment play a vital role in empowering and enhancing the decision-making capacity of women. (*Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report*). While much progress has been made still addressing women empowerment remain the most

challenging one in socio-economic aspects. In the areas of both social and the economic empowerment, women in Ethiopia are systematically disadvantaged relative to men. According to the 2007 national census, Less than half (42.7 percent) of the population of Ethiopia were literate. The proportions of literate persons by sex show the existence of wider gap between sexes. Slightly more than half or 50.7 percent of male were literate while the proportion of literate females (34.6 percent) was far less than their male counter parts. Though large steps have been made in closing the gender gap in primary education, the gender gap remains with marked rural /urban and regional discrepancy. Disparities increases at the levels of higher, secondary and especially, at tertiary education, where only 24% of students are female (*Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report*)

In the area of the economic empowerment of women, Ethiopia is largely a rural economy in which the GDP is primary based on agricultural products in which 84% of the populations reside in rural area. Sex-disaggregated indicators related to economic empowerment show that Ethiopian women often lack access to productive assets and business development services including micro finance; only insignificant numbers of women are landholders, while their landholdings are not usually prime fertile land and less number of women working in agriculture have been able to access credit to boost production. Women with no independent means of supporting themselves are less likely to leave violent relationships: those who do may end up trafficked or in commercial sex work and therefore exposed to greater levels of violence.

Despite the fact that there was a significant improvements in relation to political and leadership empowerment comparing with the previous elections period, still the level of women's representation in the federal parliament is low in proportion to the total number of women in the country. In the first parliament (1995 election), 13 women (2.74%) were represented out of 547 seats while in the second parliament (2000 election) around 42 (7.7%) of the elected members of the parliament were women. In the third parliament (2005-2010), the number of women holding seats rose to 117 (22%). During the third election, the government had strived to increase the number of women legislators to 30-50% of the house, through different measures. The number of seats held by women in the House of Federation has now reached 21 (18.75%) (*Ethiopia: 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report*).

Apart from the political empowerment of women, training women on leadership is the major mechanism undertaken to strengthen women's capacity in decision making .In this regard, they are still largely underrepresented in decision-making positions at all levels. They have also not made major progress in attaining political power in legislative bodies. Findings of the current status of women in the political and public decision making positions indicate that: the constitutional commitment of the government to grant Affirmative Action has not been translated into concrete action at all levels; the number of elected women representatives is still low; more and more women are engaged in formal employment, but are underrepresented in middle and higher management positions; and the number of women leaders and decision makers at the various level of the decentralized government structure is still very low.

This study therefore, intends to find out the challenges and practices on rural women empowerment in Oromia regional state particularly in the study areas and to recommend the solution for identified problems .To this effect, the study is proposed to attempts answer for the following key research questions.

5. To what extent the women at the study area are empowered?
6. What are the factors affecting women empowerment in the grass root level particularly in the study areas?
7. What are the major challenges in empowering women socio-economic aspects?
8. What policy intervention needs to be proposed to ensure women empowerment at the rural area?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The general objective of the study is to investigate practices and challenges on rural women empowerments in the study area. To this end, the specific objectives are listed below:

6. To identify the current status of rural women decision making position
7. To identify the factors affecting rural women empowerment in the study area
8. To identify the most determinant among the factors affecting rural women empowerment
9. To identify the policy intervention on rural women empowerment

1.4. Significance of the Study

Most of the earlier studies have concentrated on development of rural women, of late there is a shift from development to empowerment of women, economically through income generating activities. Socially through accessing different social services and politically improving their decision making capacity through participating in different leadership development activities. The present study is likely to provide valuable information to the government and nongovernment agencies about the extent of empowerment of the rural women .

The product of this research identifies the major women's empowering and sustainable livelihood factors in socio-economic and cultural factors and it comes up with possible remedies for those problems. It also aims to find out the integration of success factors in empowerment that leads to sustainable livelihood in rural women's life.

Further, this study is initiated to generate and add some information to the existing knowledge of socio-economic factors that have contributions for empowering women and sustainable livelihood. The findings of this research would provide multipurpose information to different users, including practitioners in donors, policy planners, academicians and the public at large. To the specific, women's empowerment promoters and development policy makers could use the findings of this study to improve women's participation in all aspects as well as to justify investment in the sector. In addition, it will raise questions for further research and study.

1.5. Limitation of the Study

It is a single student investigation, which places limitations on time, resources *etc.*, which obviously lead to the purposive selection of the locale of the study. The study will be expressed in opinions of the respondents, which may not be free from their individual perception and bias in spite of the researcher's efforts to get them as objectively as possible. The study is proposed to deal with specific woreda among the total woreda found in the region. Hence, it may not a representative of other woredas. Further, financial and time constraints will compel the researcher to limit the sample size and the scope of the research. Therefore, generalization may not free from the limitation. The research also focuses only on women found in the study area. It

also restricts itself to assess a few empowerment indicators, particularly changes in economic decision-making, community participation and social position.

1.6. Delimitation of the study

This study is limited to one Woreda and 35 rural Kebeles and three rural town located in the Woreda found 280 kilometers from finfinnee and 60 kilometers from the zonal administration of that woreda.

It will limit upcoming of some important women empowerment issues existing in other Woredas of the zone and region. Hence, finance may constraint to carry out research in other Woredas. Nevertheless, this study will hopefully give insight to women empowerment aspect in rural area of Oromia Regional State.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Concept of empowerment

The concept of empowerment was the outcome of several important critiques and debates generated by women's movement throughout the world, and particularly in the Third World (Wickramasinghe, 2000).

The term empowerment is used to refer to self-reliance and self-respect in order to enable each person reach his/her God given potential (Cheston and Kuhn, 2002). According to Rowlands (1995), the definition of empowerment is bringing people on the outside of a decision process into it. It is also considered as the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making. Individuals become empowered when they obtain the right to control over material and non-material resources to determine choices in their life.

Staples (1990) defined the term empowerment as means (a) to gain power (b) to develop power; to take or seize power; (c) to facilitate or enable power and (d) to give or grant or permit power.

Sen (1997) based on a case study in India, stressed the importance of empowerment of an individual in order to gain control over assets. According to her, empowerment is about change in favour of those who previously exercised little control over their lives. This change has two components, the first is control over resources (financial, physical and human) and the second is control over ideology belief, values and attitudes. She concluded that government, non-government organizations (NGOs) and other institutions do not empower people, but people empower themselves. But, through policies and actions government can either create a supportive environment

Sudharani *et al.* (2000) defined empowerment as the process of challenging existing power relations and gaining greater control over the sources of power. Empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building leading to greater participation to greater decision making power and control to transformative action.

Dr. K. Lalitha *et.al.*(2011).Empowerment can be viewed as a means of creating a social environment in which one can take decisions and make choices either individually or collectively for social transformation. It strengthens one's innate ability by way of acquiring knowledge power and experience. Empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives, communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important.

BT Costantinos (2005). Empowerment is about gaining *power* and *liberty*, it is the *faculty* or *capacity to act*, the *strength* and *potency* to accomplish a common community and citizenship duty. It is the vital energy to make choice and decisions to overcome deeply embedded practices and to cultivate higher, more effective ones. Empowerment, the feeling of security, and guidance, brings about true wisdom which in turn becomes the spark or catalyst to release and direct power. Tandley Omprakash Sridevi (2005) explains the term 'empowerment' as a process by which the disempowered individuals and groups gain the power to control their lives and the ability to make strategic life choices.

From the above reviews, it is very clearly revealed that empowerment is a process of awareness and capacity building which leads to greater participation and greater decision making power. It also revealed that empowerment is considered as the ability to obtain an income that enables participation in economic decision-making and gaining power and liberty to enhance the capacity in political participation. Moreover, it indicates that empowerment is a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives, communities and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important.

2.2. Importance of Rural Women Empowerment

G.U.,Bharathamma (2005), analyzed the women empowerment with the corresponding levels of discrimination and effectiveness of decision-making by women in different rural enterprises and concluded that the female headed households were effective in taking decision in respect of work mobility, schooling, health care, asset creation, employment generation and social participation in low social status households. The informal empowerment was wide spread through women earning members, their decisions were subjected to various degrees of discrimination by males.

Ministry of Women's Affairs (2006). Gender inequality is deep-rooted in social, economic, cultural and political structures and thus closely intertwined with every development challenge ranging from the elimination of poverty to the promotion of peace and democracy. In other words, countries will not be able to combat poverty, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and ensure sustained development without a deliberate attempt to overcome gender inequality.

G.U.,Bharathamma (2005) also revealed that empowerment of women is nothing but strengthening of their innate vitality which should enable the women or group of women to realize their full identity and power in all spheres of life and also equal partner in development process.

Manisha Desai, (2010).Empowerment is about mobilizing grassroots women, encouraging their participation and giving them voice in predetermined development strategies without giving them the power to challenge existing narratives of development and to articulate new alternatives

G. S. Ogato et.al (2009), Empowering rural women through improved access to key productive resources and agricultural services is the right choice for developing countries like Ethiopia where rural women's contribution to agricultural production and food security is quite immense.

Hemantha (2001) cited in G. S. Ogato et.al (2009) that empowering women has comprehensively given the parameters of empowerment of women as follows,

- Enhance self-esteem and self-confidence in women.
- Build a positive image of women by recognizing their contribution to the society and economy.
- Develop in them an ability to think critically.
- Faster decision-making action through collective process.
- Enable women to make informed choices in areas like education, employment and health especially reproductive health.
- Ensure equal participation in development process.
- Provide information, knowledge and skill for economic independence.

- Enhance access to legal literacy and information related to their rights and entitlements in the society with a view to enhance their participation in all areas.

From the above reviews, it is very clearly revealed that rural women empowerment has paramount importance in taking decision in respect of work mobility, schooling, health care, asset creation, employment generation and social participation in low social status households. In addition to this, it helps women to enhance their self-esteem and self-confidence and ensure equal participation in all development process

2.3. Factors affecting empowerment of rural women

G. S. Ogato et.al (2009), clearly revealed that the major factors affecting the empowerment were access to land, independent earning, community participation, decision making and self-confidence. Further education and social participation, also affect the empowerment of rural women.

Manisha Desai, (2010). Most measures like the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) focus on a few indicators at the aggregate level and actually measure gender equality rather than empowerment. GEM is essentially a measure of three indicators: control over economic resources, measured by men and women's earned income; economic participation and decision making, measured by women and men's share of administrative, professional, managerial, and technical positions; and political participation and decision making, measured by male and female share of parliamentary seats.

UNFPA (2008) .Until recently, variables such as education and employment were commonly used to capture empowerment and other related concepts such as women's autonomy and status. Their use is justified by the fact that they have strong positive correlation with the direct empowerment indicators. A woman's level of education, her employment status, particularly employment for cash, and media exposure are expected to be positively related to empowerment. Women who are educated, employed, and exposed to the media are likely to be better equipped with the information and the means needed to function effectively in the modern world. Together these factors are expected to influence women's inherent abilities as well as their attitudes on gender roles.

Taking the perspective of people in households, Friedman (1992) cited in Nazrul Islam et al (20--)) argues that they potentially have access to three kinds of power: *social*, *political* and *psychological*. „Social power“ requires „access to certain “bases” of household production such as information, knowledge and skills, participation in social organizations, and financial resources “. This form of empowerment therefore includes key features of social capital, which has been identified as an essential element of sustainable rural community development.

The concept of women’s empowerment splits into three components, each measured separately: Inter-spouse consultation index, which seeks to represent the extent to which husbands consult their wives in household affairs; individual autonomy index which represents women’s self-reported autonomy of physical movement outside the house and in matters of spending money; and the authority index, which reports on actual decision-making power (which is traditionally in the hands of the patriarch of the family). Comparable components of empowerment are included in the eight indicators also like mobility, economic security, ability to make small purchases, ability to make larger purchases, involvement in major decisions, relative freedom from domination by the family, political and legal awareness, and involvement in political campaigning and protests.

P. Murugesan, and D. Namasivayam(2012). Recent experiences have shown a strong link between education and empowerment, literacy levels and nature of education, employment access and productive earnings of female from Agriculture, non-agriculture are the concerns regarding women empowerment. Income plays a positive interventionist role in creating gender equality, or acts as an agent of basic change in the status of women. Women’s low status and subordination is ascribed to their lack of education, low economic status, lack of access to resources and low decision making power expressed by many as having no voice.

From the above reviews ,the determinate factors of women empowerment are summarized as Education , health, Land ownership , Ownership of other assets (other than land) , Control over income contributed by her to the family, Control over the income of the family, Savings ,Access to credit ,Social participation ,Cash income earned from income generating activities, community

participation, decision making and self-confidence , political participation and decision making, measured by female share of parliamentary seats —etc.

2.4. Constraints Experienced by Rural Women for Empowerment

Bharathamma G.U (2005) states that rural women are facing personal problems like lack of education, lack of freedom to take decision, over burdened with responsibility of performing both household and economic activities, lack of social mobility and insufficient loans.

Pitamber S.,et.al (2004). The most critical problem facing the women empowerment in Ethiopia is that of inadequate **capacity** at different levels as reflected in the technical capacity of the staff, outdated methodologies, approaches and tools to promote gender mainstreaming, adequate information exchange and knowledge sharing, as well as inadequate equipment and information technology. Training and updating of knowledge and skills is among the critical constraint.

Farida Shaheed (2009) lists some challenges in women's empowerments as; **Simply ensuring numbers** as provided for in the MDGs indicator, does not guarantee progress on gender equality and women's empowerment as called for in the Platform. In some countries, the House of Representatives raised the quota of women's representation in political parties to 35 percent, even though no party had managed to fulfill the previous 30 percent quota for women in the parliamentary elections. Women still make up only low percent of the House and in regional legislatures.

The other constraints are **supporting women as rights claimants**. All out efforts are required to ensure that women are supported to be rights claimants. The basic approach cannot be piecemeal, increasing women's decision-making and hence power has to be seen as a comprehensive agenda. Not only must women exercise free choice in deciding amongst available options, women must be supported to formulate the choices that exist. In this efforts must be made to address the sources of legitimization used to justify the existing disempowering structures of power. In planning measures for women's empowerment it is important to realise that a relaxation or redefinition of the gender rules in one aspect of life does not transfer automatically to another. For example, a woman may be able to break previous rules in order to earn a

livelihood, but this does not at all mean that she will therefore gain the right to socialize with whom she wants. Unfortunately there are no easy solutions.

The formidable barrier of culture & threatened or actual violence .Various civil society review on women in politics and decision-making in Asia Pacific concluded that progress was impeded by both institutional and cultural barriers to women's participation. The persistence of male dominated social structures and socialization processes seriously impede women's meaningful participation in political and decision making processes. Party politics and electoral systems are generally biased against women. Women continue to be assigned traditional domestic roles confined to the household, and models of political leadership and participation continue to privilege masculine traits while feminine qualities are deemed unsuitable for political leadership.

Tradition, culture and religion are used to keep women disempowered. Women are made to believe that changing their lives and gender-roles is contradictory to the values and precepts of their traditions, culture or religion. Women themselves will buy into such notions. Social cultural notions of appropriateness/inappropriateness will function as gatekeepers to change.

Gender-based violence when women do challenge such notions, they can face violence, a key mechanism of control exercised at the family and community level. Gender-based violence – both threatened and actual acts of gender based violence is used to deny women rights, power over self and access to decision-making forums, including but not only the formal political processes. To eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, it is crucial that people first reject the 'cultural' excuses that justify and thereby perpetuate such violence. Violent practices in the name of culture are serious impediments to women's power and decision-making.

Support systems for decision-making .It is important to identify which support mechanisms, institutions and actors women can and most frequently access in different environments for which issues. Decision-making is often predicated on accessing some support. One reason that women decide to forego their inheritance, for example, is in order not to alienate their brothers

who are perceived as the main source of support should problems arise in their marriages. For women to exercise decision-making requires ensuring women's access to safe spaces (e.g. shelters, meeting rooms, safe spaces) that would enable them to discuss their issues and arrive at meaningful and empowering choices.

From the above reviews, the major constraints in rural women empowerment are lack of education, lack of freedom to take decision, overburdened with responsibility of performing both household and economic activities, lack of social mobility and insufficient loans and lack of capacity building through training. In addition to these, system of supporting women for decision making, traditional culture and religious and gender based violence are among the constraints for their empowerment.

CHAPTER THREE

3. METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with research methods and techniques that will be used in the study. It mainly describes the procedure followed in the selection of district, study areas and respondents. Besides the variables used in the study and their measurement procedure, data collection methods and use of statistical tools can be outlined. All these are presented under the following sub headings.

3.1. Method of Data Collection

Both the secondary and primary data will be used in the study. The secondary data will be collected from the regional, zonal and woreda levels like reports, journals, magazines, brochures etc that helps me to have more concepts about the practices and challenges of rural women empowerments. Similarly, the primary data are going to be collected by using triangulation (cross checking) data collection techniques from four data sources. First, the primary data is directly collected from women found at households levels in the rural kebeles, selected rural towns and civil servants of the study area through designing and testing the applicability of the questionnaires. Second, the data will also gathered from woreda administrative office leaders and women affairs office leaders at the study area by preparing interview question .This category of interview helps the researcher to identify how much women in the district are beneficiaries from socio economic and legal aspects based on their proportion in the total population.

Thirdly, the data will be collected using group discussion with elders', religious leaders' and professionals found at selected kebeles to know the perception of the society concerning rural women empowerment.

3.2. Instrument for Data Collection

Based on the objectives of the study, questionnaires, interview and focal group discussion as well as personal observation supported by graphs, audiovisual instruments are important to collect data from the study area. Questionnaires are used to collect data from the sample respondent (women) found at selected rural kebeles and rural town and public sectors in the woreda. Conducting interview with leaders of concerned office at woreda level on contemporary situation

of rural women empowerment is also important. Group discussion held with rural kebeles health extension workers, teachers, agricultural extension workers, elders and religious leaders found in the community is also used to collect data. Therefore, questioners, interview, group discussion and personal observation are the most important tools used for data collection techniques.

3.3. Sampling Techniques

For this study, the source of population is the current total number of women at household level aged (15-59) in the selected woreda. The preliminary simple data collection undertaken through telephone interview by the researcher indicates that there are 25,557 grand total population (at rural kebeles, towns and public sectors) as of August 20, 2004 E.C consisting of 19,230 in 31 rural kebeles and 6,327 in urban town including public sectors in the woreda

Based on the identified population number, the sample size determination techniques from among different methods are the one which has developed by Carvalho (1984), cited by Zelalem (2005) will be used. The method is presented in the following table 1

Table 1: Sample Size Determination

Population size	Sample Size		
	Low	Medium	High
51-90	5	13	20
91-150	8	20	32
151-280	13	32	50
281-500	20	50	80
501-1200	32	80	125
1201-3200	50	125	200
3021-10000	80	200	315
10001-35000	125	315	500
35001-150000	200	500	800

As indicated above the population size of the study is 17,520 which ranges between 10001 – 35,000 according to Carvalho’s sample size determination indicated in table. Thus , taking in to account a small population size variance and the cost of getting each samples and time consuming for large sample size , medium sample size is more appropriate applying in

accordance with the given population size. Therefore, the sample size selected for the study under consideration is **315**.

Considering the heterogeneity of the population, first the woreda will be categorized into four strata (as East, West, Northern and Southern part). From each stratum, using random sampling techniques (lottery system), one kebele and from three rural town also one rural town will be selected. The remaining data will be collected from women civil servant in the woreda by selecting 3 sectors using purposive methods. Therefore, 4 rural kebeles, one urban town and three public sectors in the woreda will be used as sample area. From the identified kebeles, rural towns and public sectors, appropriate sample for questionnaire administration will be again selected by using **proportionality sampling technique** to give equal weights for each selected kebeles, towns and public sectors. Once the total sample size from each kebeles, towns and public sectors are determined, appropriate respondents from the kebeles, towns and public sectors are selected by **using random sampling technique**.

Accordingly, the sample size for the study was identified and summarized by using preliminary simple data collection undertaken through telephone interview with the woreda Administrative Office as well as woreda women's affairs in the following tables:

Geog. Categories of Woreda	Number of Rural Kebeles	Name of selected kebeles by (randam sample)	Total population(women aged 15-59)	Proportional Sample size
Eastern	9	Baro kebele	464	52
West	12	I/A/Tolera kebele	582	65
Southern	6	A/Robi kebele	614	69
Northern	4	Sirba kebele	596	66
Rural town	3	Ayele rural town	428	47
Public sector	3	Education =87 Health= 102 Finance = 11	140	16
Total			2824	315

3.4. Method of Data Analysis

As far as the methodological issues are concerned, both descriptive and econometric model will be considered to analysis and find out the estimates.

3.4.1. Descriptive Method of Data Analysis

The descriptive method of data analysis is important to analysis the demography of the population in the study area in terms of age, sex, educational background, family size, sex ratio ...etc. of the respondents and overall population. To this end, the descriptive methods of statistical analysis like percentage, mean, standard deviation and appropriate graph are among the tool used.

3.4.2. The Econometric Model Specification for Data Analysis

Logistic regression is useful for situations in which you want to be able to predict the presence or absence of a characteristic or outcome based on values of a set of predictor variables. It is similar to a linear regression model but is suited to models where the dependent variable is dichotomous. Logistic regression coefficients can be used to estimate odds ratios for each of the independent variables in the model. The practices and challenges for rural women empowerment is **binary or dichotomous** in its nature .It may be low or high based on the outcomes. Hence, the binary logistic distribution function for the practices and challenges of rural women empowerment is specified as:

$$4. \quad pi = \frac{1}{1+e^{-zi}} = \frac{e^{zi}}{(1+e^{-zi})} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where pi is the probability of higher empowerment for i^{th} rural women and it ranges from 0 – 1 and zi is a function of m explanatory variables (x_i) and is expressed as:

$$5. \quad Z_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \dots \dots \dots + \beta_n x_n \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Where β_0 is the intercept and $\beta_{1, 2}$, are slope parameters in the model. The slope tells us how the log odds in favor of women's empowerment change as independent variable changes. However, the meaning of a logistic regression coefficient β_1 in the binary logistic regression is not as straightforward as that of a linear regression coefficient. While β_1 is convenient for testing the usefulness of predictors, $\text{Exp}(B)$ is easier to interpret. The dependent variable of the model was

represented by the practices and challenges of rural women empowerment (**RWE**) at Guduru woreda. It is variable dichotomous in which the decision to high empowerment is represented by 1 and low empowerment is represented by 0

3.4.2.1. Variable Specification and Working Hypothesis

After identifying the types of estimations required together with their procedures, it is essential to identify the potential explanatory variables and represent them in the model.

3.4.2.2. The Dependent Variable of the Model (RWE).

The dependent variable of the model is the dependent which represent the rural women empowerment. It is variable dichotomous in which the decision to high empowerment is represented by 1 and low empowerment is represented by 0

3.4.2.3. The Independent Variable of the Study:

There are a number of explanatory variables so far identified and have strong bond with the rural women empowerment in the study area. For the purpose of detail investigation, the explanatory variables are listed below.

x. Information Access (INFO)

With increasing socio-economic and political development of any country, the need for information dissemination and communication among member of society is increasing. The monthly local meetings, annual general meetings, and all awareness creation held to keep the women aware of socio-economic, and to discuss issues such as gender and related policies and strategies, rule and regulation have paramount importance in women empowerment. This variable is operationalized as the extent to which the respondent participate in gender and related issues and used the mass media channels *viz.*, radio, television and newspaper as a source of information.

xi. Social Participation (PAR)

Rural women membership in different organization increases their social empowerments through developing self confidence and acquiring some financial independence. Therefore, this variable is going to be operationalized as the respondents are more participate as a member in any organization is assumed to increase their empowerments.

xii. Violence against women (VIO)

Promoting Constitutional guarantees of equality by removing the impediments of societal belief, harmful traditional practices and prejudices increases rural women empowerment in social affairs by eliminating all forms of violence against them in the country. Therefore, the variable is operationalized as reducing violence against women increases their empowerment in societal aspects and the two are hypothesized as they are inversely correlated.

xiii. Women's Freedom of Mobility (PAU)

Most of the earlier research findings show that in many cases the freedom of movement of the rural women is also restricted (Kishore, et al. (2004). The women are not allowed to go elsewhere alone and any delay from the place of work is often considered a violation of the norm. Under these circumstances, women are not empowered since they are restricted to move anywhere without the permission of their husband. Hence the variable takes into account the mobility of the women is the most important indicator to judge whether the rural women are empowered or not.

xiv. Culture of the Society(CUL)

Women's participation is often met with enormous challenges deeply ingrained in traditions and customs that have for a long time constituted societal practices. The belief that women are good as cooks, sex providers and juniors are still persistent. The contributing factors to low level of women's empowerment were cultural influence, and husbands influence through limiting their physical mobility and contacts by making them subordinate of the male members of the family..

Within the culture of the society, women were seen as subordinate to men, and the husband plays a dominant role and religion has a big influence (*Bedru Hassen Ergicho, 2011*).

xv. Access and control over lands(ASST)

Access denotes women's access to factors of production on an equal basis with men such as equal access to land, labor, credit, training, marketing facilities, public services and benefits, etc. Land is the basic means of production in the study area. Providing women with access to productive resources, particularly land will significantly help to ensure their empowerment so boost food security and livelihoods in rural areas. The variable is operationalized as women more access and control over land, it increases their empowerment and vice-versa.

xvi. Access to Credit Services (CRED)

When credit facilities and micro-finance support reach large number of poor and disadvantaged rural women for borrowing, it increases women's ability to earn income that can support the well-being of women and their families. Even though credit support and microfinance facilities are very important for poverty reduction and empowerment of rural women, various studies reveals that most of rural women do not have access to credit and micro-finance support (*Bedru Hassen and Ergicho, 2011*). Microfinance enables poor women to become economic agents of change by increasing their income and productivity, access to markets and information, and decision-making power (World Bank).Accordingly, it is hypothesized as rural women have more access to credit and saving services ,it indicates that they are more empowered and vice-versa

xvii. Access to Saving (SAV)

When saving facilities and micro-finance support reach large number of poor and disadvantaged rural women, it increases women's ability to increase their income that can support the well-being of women and their families converting into capital or fixed asset in the long run. However, access to saving support are very important for poverty reduction and empowerment of rural women, various studies reveals that most of rural women do not have access to saving and

micro-finance support (Bedru Hassen and Ergicho, 2011). Microfinance enables poor women to become economic agents of change by increasing their income and productivity, access to markets and information, and decision-making power (World Bank). Accordingly, it is hypothesized as rural women have more access to saving services, it indicates that they will be more empowered and vice-versa

xviii. Women’s participation in Decision making position (DEC)

Women’s status in public sector is low. They are still largely underrepresented in decision-making positions at all levels. There are no progresses in attaining power in legislative bodies (Ministry of Women’s Affairs, 2006). Therefore, it is operationalized as if the women’s participation in decision making will be increased, their empowerment is also increased and vice-versa.

Table 4: the summaries of List of Selected Variables for Empirical Analysis

Code	Explanatory Variables	Description of Explanatory Variables	Expected Correlation
INFO	Access to Information	Access to any information =1 if high or = 0 if low	positive
PAR	Social participation	Social participation =1 if high or =0 if low	positive
VIOL	Violence Against Rural Women	Harmful Traditional violence =1 if high or = 0 if low	negative
PAU	Freedom of Mobility	Freedom of mobility =1 if yes or = 0 if not	Positive
CUL	Culture of the Society	Traditional Culture =1 if yes or = 0 if not	negative
CRED	Access to Credit Service	Access to financial service = 1 if yes or = 0 if not	Positive
SAV	Access to Saving	Access to saving service = 1 if yes or = 0 if not	positive
ASST	Access and Control over land	Women having access to assets =1 if high ,or = 0 if low	positive
DEC	Participation in decision making	participation in decision making = 1 if high or = 0 if low	Positive

3.5. Cost Estimation (Budget Preparation)

Allocating appropriate budget is one of the decisive factors for the successful accomplishment of the research findings. The optimum budget to accomplish the proposed research using three enumerators to collect data is estimated to Birr **12,295.50** as shown below

Budget Estimate to Collect Data from the Research Area

No	Item	Unit	Quantity	Unit cost	Total cost
	Stationary and Related Service				
	Pen	No	10	5.00	50.00
	Pencil	"	10	2.00	20.00
	Writing pad	"	10	10.00	100.00
	4A size paper	packet	2	90.00	180.00
	Total	-	-	-	350.00
2	Perdiem				
	- Collection of data by 8 enumerators per day for 5 days in 4 kebeles, 1 urban administration. In one woreda	Days	40	100birr/day/enumerator	9450.00
	- Coordinator perdiem	Days	10	171 birr /day	1,710.00
	- Coordinator transportation cost	trip	2	100.00	200.00
	Total	-	-	-	11,360.00
	Total Cost				11,710.00
	Contingency 5%				585.50
	Grand Total budget				12,295.50

3.6. Work Plan

No	Activity	Period of Accomplishment
1	Literature Review	September and October ,2012
2	Preparation of Questionnaires, Interview Questions and translating into local language	November ,2012
3	Conducting the pilot-testing and recheck the questionnaires	October ,2012
2	Discussion on the aim and how to collect the data with the team (enumerators)	January 1- 2/2013
3	Collection of data	January 10-30/2013
4	Organization of data	February 1-15/2013
6	Analysis and Interpretation of data	February 16/2013-Martch 30/2013
7	Submitting the first draft to the Department for comment on the finding	April 1-15/2013
9	Submitting the final draft to the Department	April 20/2013

NB. This is only tentative work plan. The accomplishment will be adjusted depending on the situation.

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ANNEXES

ANNEXE-I: Questionnaires Prepared for Women Respondents at Household Levels

Practice and Challenges on Rural Women Empowerment in Oromia Regional State

The Case of Guduru Woreda

Dear respondent, the purpose of this study in general and this designed questionnaire in particular is to collect data on the practices and challenges on Rural Women Empowerment in Guduru woreda Oromia Regional State which will help the policy makers and executives to alleviate the on gender inequality and women empowerments that deep rooted in the society. Moreover, the researcher as partial fulfillment of academic requirements of M.A. degree in Rural Development and to gain practical knowledge on the topic under investigation and other prospective researchers as a stepping stone to carry out further investigation.

Therefore, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks in advance for your patience, generous time and prompt responses on the questionnaires. Dear respondents, I would like to pledge once and again that personal responses of interviewees would be kept confidential, and there would not be any link between status in the investigation and responses. Thus, your ideas and comments are highly honored and kept confidential. To create a conducive environment for your free and genuine responses, you are not required to write your name.

Thank You

I. Questionnaires Prepared for Women Respondents at Household Levels

Part One

1. General Information

1.1 Address (Kebele) _____

1.2 Age of the respondents (Circle the letter in which your age group belongs)

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| a) <25 | d) 41 to 50 |
| b) 25 to 35 | e) 51 to 60 |
| c) 36 to 40 | f) 61 and above |

1.3 Marital status (Circle the letter only)

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| a) Single | c) Divorced |
| b) Married | d) Widowed |

1.4 Based on Question No. 1.3, if your answer is **a**, **c** or **d**, at what age group your marriage is concluded? (Circle the letter only)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| a) Below 15 years old | d) 22 – 25 years |
| b) 15 – 18 years | e) 26 and above |
| c) 19 – 21 years | |

1.5 Number of children in the family

- a) 0
- b) 1
- c) 2
- d) 3
- e) 4
- f) 5 and above

1.6 Educational Status (Circle the letter only)

- a) Illiterate
- b) Non-formal Education
- c) Grade 1- 4
- d) Grade 5 – 8
- e) Grade 9- 10
- f) Grade 11 – 12
- g) College Diploma
- h) Degree and Above

Part Two: Detail Information

ii. Questionnaires on Information Access of respondents (circle the letter only)

2.1 . To what extent do you rate your Mass media participation.....?

- a) Very high
- b) High
- c) Medium
- d) Poor
- e) Very poor

2.2.To what extent do you rate having the knowledge of laws enacted on Women Rights in our country?

- a) Very high
- b) High
- c) Medium
- d) Poor
- e) I don't know
- f) If a & b lists it

2.3 What media sources you are using frequently to get recent information.....?

- a) Radio
- b) Television
- c) News Letter
- d) Mobile phone
- e) All
- f) none

2.4 Indicate the information on Mass media participation on the following table

No	Mass Media Sources	Subscriber /Possessed	Frequency of Uses		
			Regular	Occasionally	Never
1	Radio				
2	Television				
3	Newsletter/magazine				
4	Others				
5	Overall rating of Ino. access				

iii. Questionnaires on Respondents Participation in any Institution/Organization
(circle the letter only)

3.1.Are you a member of any Institution/organization.....?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3.2. If yes, indicate the following information:

No	Name of the Institution	Membership Position		Extent of Participation		
		Member	Office bears	Regular	occasionally	never
1	Kebeles Admi. council					
2	Women's league					
3	Kebele Administrative					
4	Cooperative association					
5	Woreda level admi. council					
6	Self-help group(MSSE)					
7	Parent committee of school					
8	Others					
9	Overall rating of participation in Org.					

iv. Questionnaires on Freedom of mobility (circle the letter only)

4.1. Do you have freedom to go out where you want.....?

a) Yes

b) No

4.2. Are you free to wear what you want.....?

a) Yes

b) No

4.3. Indicate the information on personal autonomous of the respondents on the following tables

No	Personal autonomous index	Frequency of uses		
		Frequently	Occasionally	Never
1	Visiting respondents' parental home			
2	Visiting Hospital			
3	Visiting nearest market			
4	Control over personal income			
5	Watching T.V and reading newspaper/magazines			
6	Visiting friends or relatives			
7	Others			
8	Overall rating of personal autonomous			

v. Questionnaires on Violence against Respondents (circle the letter only)

5.1. Are you physically abused / sexually abused / mentally abused by spouse or anyone in the family or in a society.....?

a) Yes

b) No –

2.5 If your answer is yes, indicate the following information using (✓)

No	Violence against respondents	Yes	No
1	Early marriage (<15 years)		
2	Forced marriage		
3	abduction		
4	Rape		
5	Unwanted child bearing		
6	Attempt to murders		
7	husband beating		
8	Sexual harassment		

vi. Questionnaires on Respondents access to assets (circle the letter only)

6.1. Access to landholding of the family

- a) Less than one hek
- b) 1- 2 hek
- c) 2-4 hek
- d) More than 4 hek
- e) Have no land

6.2. Land ownership

- a) Husband/father/Son
- b) Joint ownership
- c) Independent ow/ship
- d) have no land

6.3. If Joint Ownership, land is registered and certified in the name of.....?

- a) Women(wife)
- b) Husband
- c) Both
- e) other

6.4. If Independent ownership, No. of hek of land owned by women:

6.5. Do you the owner of any other assets.....?

- a) Yes
- b) No

6.6. If yes, indicate the following information

No	Assets Sole ownership	Asset Joint ownership	If joint ownership, with whom?
1			
2			
3			

6.7. Who makes decision on all assets of the households

- a) Women(wife)
- b) Husband
- c) Both
- d) other

6.8. If your answer is both, to what extent you rate the women's decision making power?

- a) Very high
- b) High
- c) Equal
- d) Low

6.9. Have you been undergone any training on income generating scheme...?

- a) Yes
- b) No

6.10. In what types of income generating activities you are participating now.....?

No	Income generating activities(use the "x"	Yes	No
1	Dairy farming		
2	Tailoring		
3	Food items preparation and selling (Injera, bread and tea...)		
4	Goat (poultry) rearing		
5	Marketing of fruits and vegetables		
6	Weaving and Marketing of cloths		
7	Marketing of agricultural products		
8	Selling of local drinking		
9	Pottery and related equipment making and selling		
10	Shops and restaurants		
11	If any other		

6.11. Who control over income generated by the above listed activities.....?

- a) Women(wife)
- b) Husband
- c) Both
- d) others

6.12. Savings

- a) No savings
- b) Up to 25% of earnings
- c) Up to 50% of earnings
- d) If yes, describe the f/institution

6.13. Access to credit

- a) No access to credit
- b) Joint access to credit
- c) Access to credit
- d) If yes, describe the institution

vii. Questionnaires on Cultural related activities

7.1.From which water sources do you fetch water for domestic use?

- a) Borehole
- b) Rainwater harvesting tank
- c) Spring
- d) Tap
- e) Unprotected water sources

7.2.Who fetches the water in the household.....?

- a) Man
- b) Woman
- c) Girls
- d) Boys
- e) All the above
- f) Others (specify)

7.3.Please ,indicate the following information .(you can use ✓ more than one)

No	Activities	performers			
		Wife	Husband	Daughters	Son
1	Washing family clothes				
2	Milking and milk processing				
3	Gathering of firewood and cooking food for family				
4	Growing cash crops , planting, weeding and harvesting				
5	Decision on disposal/selling of stored grain into cash				
6	The major cash money obtained by selling grain goes to				
7	The major decision to spent money in the family				
8	The decision to on family planning				

II. Questionnaires related to Women's Decision making power

- 8.1. To what extent do you rate your participation in decision making power in the family?
 - a) Very high
 - b) High
 - c) medium
 - d) low
- 8.2. To what extent do you rate the overall your participation in social and legal decision making power?
 - a. Very high
 - b. High
 - c. Medium
 - d. Low
- 8.3. How do you rate your participation on leadership and self-esteem training programs?
 - a) Very high
 - b) High
 - c) Medium
 - d) Low
- 8.4. How do you rate the overall level of your participation in society decision making power?
 - a) Very high
 - b) High
 - c) Medium
 - d) Low

III. Questionnaires to Identify Level of Policy Intervention on rural Women's Empowerment

No	Questionnaires	Responses	
		Yes	No
9.1	Are you currently organized under micro enterprise for income generating activities?		
9.2	Is any access for credit, financial and technical support services provided for you through Gove't and NGOs?		
9.3	Is a training or networking among rural women to control over fertility decisions?		
9.4	Do you really aware of local policies and your legal rights?		
9.5	Do you know that the existence of enforcement of legislation related to the protection of your rights?		
9.6	Do you belief that the enforcements of legislation treat you when you bring your cases to them?		
9.8	Do you think that the violence against women is decreasing?		
9.9	The extent of gender sensitive projects and schemes provided at rural areas		
9.10	Did you participates in capacity building and skill development especially ability to plan, make decision activities ?		

Thank you!!

ANNEXE-II: Questionnaires Prepared for Respondents of women civil servants

Practice and Challenges on Rural Women Empowerment in Oromia Regional State

The Case of Guduru Woreda

Dear respondent, the purpose of this study in general and this designed questionnaire in particular is to collect data on the practices and challenges on Rural Women Empowerment in Guduru woreda Oromia Regional State which will help the policy makers and executives to alleviate the on gender inequality and women empowerments that deep rooted in the society. Moreover, the researcher as partial fulfillment of academic requirements of M.A. degree in Rural Development and to gain practical knowledge on the topic under investigation and other prospective researchers as a stepping stone to carry out further investigation.

Therefore, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and sincere thanks in advance for your patience, generous time and prompt responses on the questionnaires. Dear respondents, I would like to pledge once and again that personal responses of interviewees would be kept confidential, and there would not be any link between status in the investigation and responses. Thus, your ideas and comments are highly honored and kept confidential. To create a conducive environment for your free and genuine responses, you are not required to write your name.

Thank You

IV. Questionnaires Prepared for Respondents of women civil servants

Part One

2. General Information

4.1 Name of Originations _____

4.2 Position in the originations _____

4.3 Age of the respondents (Circle the letter in which your age group belongs)

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| g) <25 | j) d) 41 to 50 |
| h) b) 25 to 35 | k) 51 to 60 |
| i) c) 36 to 40 | l) 61 and above |

4.4 Marital status (Circle the letter only)

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| e) Single | g) Divorced |
| f) Married | h) Widowed |

4.5 Based on Question No,1.3,if your answer is **a, c or d** ,at what age group your marriage is concluded ?(Circle the letter only)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| f) Below 15 years old | i) 22 – 25 years |
| g) 15 – 18 years | j) 26 and above |
| h) 19 – 21 years | |

4.6 Number of children in the family

- | | |
|------|----------------|
| g) 0 | j) 3 |
| h) 1 | k) 4 |
| i) 2 | l) 5 and above |

4.7 Educational Status (Circle the letter only)

- i) Illiterate
- j) Non-formal Education
- k) Grade 1- 4
- l) Grade 5 – 8
- m) Grade 9- 10
- n) Grade 11 – 12
- o) College Diploma
- p) Degree and Above

Part Two: Detail Information

viii. Questionnaires on Information Access of Rural women’s (circle the letter only)

2.6 . To what extent do you rate rural women Mass media participation.....?

- f) Very high
- g) High
- h) Medium
- i) Poor
- j) Very poor

2.7.To what extent do you rate rural women having the knowledge of laws enacted on Women Rights in our country?

- g) Very high
- h) High
- i) Medium
- j) Poor
- k) I don’t know
- l) If a & b lists it

2.8 What media sources most likely rural women’s are using frequently to get recent information.....?

- g) Radio
- h) Television
- i) News Letter
- j) Mobile phone
- k) All
- l) none

2.9 Indicate the information on Mass media participation on the following table

No	Mass Media Sources	Subscriber /Possessed	Frequency of Uses		
			Regular	Occasionally	Never
1	Radio				
2	Television				
3	Newsletter/magazine				
4	Others				
5	Overall rating of Ino. access				

ix. Questionnaires on Rural women Participation in any Institution/Organization (circle the letter only)

3.3.To what extent do you rate rural women participation in any Institution/Originations?

- a) Very high
- b) High
- c) Medium
- d) Poor

3.4. Based on question No 3.1, indicate the institution/origination in which most likely rural women participates from the following tables:(Possible to tick more than one)

No	Name of the Institution	Membership Position		Extent of Participation		
		Member	Office bears	Regular	occasionally	never
1	Kebeles Admi. council					
2	Women's league					
3	Kebele Administrative					
4	Cooperative association					
5	Woreda level admi. council					
6	Self -help group(MSSE)					
7	Parent committee of school					
8	Others					
9	Overall rating of participation in Org.					

x. Questionnaires on Rural Women Personal Autonomous (circle the letter only)

4.4. Do you think that rural women have freedom to go out wherever they want.....?

c) Yes

d) No

4.5. Do you think that rural women are free to wear whatever they want without the consent of husbands.....?

c) Yes

d) No

4.6. Indicate the information on personal autonomous of the rural women on the following tables

No	Personal autonomous index	Frequency of uses		
		Frequently	Occasionally	Never
1	Visiting respondents' parental home			
2	Visiting Hospital without the consent of her husbands			
3	Visiting nearest market without the consent of her husbands			
4	Control over personal income			
5	Watching T.V and reading newspaper/magazines			
6	Visiting friends or relatives without her husband's consents			
8	Overall rating of personal autonomous			

xi. Questionnaires on Violence against Respondents (circle the letter only)

4.7. To what extent does you rate rural women physically abuses / sexually abuses / mentally abuses by spouse or anyone in the family or in a society?

a. Very high

c. Medium

b. High

d. Poor

2.10 Based on your answer of Question No,2.4, indicate the following information using (✓)

N_o	Violence against respondents	Yes	No
1	Early marriage (<15 years)		
2	Forced marriage		
3	abduction		
4	Rape		
5	Unwanted child bearing		
6	Attempt to murders		
7	husband beating		
8	Sexual harassment		

xii. Questionnaires on Rural women's access to assets (circle the letter only)

- 6.14. What is your feeling on general land ownership system in rural areas?
 f) Husband/father/Son
 g) Joint ownership
 h) Independent ownership
 i) have no land
- 6.15. If Joint Ownership, land is registered and certified in the name of.....?
 d) Women(wife)
 e) Husband
 f) Both
 j) other
- 6.16. To what extent do you rate rural women's are beneficiaries from land and other assets ownership?
 c) Very high
 d) High
 e) Medium
 f) Poor
- 6.17. Who most likely makes decision on all assets of the households?
 e) Women(wife)
 f) Husband
 g)Both
 h)other
- 6.18. If your answer is both, to what extent you rate the women's decision making power?
 e) Very high
 f) High
 g) medium
 h) Low
 i) Very low
- 6.19. To what extent do you rate rural women have been participating on any income generating training scheme...?
 c) Very high
 d) High
 e) medium
 f) Low
- 6.20. In what types of income generating activities related training are mostly rural women have been participating?

ANNEXE-III: INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRES PREPARED FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S AFFAIRS OFFICE HEAD AT THE STUDY AREA

1. Interview Questionnaires Prepared for Women's and Children's Affairs Office head at the Study area

- a. % of seats held by women in local councils/decision- making bodies. _____
- b. % of women in decision-making positions in local government. _____
- c. % of women in the local civil service. _____
- d. % of women/men registered as voters/% of eligible women/men who vote. _____
- e. % of women in senior/junior decision making positions within unions. _____
- f. Number of women participates on leadership and self-esteem training _____
- g. The extent of women physically abuses / sexually abuses / mentally abuses by spouse or anyone in the family or in a society _____
- h. The extent to training conducted on income generating scheme and benefited obtained from the scheme _____
- i. The credit and saving facilities provided for rural women _____
- j. Rural women's origination under micro enterprises to generate their income _____
- k. What are the major constraints and challenges to empowering women in the area?

ANNEXE-IV: INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRES PREPARED FOR WOREDA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HEAD AT THE STUDY AREA

2. Interview Questionnaires Prepared for Woreda Administrative Chief Executives at the Study area

- a. What are the special treatment (affirmative action) provided for women at each successive administrative level to empower them? _____
- b. % of women decision-making positions in local government (kebeles/woreda in the woreda). _____
- c. % of women in the total civil servant in the woreda _____
- d. % of women at leadership position in the civil servant /sectors _____
- e. The law enforcement commitment to support rural women when they present their case to the court/public prosecutors/polices _____
- f. Training provided for rural women at the district and on what types of specific issues

- g. What are the major constraints and challenges to empowering women in the area?

- h. How do you rate that the policies and programs designed are reached at the rural women at grass root level? _____
- i. If any other specify it _____