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DETERMINANTS OF RURAL WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT: THE CASE OF ADAMI TULLU JIDDO KOMBOLCHA WOREDA, ETHIOPIA

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at identifying the “Determinants of Rural Women Economic Empowerment in Adami Tullu Jiddo Kombolcha Woreda of Oromia Regional State of Ethiopia”. The data were analyzed by using qualitative and quantitative methods. Descriptive statistics and econometric analysis methods were used for quantitative data. Nine indicators were taken to substantiate evidence. The data results showed that economic empowerment level of rural women were affected by media exposure, participation of rural women that affect their economic empowerment options and constraints to freedom of mobility. The institutional factors that affect rural women economic empowerment included poor economic condition of the rural women and lack of law enforcement of gender affirmative provisions to resolve inequality and constraints of the will of policy makers.

KEYWORDS

determinants, economic empowerment, rural, women.

INTRODUCTION

Women are half of the world’s population and other half also directly or indirectly depends on them. Despite their major share in the development of civilization, yet their status in most parts of the world is not equal to men and they are less privileged (Rahman and Naoroze, 2007).

Women are doing more hour of work than men but they earn little because 60% of total unpaid work is done by them (UN, 2007). Despite their hard work and contributions to world economy, women have only one percent of the total world assets in their names (Al Mughairy, 2004).

Although Ethiopian women constitute about 50% of the population, they comprise the majority of the unemployed segment of the population that is hardest hit by poverty. They often resort to self-employment. All in all, rural women live in worst situation where basic social services such as health and education are scarce and diseases, malnutrition and illiteracy are widespread (ARWEA, 2007).

The Oromia National Regional State has made a number of efforts towards effective and smooth implementation of political, social and economic as well as legal related empowerment of women. Furthermore, the regional laws and policies demand all organizations in the region to include gender issues in their development plans. However, the deep rooted economic problem of women remained pervasive.

It is line of this background that the researcher seeks to identify the determinants of rural women economic empowerment and the extent to which those determinants affects the economic empowerment of women living in AdamiTullu Jido Kombolcha Woreda, East Shoa zone, Oromia regional state.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The literature on women’s empowerment suggests that empowerment involves choice and control that it is a process and an outcome and that empowerment occurs across a number of domains and dimensions. Therefore, when thinking about empowerment, we must think of where it occurs and the dimension in which it occurs, we must consider the context in which decisions are made and the power structures being challenged, and we must look at the characteristics of the women or communities involved in the process.

According to Pathfinder (2007), rural women were not only subjected to different right violation but also discriminated from the land and other property rights. The traditional beliefs and customs, that are practiced in rural societies are playing important role for discrimination. In most culture male has right of inheritance while in most cases women cannot inherit the land and other properties directly from their families. These traditional norms prevent the implementation of constitutionally declared women right, on land holding at different levels.

Given the dominance of economic thinking within the World Bank, it is not surprising it was one of the first agencies to explicitly adopt the language of women’s economic empowerment: ‘Economic empowerment is about making markets work for women (at the policy level) and empowering women to compete in markets (at the agency level)’ (World Bank 2006: 4). From the point of view of gender advocates within the Bank, this definition, with its clear focus on economic sectors (specified as land, labour, product and financial markets), had the advantage of giving gender issues more traction institutionally (World Bank 2006: 3).

Empowering women especially in the economic aspect is very important for environmental sustainability and reduction of HIV/AIDS infection rate (World Bank, 2007). According to World Bank (2007) rural poor women depend on forest to get their basic needs such as: food, clothes and means for household consumption. To get these commodities they are forced to cut trees, which lead’ to deforestation that greatly affect the sustainability of the environment.

Economic dependencies of women expose them to sexual violence, early marriage and engage in commercial sex-working which increases the spreading of HIV/AIDS infection rate. Most of the African women have not benefited from investment and trade of Agricultural products because they have limited access to land, credit, transport, etc. Women produce 80 % of basic food staff but receive less than 10% of the credit given to men. Agricultural productivity would have been increased by 20% if women have got access to credit (USAID, 2005).

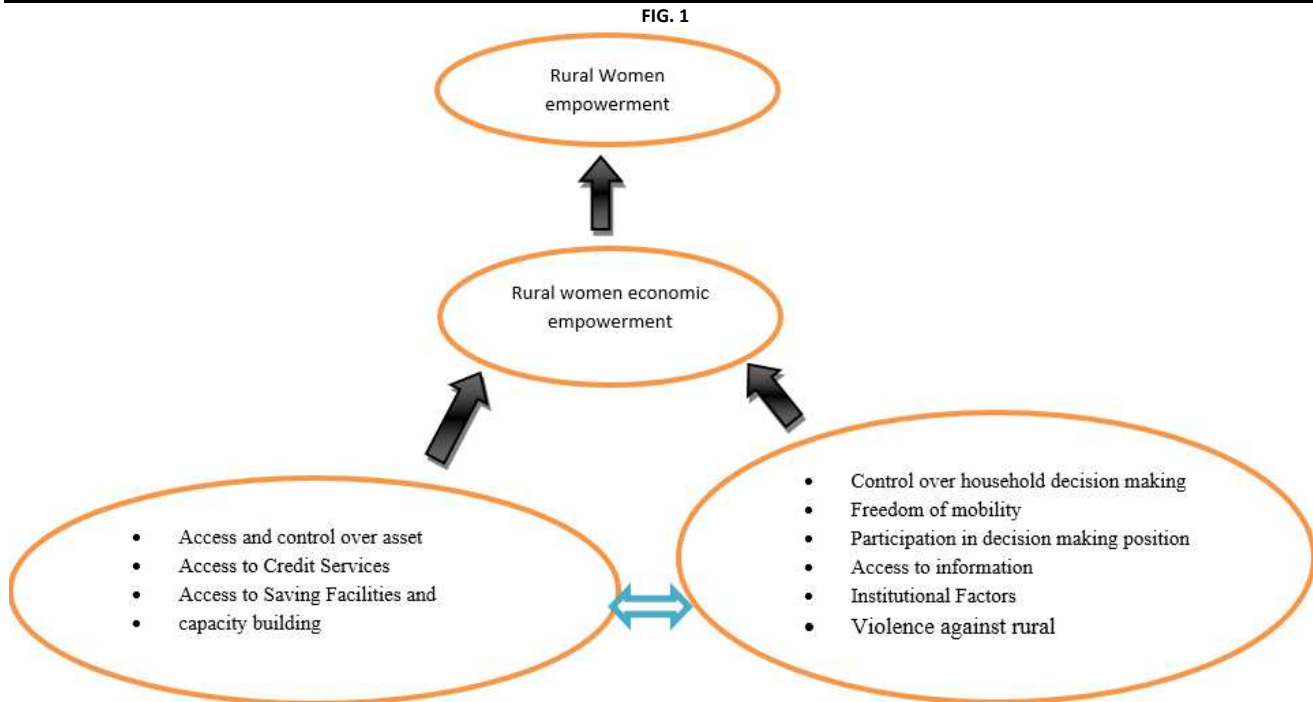
In addition to traditional practices and cultural norms low commitment of African leaders and policy makers in avoiding such social bias which contributes to the economic insecurity of rural women (African protocol, 2003). This shows that the African leaders, politicians, policy makers,

In rural areas of Ethiopia in general, and in Adami Tullu Jido Kombolcha Woreda in particular, rural women have subjected to home based attack by husband (physical and psychological) because of their economic dependence. It is true that women do not have their own income, have no right to decision making power on property, have no option to divorce, and have faced home based attack. When they act divorced and separated from their husband, the traditional practices and cultural norms do not allow or favor the women to share all property equally with their husband.

Economic empowerment is enhancing the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth (Eyben, etal-, 2008).

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Conceptual framework is commonly developed in the light of literature review and theoretical framework. It is logically developed network of relationship between the variables related to the research (Sekaram, 1992:63). Cited in (Kahan 2010) the figure 1 represents the theoretical framework for the present study which indicates the tentative relationship among the variables of the study. The variables used in present study were classified into two categories; independent variables and dependent variables. Rural women economic empowerment is the dependent variable and Control over household decision making, Freedom of mobility, Participation in decision making position, Access to information, Institutional Factors, Access and control over asset, Access to Credit Services, Access to Saving Facilities and capacity building are the independent variables identified for this research study.



Source: Own representation by summarizing the concepts from literature review Khan (2010)

NEED /IMPORTNACE OF THE STUDY

The present study is likely to provide valuable information to the government and nongovernment agencies about the extent of economic empowerment of the rural women and it initiated to generate and add some information to the existing knowledge of socio-economic factors that have contributions for empowering women economically and sustainable livelihood. The finding 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 economic empowerment promoters and development policy makers 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.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Much concern has been shown in recent years with regard to economic empowerment of rural women. Globally, empowering women economically received special attention as world leaders become committed to avoid all factors that promote gender based discrimination. Bedru (2011:3)

Women constitute about 50 percent of the Ethiopian population and they involve in different sectors of the economy. Although poor women are engaged in heavier and highly time-consuming workloads, they never obtain the commensurate earnings. This leads them to be highly dependent on their husbands. The burden is worse in rural Ethiopia where peasant women have no alternative to generate their own income and to be self-reliant. Even the main asset of the agricultural economy – land - is typically held in the name (ownership title) of their husbands except in some parts of the regions in the country, where the land ownership title is held in the name of both husband and wife.

Women's economic empowerment has many dimensions and is specific to the context under consideration. Projects address economic empowerment through different pathways. The indicators suitable for one area or program may not be relevant elsewhere. Several studies have also indicated that women may be empowered in one area of life, while not in others (Kishor 2000) No universal set of indicators is appropriate for every project, in every sector and in every context. Local studies on women's economic empowerment in Adami Tullu Jiddo Kombolcha Woreda are rare. Particularly studies based on direct indicators of empowerment such as decision making power on household matters, autonomy in seeking health care, attitude towards resisting wife beating and attitude towards right to refuse sex with husband for any reason are scarce. As a result, there is lack of comprehensive knowledge regarding different dimensions of women's economic empowerment and the factors associated with them. It is believed that implementation of pertinent policies and programs targeting gender equality and women's empowerment can benefit immensely from current studies in this area. Hence, the researcher seeks to fill this gap by identifying the determinants of rural women economic empowerment in Adami Tulu Jiddo Kombolcha woreda based on both direct and indirect indicators using the data supplied by the Demographic health survey of 2005.

OBJECTIVES

The general objective of the study was to investigate the determinants of rural women economic empowerments and analyzing the level of their influence on rural women economic empowerments and the specific objectives were to:

- Analyze the status of rural women's economic empowerment in the study area.
- Assess the institutional changes of rural women's economic empowerment in terms of policies in the study areas.
- Analyze the determinants of rural women's economic empowerment.
- Analyze the correlation between the rural women economic empowerment and the determinants.

BASIC RESEARCH QUESTIONS OF THE STUDY

The study enquired the determinants of rural women's economic empowerment in Adami Tulu Jido Kombolcha Woreda of Oromia regional state. The study tried to answer the following specific research questions.

1. What is the status of economic empowerment of rural women in the study area?
2. What are the institutional changes of rural women's economic empowerments in the study area?
3. What are policy interventions in place to ensuring rural women's economic empowerment in the study area?
4. What are the determinants of women's economic empowerment in the study area?
5. How each determinant of rural women economic empowerment correlates with the rural women economic empowerment?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used both descriptive and econometric models to analysis and find out the results. The descriptive method of data analysis was important to analysis the demography of the population in the study area and linear regression estimates the coefficients of the linear equation, involving one or more independent variables that best predict the value of the dependent variable. The linear regression model assumes that there is a linear, or "straight line," relationship between the dependent variable rural women economic empowerment (RWEE) and each predictor. This relationship is described in the following formula.

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1i} + \beta_2 X_{2i} + \dots + \beta_n X_{ni} + e_i \dots (1)$$

Where: β_0 is the intercept and $\beta_{1,2}$ are slope parameters in the model and e_i is the error in the observed value for the i^{th} case. The model is linear because increasing the value of j^{th} predictor by 1 unit increases the value of the dependent by β_j units. Note that β_0 is the intercepts, the model –predicted value of the dependent variable when the value of every predictor is equal to 0.

FINDINGS

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

Table 1 below portrays the degree of correlation between dependent and the independent variable. According to the correlation results, except one variable (violence against rural women), all the other explanatory variables shows positive relationship with the explained (dependent variable). In the case the one variables, violence against rural women, it was negatively related to the dependent variable (rural women economic empowerment). The reason is that the higher the violence against rural women, the lower their economic empowerment. That means, the higher prevalence of violence against rural women like rape, abduction, forced unplanned child bearing by the males and frequent beating of husband, the lower in access to information, participation in decision making and other social and economic affairs which decrease their economic empowerments.

On the other hand, increasing media exposure, participation in social affairs, freedom of mobility, having the active participation in decision making position whether in family matter and political aspects, access and control over family assets including productive asset like land, institutional factors and access to credit and saving services have positive correlation with the dependent variable (Economic empowerment of rural women). To this effect, the following table indicates the correlation results between the explained (dependent) and explanatory variables of rural women economic empowerment.

TABLE 1: CORRELATIONS FOR WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT (Total sample N=318)

Variables	RWEE	MEDIA	PAR	FREE	INST	ASST	VIO	TRN	CRED
RWEE	1.000	.591 .000*	.488 .000*	.536 .000*	.058 .320	.031 .592	-.143 .014*	.149 .010*	.190 .001*
MEDIA	.591 .000*	1.000	.391 .000*	.441 .000*	.060 .306	.130 .026*	.112 .054**	.024 .680	.211 .000*
PAR	.488 .000*	.391 .000	1.000	.547 .000*	-.046 .433	.097 .099**	-.179* -.002*	.375 .000*	.266 .000*
FREE	.536 .000*	.441 .000*	.547 .000*	1.000	-.111 .059**	.246 .000*	-.149 .011*	-.226 .000*	-.213 .000*
INST	.058 .320	.060 .306	-.046 .433	-.111 .059	1.000	.035 .554	-.096 .100**	-.025 .668	.042 .472
ASST	.031 .592	.130 .026*	.097 .099**	.246 .000*	.035 .554	1.000	-.050 .391	-.209 .000*	.123 .036*
VIO	-.143 .014*	.112 .054**	-.179 -.002*	-.149 .011*	-.096 .100**	-.050 .391	1.000	.012 .838	.100 .088**
TRN	.149 .010*	.024 .680	.375 .000*	-.226 .000*	-.025 .668	-.209 .000*	.012 .838	1.000	.262 .000*
CRED	.190 .001*	.211 .000*	.266 .000*	-.213 .000*	.042 .472	.123 .036*	.100 .088**	.262 .000*	1.000

Source: Author’s computation based on own fieldwork data

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Goodness-of-fit statistics helps us to determine whether the model adequately describes the data. The ANOVA table tests the acceptability of the model from a statistical perspective. Therefore, the table2 reports the ANOVA in which the calculated value of F is 31.853at P<0.005 (0.000). This implies that the result supports the overall significance of present multiple regression model i.e. rural women economic empowerment (dependent variable) in Adamiy tullu jiddo kombolcha woreda of Oromia regional state depends upon a listed set of independent variables.

TABLE 2: ANOVA RESULT FROM ECONOMETRIC ANALYSIS USING LINEAR REGRESSION MODEL

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	176.991	9	19.666	31.853	.000 ^b
1 Residual	174.722	283	.617		
Total	351.713	292			

Source: Author’s computation based on own fieldwork data

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. Thus, as the model summary table below indicates, the value of R Square was computed as 0.503 at the study area implies that all the variables included in present linear regression model accounts for about **50.3%** of variance in the dependent variable of rural women’s economic empowerment in the district.

TABLE 3: MODEL SUMMARY FROM THE LINEAR REGRESSION MODEL

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.709	.503	.487	.786

Source: Author’s computation based on own fieldwork data

Table 3 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, such as, media exposure, women’s participation

in social affairs, rural women freedom of movement, institutional factors and rural women participation in different organization were found to be statistically significant. The table depicts the beta value for several independent variables, which means larger the beta, and t-value at small significance level suggests that an independent variable is having a large impact on the dependent variable (RWEE). Hence, the p-value associated with each predictor factor is the position of the log odds ratio due to that factor.

The largest t-value 6.936 at p-value < 0.05 (.000) of the media exposure to the rural women economic empowerment which was followed by t-value 3.579 at the p-value < 0.05 (0.000) of rural women freedom of mobility and rural women participation in social affairs of t-value 3.264 at the p-value less than 0.05 (0.000) are the most determinant factors on rural women economic empowerment. It is also well followed by other independent variable like rural women participation in organization and institutional factors to support rural women with t-value 3.401 and p-value < 0.05 (.001) and t-value 2.767 with p-value < 0.05 (0.006) were strongly statistically significant. The Beta value for the independent variable media exposure to rural women at the study area was 0.360 which means that rural women who has the media exposure are 0.360 times higher of their economic empowerment compared with those who have no or low media exposure for their empowerment provided that all other things remain constant. In the same way, Beta value of the independent variable women participation in social affairs at the study area was 0.179 which means that the rural women who have the opportunities of participation in social aspect were 0.179 times economically more empowered than those who have no access to participate in social affairs and etc.

TABLE 4: LINEAR REGRESSION MODEL RESULTS INCLUDING ITS COEFFICIENTS

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	-.234	.421		-.556	.579
Rural Women media exposure	.381	.055	.360	6.936	.000
Rural Women Participation in Decision Making Position	.211	.065	.179	3.264	.001
Rural Women Freedom of Mobility	.193	.054	.209	3.579	.000
Institutional factors	.097	.035	.118	2.767	.006
Rural Women Access and Control over Asset	.033	.056	-.028	-.588	.557
Violence Against Rural Women	-.035	.095	-.016	-.368	.713
Rural Women Access to Training	.019	.109	.008	.173	.863
Rural Women Access to Credit and Saving	.122	.109	.053	1.121	.263
Rural Women Participation in the Organization	.160	.047	.187	3.401	.001

a. Dependent Variable: Rural women Economic Empowerment

Source: Author's computation based on own fieldwork data

RECOMMENDATION

The low level economic empowerment and the identified determinant factors of rural women economic empowerment calls for policy interventions and institutional redress. Rural women lack exposure to media, participation in decision making, freedom of mobility and training. Also there are weak institutional supports to ameliorate the prevalence of challenges in rural women empowerment in the Woreda. To address the economic empowerment issues gender disparity in education, in distribution of property and in paid job participation was prevalent in the study areas therefore, government, NGOs and concerned groups or individuals should pay due attention towards this issue by focusing on female education, by introducing less complicated laws for inherited property and by creating paid work and media access opportunities for women at their door steps. These steps of government and others will lead women towards economic self-reliance. At individual level also women should recognize themselves and build capacity among them to enhance awareness about their rights, increase their knowledge and develop a sense to bring positive change in their status and As individual, women have few chances to improve their status; therefore, there is a need for them to engage themselves in groups where they can share their problems and can work out solutions for these problems and use different medias to add knowledge about their right and then to be empowered economically.

CONCLUSION

In the past 20 years, different approaches and policies to address women's economic disempowerment have been employed and significant progress has been made in the area of promotion of gender equity in few sectors. Though the constraints still remain unaddressed and remain determinants of women's economic empowerment, institutional and policy changes have become conducive environment (as legal framework of amelioration of the gender gaps). Based on empirical results and discussion, the overall conclusion of this study is that the status of rural women's economic empowerment is not satisfactorily addressed in ATJK Woreda of Oromia Regional State. Most of the rural women are economically underrepresented and disempowered.

The study has shown factors that have positively contributed to women's economic empowerment at one hand and that have negatively affected for the economic empowerment of rural women at ATJK Woreda. It highlighted the fact that exposure to media, participation in social affairs in the community, women's freedom on the decisions on mobility, women's access to training, women's control over resources and credit and saving services are the determinant factors of their empowerment. Women that have access to these factors have relatively shown positive progress in their economic empowerment. Of all factors, access to exposure to media, participation in social and political affairs of the society and freedom of mobility of women are the most influential determinants that enhanced women's economic empowerment.

SCOPE FOR FURTHER STUDIES

Rural Women's empowerment is a broad area of study but this study was focused only on rural women economic empowerment in ATJK Woreda among more than 265 woredas in the region using few indicators. But present study is not an end in itself rather it highlights some of its aspects; therefore, there is need for further studies in this area. And further research can replicate this study in other Woredas in the region so as to make Woreda and sectorial comparison on the economic empowerment of rural women.

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