ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

THE LIVELIHOODS OF WOMEN HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN AMARO WOREDA IN SOUTHERN NATIONS, NATIONALITIES AND PEOPLES REGIONAL STATE

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The Livelihoods of Women Headed Households in Amaro Woreda in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State

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A thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Geography and Environmental studies.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADLI Agriculture Development Led Industrialization
ARD Agricultural Growth and Rural Development
CSA Central Statistical Agency
DAs Development Agents
DFID Department for International Development
EDRI Ethiopian Development Research Institute
FDRE Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FGD Focused Group Discussion
FSCB M&E Food Security Coordination Bureau Monitoring and Evaluation
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GTP Growth and Transformation Plan
IFPRI International Food Policy Research Institute
IIRR Ethiopia International Institute of Rural Reconstruction in Ethiopia
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MoFED Ministry Of Finance and Economic Development
NGOs Non Governmental Organizations
PASDEP A Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty
PIP Policies, Institutions and Processes
PSNP Productive Safety Net Program
SDPRP Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program
TB Tuberculosis
SL Sustainable Livelihood
SLF Sustainable Livelihoods Frameworks
SNNPR Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples Region
WHHs Women Headed Households
WHO World Health Organization
**Abstract**

Women are essential to economic growth in developing countries. They play different roles including productive works for earning income and food for the family. They also engage in reproductive works which include food reproducing and preparing at homes. In addition to this, they also play the reproduction role of bearing the labor forces. However, they are not free from gender based discriminations which is experienced since long time which is also seen in Ethiopia.

In Amaro woreda in particular, they also face many challenges. Traditionally, they do not inherit land and other resources from their parents. They do not share properties with their male spouses during divorce. The polygamous practice in the area results in the division of the existing land or other properties among the wives of the husband and this makes life difficult for those women who take the risk of heading the household lonely. Above all, the area is currently hit by food insecurity problem for which women are more vulnerable. Therefore, it was intended to study how the women headed households earn their livelihoods aiming to analyze their livelihoods, access to resources and their coping mechanisms to food insecurity.

To this end, two sample kebeles were selected systematically from Kolla and Woina Dega agro-ecological zones on the basis of the information secured from the woreda agriculture and rural development which showed the existence of high food insecurity problem in these agro-ecological zones. Out of these kebeles, 60 each from each kebele was selected representing 38% of the kebele’s total women headed households and constituted a total of 120 sample women who were selected through simple random sampling and provided the required data which were collected through the house to house survey by distributing questionnaires, interviews, application of focused group discussions and by analyzing written sources about the woreda.

Then, analysis of data was followed and on the basis of this analysis, it was able to come up with a number of findings which revealed the existence of many problems which the women headed households face in association with their livelihoods. These include livelihood and food insecurity, earning low income, less access to institutional services and capitals, low level of participation, low infrastructure coverage, disease, lack of labor support and others.

Finally, recommendations of the researcher follow which is expected to be presented to the stakeholders so that they should work for solving the problems of the women by creating alternative livelihood strategies which are not dependent on the changing climate, and by improving food security, income levels, access to technologies, capitals, institutions, and levels of participation of women and by improving infrastructural provisions such as transport, pure and water supply.
Chapter one

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Women are essential to economic growth in developing countries. Investments in them often return multiple dividends which help them to improve the well-being of their children, families and communities. They are central wage earners. And hence, their earnings and productive activities provide vital income to many households. They are very important food producers and prepares. In developing countries, they produce between 60 and 80 percent of food crops. Despite these, the social barriers are common to them blocking them from realizing their full economic potential (http://www.acdivoa.org/852571Dc00681414/laboutus_genderequity).

Women are also critical component of rural economy and are engaged in agricultural production. They also contribute significantly to off-farm production or employment, cash and food crops, subsistence farming and reproduction of male-agri-labor forces (MoFED, 2002).

In Third World low income households, women have triple roles. These include productive works, child bearing and rearing and the reproduction of labor forces. Despite these, they are extremely exposed to poverty and food insecurity problems (Chant, 1997).

Like in other developing countries, women in Ethiopia have also faced gender based inequalities and discriminations since long time. They were left out of access to economic resources with men. They did not have equal entitlement to resources and other social and economic issues. In response to this historical legacy in Ethiopia, the FDRE constitution, through article 35 (3) of its provision, entitles them with affirmative measures to remedy this legacy (FDRE, 1995).

At the country level, the number of women currently is almost half which is about 49.5% of the total population (CSA, 2007). And this
much number of people is very important for the development of the country

Economically, Ethiopia is based on agricultural practice which is mainly based on traditional way of farming. The government’s economic growth and poverty reduction strategy place foremost priority on this agricultural growth and rural development.

As in the poorest countries of the world, the agricultural sector in Ethiopia accounts for 46 percent of GDP, 90 percent of exports, 85 percent of employment and provides livelihood for 90 percent of the poor. ARD is at the core of government’s growth and poverty reduction strategy through Agriculture Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategy, the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program SDPRP for 2002-2005 and a Plan for Accelerated and Sustainable Development to End Poverty PASDEP for 2006-2010. Agricultural growth is also expected to stimulate the overall economic growth by raising farm incomes, providing a market for non-farm products and inputs, supplying food and raw materials for agricultural based manufacturing, and mobilizing saving to finance investments (World Bank, 2007). Again for the 2011-2015 Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), agriculture is also taken as a base for economic growth and for achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) (MoFED, 2002, 2006, and 2010).
1.2 Statement of the problem

Poverty and food insecurity are of the most serious problems that challenge Ethiopia’s economic development. Millions of households in rural areas of Ethiopia suffer from chronic food insecurity and receive food aid on annual basis (FSCB M&E, 2004). People earn low level of production which is not able to provide sufficient food for meeting the annual food requirements of the households in the country. This state of affairs results in food insecurity.

To bring economic development, to eradicate poverty, and to realize food security in the country, the government’s development policy places foremost priority on smallholders’ agriculture through designing different strategies from time to time (MoFED, 2002, 2006, 2011).

Food security questions are best answered through livelihood security and therefore, it needs to analyze the livelihoods of the people and respond where intervention is needed.

Studies confirm that the weight of poverty and food insecurity problems is more serious among women and women headed households than men and men headed households (Chant, 1997). This is seen as a result of female population exclusion by gender discriminations. It is explained that the process of exclusion generates economic poverty and this in turn creates vulnerability to risks and shocks (Sweetman, 2004).

Specifically to Amaro woreda, which is the study area of this research, most people’s livelihood is believed to be based on agriculture which requires much access to productive resources. It is smallholder farmers’ activity.

Regarding resource access, men have better access and have better opportunities for the pursuit of livelihood strategies. However, women are traditionally prevented from inheriting the properties of their parents particularly land which is fundamental to rural livelihoods. The cultural
taboos also prevent them from sharing the properties equally with their male spouses during divorce despite its acquisition involves the efforts of both of them. This situation may make life for divorced women very difficult. The culture also allows polygamous for male spouses which may also worsen life for women whose husband marries many wives as the existing properties are fragmented among these many wives. Above all, the woreda agriculture and rural development information showed that there is food insecurity problem whose intensity is very high among women headed households than men headed households which calls for analyzing the livelihoods of the women headed households.

Poverty is also another problem challenging the people of the area. When the income level of the people is taken as a basis for grouping the people into low and high income groups by their economic levels, it is only 10% of the total population which is grouped under better income earning groups, while about 53% of the population is grouped under low income earners (the woreda agriculture and rural development and the woreda administration 2010/11).

As of the information, it is the women who are more vulnerable to these problems for which analyzing their access to productive resources and their position in decision making is needed because for poverty eradication purpose, it calls for pulling out all people including women from economic and social crises which lead them to discrimination, exclusion and then to poverty. In the view of the researcher, therefore, identifying the livelihood situations of the women, their access to productive resources and the factors affecting their livelihood strategies become very important and hence, to reflect it for policy intervention, he preferred the issue.

And therefore, having this in mind, the researcher was initiated to study the livelihoods of women headed households in the woreda believing that the study will identify the state of affairs in which they are applying their
endeavors to generate their life sustenance for reflecting it for policy intervention to intervene where it is needed.

1.3 Objective of the study

1.3.1 General objective
In its general objective, the study was aimed to investigate the livelihood bases of women headed households as well as the status of these women in the community.

1.3.2 Specific objectives
The specific objectives of the study were:

- to analyze the livelihoods of women headed households;
- to assess their access to productive resources (such as land, livestock, credits) and agricultural extension services provisions (fertilizers, improved seeds and pesticides);
- to investigate the state of their food security;
- to differentiate their coping mechanisms to the problems of food insecurity; and
- to investigate the decision making level of women through participating in different issues in the area

1.4 Research questions
In this research, different research questions were raised and treated. These questions were those which are directly related to those of the target population and the issues.

The questions are presented under:

- What is the livelihood of rural women headed households?
- Do they produce sufficient food and generate enough income to support their family members?
• Do women have full right to possess resources and have access to extension services and credits as well as the safety net program extended within the area as a means of solution mechanisms to reduce problems related to livelihood problems?

• What is the level of women’s decision making?

1.5 Significance of the study

The study is expected to be highly significant because problems related to livelihoods and food security are the current development issue of the country and therefore studying the livelihood and food security of the study woreda in general and the livelihoods and food security situations of women headed households in particular are extremely relevant which require timely and appropriate response to bring about sustainable development through working for meeting the livelihood and food security needs of the area. Thus, this is undertaken to study the livelihoods of women headed households in Amaro woreda aiming to analyze the livelihoods, food security and the equity level of women headed households in the woreda.

After studying these issues, it is aimed to show the access level of women headed households to livelihood resources, their food security status, their livelihood strategies and related issues to the governmental and nongovernmental organizations, stakeholders and to development planners so that they will take policy intervention measures. Furthermore, the work will also give clear picture of the woreda general profile in social, physical, and economic aspects which is expected to invite development actors and stakeholders to the area to play roles for promoting the required development efforts needed to reach the final development goals which are useful for the woreda in particular and the country in general.
1.6 Delimitation of study

This study is about the livelihoods of women headed households in Amaro woreda. It does not include the livelihoods of male headed households in the study area. It was done on the two kebeles which were selected from two agro ecological zones such as the Kola and the Woina Dega without including the Dega agro ecological zone.

When generalized, the study is confined to investigate the livelihoods of women headed households excluding the men headed households in the two agro ecological zones such as Kola and Woina Dega agro ecologies of Amaro woreda which was one of the eight special woredas found in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) before it was combined with other neighboring special woredas to form a zonal administration.

1.7 Limitation of the study

The study was undertaken within the situations which made the collection of the data time consuming and tiresome. This was due to the fact that the sample population could not provide the data by reading and writing the questionnaire themselves because of their low education level and due to their time. It was difficult to find them since they were busy with their works in their farming and at the market. Similar challenges were also seen in collecting the documented background data about the area as there was lack of orderly organized, arranged and kept data due to the remoteness of the area. It was also true that the amount of allocated budget for the work was another factor which played the constraining role that tried to hinder the easy completion of the work.
1.8 Research methodology

1.8.1 Sample size

The special woreda had a total population of 161,036 persons in 2010/11 according to the CSA estimation on the basis of the 2007 census report. Out of this total population, about 26750 stands for women and men headed households, meaning at the time of the house to house survey, the total household heads were found to be 26750 in number. The male headed households were 21,404, while the female headed households were 5346 households.

Since there are 34 kebeles in the special woreda from which these 5346 total women headed households were counted, the average number of female headed households of each kebele was estimated to be 157 persons who represented 3% of the total women headed households of the woreda.

From these 34 kebeles, two kebeles were taken to be the sample kebeles with the intention to represent Kolla and Woina Dega agro-ecological zones because the information secured from different sectors of the woreda indicated that the problem of food and livelihood insecurity were high in Kolla and Woina Dega agro-ecological zones. But unfortunately, it was found that most kebeles encompass both the Kolla and the Woina Dega agro-ecological zones together. Therefore, the researcher assumed it to be faire to take two kebeles and then to divide them in to their Kolla and Woina Dega agro-ecological parts. For this purpose, it was Dano Bulto and Zokesa kebele which were selected from the special woreda to be the sample kebeles. Then, the Woina Dega part was selected from Dano Bulto kebele while the kola part of Zokesa kebele was chosen to provide the necessary information. Then, out of these two agro-ecological zones of the two kebeles, 60 households each was selected to represent the total women headed households of the special woreda constituting a
total sample size of 120 female headed households of the sample kebeles in particular and the women headed households of the study area in general.

1.8.2 Sampling methods

Information showed that the problems associated with the rural livelihood is high in the two agro-ecological zones such as the kola and the Woina Dega and as a result of this there is existence of food insecurity problem in these zones and to overcome the problem, the productive safety net is mainly used in these zones. It is also believed that more proportion of women headed households live in these agro-ecological zones and therefore, the researcher found it faire to confine the study on these agro ecological zones. Taking these facts, the allocated time and the budget and the remoteness of the area into account, selecting a total of 120 women headed households, 60 each from the two kebeles, representing 38% of the kebele average women headed households were found to be faire. To this end, the Dano Bulto and Zokesa kebele were selected through systematic sampling method and then the 120 women headed households were selected through simple random sampling.

Generally, the sample selection was completed through the application of systematic and random sampling methods.

1.8.3 Methods of data collection

Data were collected from two types of sources. One was primary source of data and the other was secondary source of data. In order to collect these types of data, different methods of data collections were employed. Primary data were categorized into two types. One is quantitative while the other is qualitative type. These types of data collection were done through different methods.
1.8.3.1 Collection quantitative data

The primary data which could be expressed through numbers such as land size, income levels, amount of production, number of livestock etc were collected through the distribution of questionnaires to the sample population. As it was tried to state previously, the sample population was women headed households constituting 120 individual households. Thus, the questionnaires were distributed to this number of household heads and the data were collected through house to house survey method.

1.8.3.2 Collection of qualitative data

Data related to people’s attitude and perception towards the use of modern technologies and inputs, the attitudes of people towards gender division of resources and other were collected through the employment of interviews. Those who provided the response to these interviews were the woreda rural and agriculture development professionals, rural development agents, children and women affairs of the special woreda and other individuals who were experienced with woreda culture.

In addition to this, focused group discussion (FGD) was also employed to generate the in-depth data concerning the livelihoods of the target populations, factors affecting their livelihoods and their solution mechanism they employ to overcome the problems. For this end, two type of discussion was conducted. The first was a group of persons including both men and women ranging from six to seven in each kebele to discuss on the livelihood and gender issues. The other group was a focused group which was organized from women ranging from six to nine in each kebele to discuss on issues regarding their livelihoods and factors affecting their livelihood strategies.

The researcher was also able to observe some activities and their results that the target population followed for living during his survey exercise.
Therefore, observation method was also applied for the collection of primary data in addition to the above mentioned methods of data collection. Additional information were also collected from line offices of the woreda which include women and children affaires, agriculture and rural development, the woreda education, health, and the administration.

1.8.4 Methods of data analysis

The collected data were analyzed by applying different methods of analysis which fitted for the type of each datum. Quantitative type of data was analyzed using tables and then described in percentages. Qualitative data were analyzed through qualitative method of data analysis. Before data analysis, it was carefully checked and edited so that all the raised questions would be responded.

1.9 Definition of operational terms

**Budune/Buden** is a group of peer individuals to work together to each other turn by turn in cooperation

**Dega** (also known as ‘Ale’ in local language of the study area) is agro ecological zone of high land area with cool climatic condition

**Hayle** Local traditional practice of the study area in which a person who needed labor support for farming tell to other persons of his/her neighbor and gets free labor support in which they provide the support in coordination together at a time.

**Household** A group of people living together under common space as a unit with man or women as its head

**Household head** A man or a woman in a household who has the responsibility of heading the household with the responsibility of working and facilitating the conditions for
the purpose of meeting the livelihood needs of the household members.

**Kola** Also (‘Gadha’ in local language of the residents of the study area) is agro ecological zone which experience hot climatic condition

**Livelihood diversification** Creating or following diversified livelihood activities rather than depending on only one type and pursuing on-farm or off-farm activities

**Livelihood strategies** Range of economic activities which people pursue for the purpose of meeting their livelihood needs.

**Woina Dega** Agro ecological zone with moderate climatic condition and locally named as ‘Gidda Ale’ by the people of the study area

**Women headed households** A household which is headed by a woman

**Non-farm activities** are activities other than agricultural practices which people pursue in order to earn the living. These include wage or salary employment etc.

**Off-farm activities economic** activities like wage or exchange labor on other farms which people engage in for the purpose of meeting their livelihood needs.

**Timad** is the local traditional measurement of farm land which is equivalent to 0.25 hectares.

**Equb** Is local traditional institution in which a group of individuals come together and contribute some amount of money to the member individuals turn by turn on weekly or monthly basis so that every individual in the group can solve his or her financial problems.
1.10 Organization of the paper

The paper is organized in such a way that starts from the introduction chapter. Therefore, chapter one starts from introduction and goes through presenting background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, and research methodologies. Chapter two is about the review of related literature part. Then, chapter three describes background of the study area including its physical, social and economic situations. Chapter four appears with the discussion and results of the analysis of the data and finally, chapter five concludes the results part and then suggests the recommendation to the findings.
Chapter two

2. Review of related Literature

2.1. The concept of Gender

Gender is an ecology, culture and period specific concept pertaining to the relation of power between men and women. In many instances, it has been articulated with regard to the division of labor, the share of private and public space and other resources, and women’s visibility. In other words, its importance has been rooted in the recognition that work and there by men’s and women’s health status, roles and their sharing of economic resources, depends on a society cherished norms and sense of property (Tsehai, 1991).

Gender refers to the roles, responsibilities, attributes and power relations that are socially constructed by and assigned to men and women of a given society or community. These constructs vary greatly by culture, geographic region, socio economic status and context and they change over time (http://www.acdivoa.org/852571Dc00681414/#!/aboutus_genderequity).

Gender refers to socially constructed roles and responsibilities of women or girls and men or boys in a given culture or location. The position women and men occupy, the role they play and the social status they have are socially constructed and it is affected by a number of factors and therefore, varies in time, place context and development.

The term gender is different from sex but related concept. Sex refers to the biological characteristics which define human as male and female. It is biological which is determined by genetic and anatomical characteristics (IIRR Ethiopia, 2009).

Thus, it is socialization that is defined as the process by which individuals acquire knowledge, skills and disposition that enable them
to participate as more or less effective members of a group and society. The socially learned patterns of behavior that differentiate men from women in a given society are referred to as one’s gender role.

Gender is then a learned behavior usually related to one’s sex, but sex status does not necessarily determine gender role. However, the differential treatment we received through the socialization process because of the status of our sex leads to the development of real psychological and personality differences between males and females (Almaz, 1989).

The socially constructed roles and positions given to female and male discriminates people on the basis of their sexes. According to DFID, gender differences in land access and security are almost universal across the developing world and gender issues are therefore critical in the development of the pro-poor tenure systems (DFID, 1998).

These differences make women vulnerable to shocks and other problems than that of men. Satterthwaite through his statement reflected that the small holder farmers dependent on rain fed agriculture, pastoralists, artisanal fisher folks, land less laborers, indigenous peoples and female headed households the most affected are, in general, the rural women (Satterthwaite, 2008). Abraham in this regard stated that women can play vital role and therefore, to overcome food insecurity, to reduce poverty and achieve national development goal successfully, it needs to take full cognizance of the vital role played by women (Abraham, 1991).

Million has conducted a research on livelihood analysis emphasizing on the interplay among the livelihood elements such as vulnerability, institutions, assets and strategies in Oromia region: North Shewa (Million, 2007). Melese similarly conducted a research on challenges of livelihood and food security (Melese, 2007). Both of them came up with conclusions supporting that women are more affected group owing to
resource access difference between men and women. The work of Mirias also found similar result (Mirias, 2008).

All these works treated men and women together comparatively. The author of this paper agrees that treating both men and women together in a comparative way is good. But it is also his view that studying women headed households’ livelihood exclusively may give deep in site into the depth and width of their problems.

Literatures also show that many works which are done in relation to the livelihoods issues are comparative. In addition to this, the causes behind the problems across different area may be different. For example, Million found the major factors which affected his study area like water logging, frost, pest, and landslide (Million, 2007), while Meles found major factors like poor resource endowment and asset possession, occurrence of drought, high population density, erratic rain fall, absence of viable non-farm income source activity and the like which affected his study woreda (Meles 2007). The current study area i.e. Amaro special woreda also has not got much work regarding this issue. It is therefore, these facts which initiated the researcher to study this issue.

2.2. The concept of livelihood

Livelihood is not conceptualized as only the activities that people undertake to earn their living. It also includes other things like resources, assets and other factors with which people interact for living. Ahmed Ali et-al, 2007 stated that the concept of livelihood refers to activities, the resources and assets needed for carrying them out and the outcomes resulting from these activities. Here the assets and resources are said to be those which can be material or tangible, as well as intangible in nature. Elliott, (2006) defined this livelihood as adequate stocks and flows of food and cash to meet basic needs. In his review of literature, (Million, 2007) has discussed that the livelihood does not just
mean the activities people carry out to earn living. Accordingly, all the different elements are combined to constitute the livelihood. As of him again, it is not only those elements that contribute to ensure a living, but also those elements that affect their ability to ensure a living for themselves and their households contribute too. As to the same author, the livelihood includes the different tangible and intangible assets, the activities that allow the households to use those assets to satisfy basic needs, the different factors that the household itself may not be able to control directly such as season, natural disaster or economic trends that affect its vulnerability and the policies, institutions and processes that may help them or make it more difficult to them for achieving an adequate livelihood. He adds further that the capability, the assets (such as stores, resources, claims and access) and activities are composed to constitute the livelihood.

(Adato et-al. 2007) state that livelihood activities may be composed of year round or seasonal formal sector employment, informal trading or sale of labor, home gardens and food processing livestock production, cultivation or use of natural or common property resources, labor exchange among family or neighbors, contracted home works, borrowing, scavenging, stealing and begging. On farm or off-farm, migrations such as local and international migration are included. These activities involve elderly household member, children as well as legal or illegal activities.

2.3. Sustainable livelihood and sustainable livelihoods frameworks

Sustainable livelihood is the issue of these days and is very crucial to provide people with the necessary livelihood needs in general. The provision of sustainable rural livelihood is also very important to the development of the country. (Devereux et-al. 2001) stated that for
approximately 65 percent of the people living in the developing world, these needs are also rural based.

They also say that even though the level of urbanization in developing world are predicted to increase, the number of rural residents are also rising and will continue in the future. Therefore, as it is stated, providing sustainable rural livelihoods for the present population and many billions more is an urgent endeavor because these population will be supported by fragile and difficulty environment.

Different authors defined the term sustainable livelihood or sustainability in relation to temporal aspects. Accordingly, the concept of sustainability implies the present and the future situations of livelihoods. ‘A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base’ (adopted by Devereux et-al. 2001). It is said that sustainability is both the ability of the livelihood system to deal with and recover from shocks and stresses by means of coping (short term reversible responses) or by adaptation (a long-term change in livelihood strategy), as well as the ability of the livelihood system and natural resources on which it depends to maintain or enhance productivity over time. A livelihood depends on the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities which are all required for a means of living. A person or family’s livelihood is sustainable when they can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance their capabilities and assets both now and in the future without undermining environmental resources (Neefjes, 2000).

Therefore, sustainability of the livelihood provision is the current issue and working for it has attracted the attention of development organizations, groups and individuals.
The livelihoods approaches have evolved from several decades of changing perspectives on the poverty, how poor people construct their lives, and the importance of structural and institutional issues (Adato et al. 2007). Jones et al. 2004 stated that it is the dissatisfaction with the income/or consumption model which give rise to basic needs perspectives which go far beyond income and include the need for basic health and education, clean water and other services which are required to prevent people from falling in to poverty.

The livelihoods approach was emerged from a critique of the earlier attempts which were set out to understand the crises in the household provisioning and food security. The most influential of these approaches was the entitlement approach which was proposed by Armatya Sen as a way to understand famine (Devereux et al. 2001). This entitlement approach has been acknowledged for its strong side for explaining the different impacts of famine on different population groups, how famine could occur amidst plenty, for its understanding of food insecurity, directing attention to policies to remedy it and for other related issues. However, it was criticized for its other weak sides. As of the (Devereux et al. 2001) criticism, entitlements are in real life often less clear than the model supposes. The model was also criticized for its view of food insecure households and individuals and for giving little prominence to the indigenous and sometimes effective strategies that are offered and others.

The sustainable livelihoods framework (SLF), promoted by the Department for International Development (DFID) of United King Dome gives attention to the role of the vulnerability context and household assets (broadly defined to include physical, human, natural, social and financial assets) in determining the livelihood strategies of individuals and households (Ashley and Carney, 1999, DFID 1999 cited by Ruben et al. 2007). This sustainable livelihoods framework is essentially people
centered and aims to explain, in a necessarily abstract and simplified way, the relationships between people, their livelihoods and their environment, policies and all kinds of institutions (Neefjes, 2000).

The (SLF) takes into account the complex set of settings (factors) which influence the livelihood activities (strategies). Accordingly, the risk factor that surrounds making a living is summarized as ‘vulnerability context’. Similarly, the structures and processes associated with national and local government, authority, laws and rights, democracy and participation are generalized as the ‘policy and institutional context’. People’s livelihood efforts are undertaken within this context and result in the outcomes which may be higher or lower material welfare, reduced or raised vulnerability to food insecurity, improving or degrading environmental resources and soon (Ellis et al. 2005). The figure under displays the sustainable livelihoods conceptual framework with agricultural technologies.
The figure, which was previously developed DFID, again has been constructed by (Adato et al. 2007) adding the agricultural technology displaying the relation between the livelihoods and the agricultural technology.

As it displays, the framework starts with the vulnerability context within which people operate. Policies, institutions and processes interact with different livelihood assets and shape people’s choice of livelihood strategies. Then these livelihood strategies shape the outcomes which feedback in to the future asset base. The author of this framework used arrows to indicate the three ways in which the agricultural research influences the sustainable livelihood (SL). The agricultural technology influences the sustainable livelihoods:

1. by affecting the vulnerability context
2. through linkages to the asset base and
3. as part of policies, institutions and processes

Agricultural research and technologies can reduce vulnerability when irrigation reduces susceptibility to fluctuations in water supply, pest control. Technology reduces vulnerability to crop or animal loss, and crop diversity is increased. Agricultural technology and asset base are linked together showing the influence of agricultural technology on the assets to modify the livelihood of the people. For example, new agricultural technologies are effectively used by human capital like knowledge, skills and labor power. Social capital facilitates the adoption of new technology. Agricultural research can shape natural capital and facilitates the adoption of new technology. Agricultural research can shape natural capital. For instance, soil fertility management practices are credited for improving the natural capital like land and water. Agricultural technology dissemination is facilities or constrained by social assets (social network).
In general, agricultural technologies interact/inter influence with the three livelihood elements such as vulnerability context, asset and the policies, institutions and process (PIP) which the three arrows pointing to both directions indicate in the SLF of (Adato et al. 2007). The vulnerability factors may lead people to adapt new crop varieties having perceived certain desirable traits to reduce risk. The vulnerability contexts and assets of farmers lead agricultural researchers and farmers to adapt technology to these contexts. PIP play the role of shaping the decisions of agricultural researchers in technology development through commodity markets and prices, laws and polices related to land, water, education, extension and direct financial investments in technology at national level.

2.4 Livelihood Strategies

Livelihood strategies, in (SLF), are defined as the range and combination of activities and choices that people make/or undertake in order to achieve their livelihood goals (including productive activities, investment strategies, reproductive choices, etc). These livelihood strategies are conditioned by transforming structures and process and affect outcomes for individuals and households which feed back to affect their asset endowments over time (Ruben et al. 2007). According to Devereux and Maxwell, rural households may construct four main categories of livelihood strategies.

These include:

- **Livelihood intensification**: where the value of output per hectare of land or per animal is increased by the application of more labor, capital technology.

- **Livelihood extensification**: where more Land or animals are brought in to production at the same levels of labor, capital or technology.
Livelihood diversification: where households diversity their economic activities a ways from reliance on the primary enterprise (livestock or cropping), typically seeking a wider range of on-and off-farm sources of income.

Migration: where people move away from their initial source of livelihood and seek a living in another livelihood system (Devereux et al. 2001).

As of them, it is the livelihood diversification which is the most important strategy from the point of view of food security. Then the livelihood diversification is defined as the process by which rural families construct a diverse portfolio of activities and social support capabilities in their struggle for survival and in order to improve their standards of living (Ellis 1998, cited in Devereux et al. 2001).

The underlying trends and processes include: rural population growth, farm fragmentation; declining returns to farming compared to other activities. Diversification may be an indication of increased vulnerability, where it is a response to the failure of previous livelihood strategies, or it may be the path to accumulation and investment in the future, leading to a cumulative improvement in the livelihood outcomes over time. While diversification is often economically sensible regardless of risk minimization objectives even the fact that a household might be capable of diversifying its activities is a form of security which might affect actual livelihood strategies pursued (Ellis, 1999 cited in Devereux et al. 2001).

The type of diversification includes farm income, off-farm income, non-farm income and migration.

Farm income includes livestock as well as crop income and comprises both consumption-in-kind of own farm output as well as the cash income obtained from output sold.
**Off-farm income** typically refers to wage or exchange labor on other farm (i.e. within agriculture). It may also include, although classifications sometimes differ in this respect, income obtained from local environmental resources such as firewood, charcoal, house building materials, wild plants, and so on.

**Non-farm income** refers to non-agricultural income sources. Several sub-categories of non-farm income are commonly identified. There include:

- non-farm rural wage or salary employment
- non-farm rural self-employment
- rental income obtained from leasing land/ or property
- urban-to-rural remittances arising from within national boundaries
- Other urban transfer, e.g. pension payments to retires.
- International remittances arising from cross border and overseas migrations

**Migration** is one of the most important methods of diversifying rural livelihoods. It means that one or more family members leave the resident household for varying periods of time and in so doing are able to make new and different contributions to its wellbeing (DIFD, 1998 p.55).

### 2.5. Food Security

Food security is defined in relation to the access of people to food needed to their existence. It is defined as access by all people at all times to enough food of good qualities for an active and healthy life (as cited by Yared, 2001). In addition to this, the WHO also defined food security as “When all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.” The world health organization (WHO) explains the concepts of this terms as it is defined including both physical and economic access to food that meets people’s dietary needs as well as their food preferences (WHO 2010).
Contrary to this, food insecurity is lack of access to sufficient food and can be either chromic food insecurity i.e. inadequate diet resulting from the lack of resources to produce or acquire food, or transitory food insecurity that is, a temporary decline in a household’s access to enough food where its worst form is famine (Yared 2001).

According to WHO, food security is built on three pillars:

1. **Food availability**: food availability indicates the availability of food in a sufficient quantity on a constant basis.

2. **Food access**: this implies a situation where people have sufficient resources which make them able to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.

3. **Food use**: indicates the appropriate use of food based on the knowledge of basic nutritious and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation (WHO, 2010).

### 2.6. Vulnerability

Vulnerability is a commonly raised issue in the study of livelihoods because people contrive in the environment which is full of risky factors—either physical or human driven which constrain their pursuit and generation of better and improved well-being or in general improved livelihood outcomes and hence, working for reduced vulnerability is critical issue of the day. The term vulnerability, as articulated by (Ellis 2003) refers to proneness to a sudden, catastrophic fall in the level of a variable usually interpreted as access to enough food for survival. Others also defined it as the characteristics of person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impacts of natural hazards (Blaike et al. 1994 cited by Ruben et al. 2007). There has been identified different dimension of vulnerability. These are the external and the internal side of vulnerability and the collective and individual side (dimension) of vulnerability. The external
side of vulnerability which exhibits itself in the form of risks, shocks and stresses to which individuals or households are exposed and have little or have no control on it. The other side that is the internal side of vulnerability has also been distinguished. This type of vulnerability side refers to the ability to cope without irreversible loss of assets. This dimension of vulnerability involves characteristics of individuals (age, sex, education, skills, health status etc) and other micro network (Brons et al. 2007). In fact, external vulnerability is a collective concern while intricately entangled with individual vulnerability and coping behaviors.

In the above reviews, it is tried to express that there are risky factors which surround the pursuit of people’s livelihood strategies. According to (Ellis et al. 2003), these risk factors that surround making a living is described in a summarized form as vulnerability context while the other factor within the (SL) approach are described as a policy and institutional context which include such factors as the structure and processed associated with government (national and local), authority, laws, and rights democracy and participation. It is within these contexts that people contrive their livelihood efforts which result in the outcomes: higher or lower material welfare, reduced or raised vulnerability to food insecurity improving or degrading environmental resources and so on.

2.7. Assets/capitals

In the livelihoods framework, there are different resources which are regarded as the building blocks of the livelihood. Jones et al 2004, states that livelihood framework identities five types of capital assets which people can build up and /or draw up on and again says that these constitute livelihood building blocks. In other works, the building blocks are referred in a livelihood studies, as assets or capitals and are categorized, in most cases, in to five categories by most writers while some other writers categorize more than in to five. These capitals include human capital natural capital, social capital, physical capital, financial
capital and political capital (Adato et al. 2007). These livelihood strategies, and therefore, the following section briefly review these capitals.

**Human capital:** This capital is one of the five or six categories of capitals which are fundamental in the livelihood framework. As of (Neefjes 2000), this capital includes the skills, knowledge, ability and potential to labor and good health as these enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies. Thus, education, good health services and training enable strong community (Social capital) to increase human capital. One of the components of human capital i.e. education of the house hold head is more highly important in determining whether highly remunerated off-farm salary employment or rural non-farm activities can be pursued (Barret et al. 2007). Gender is also very important in determining the livelihood strategies of people. Studies have confirmed that in Ethiopia for example, female headed households are prevented by cultural taboos from using oxen, which limited their ability to farm and often result in such households share cropping out their land (Benin 2006, Pender and Gebremedin 2006, Tesfaye 2001 cited in Ruerd et al. 2007).

**Physical capital:** It is the basic infrastructure (transport, shelter, water, energy and communications), the production equipment and the means which enable people to pursue their livelihoods.

**Natural capital:** The natural resource stocks from which resource flows useful for livelihoods are derived (e.g. land, water wildlife, biodiversity, environmental resources).

**Social capital:** The social resource (networks, membership of group, relationships of trust, access to wider institutions of society) upon which people draw in pursuit of livelihoods.
Financial capital: Financial capitals are the financial resources which are available to people (whether savings, supplies of credit or regular remittances or pensions) and which provide them with different livelihood options (DFID, 1998).

2.8 Institutions

2.8.1 The concept and role of institution

Institutions are seen as a set of formal and informal rules and norms that shape the interactions of humans with other and nature (Jones et al. 2004). It is also defined as the rules of the game in a society or the humanly devised constraints that shape human interaction whether political, social or economic (North, 1990). The same author distinguishes institutions as formal and informal constraints. The formal constraints (institutions) are the rules that human beings devise and the informal constraints (institutions) are the conventions and code of behavior. Another author further elaborates that the formal institutions include the written rules, constitutions, laws and contracts and informal institutions include customs, sanctions, taboos, traditions and unwritten code of conduct and regulate access to resources (Yared, 2001).

There is also distinction between institutional environment and institutional arrangement. These two related concepts are defined as: The institutional environment is the set of fundamental political, social and legal ground rules that establishes the bases for production, exchange and distribution. An institutional arrangement is an arrangement between economic units that govern the ways in which these units can co-operate and/or compete. The institutional arrangement is probably the closest counter part of the most popular use of the term institution.

The institutions, institutional environments and institutional arrangements have a determining role in shaping the livelihoods by influencing access to resources. Institutions including formal and informal institution, organizations, polices, laws and customs shape livelihoods by influencing access to assets, livelihood strategies, vulnerability, terms of exchange and other conditions. The public and private sectors, civil societies, agricultural research institutions are relevant. These institution change people’s livelihood option by changing relative returns to different factors or assets changing the distribution of the value of assets within and between households.

The agricultural research interacts with political institutions at global, notational, regional and local levels and its benefits are facilitated or constrained by public polices (Adato et al. 2007). Devereux and Simon Maxwell elaborate that institutional arrangements (and organizational forms play a critical role since they determine all levels of access of individuals and households to the livelihood resources (Devereux et al. 2001).

As cited by Yared in his work, the role of institution is as social cement and is to link the stakeholders to access to capital of different kinds to the means of exercising power and so define gateways through which they pass on the route to positive or negative livelihood adaptation (Yared, 2001). As articulated by North, the major role of institution in a society is to reduce uncertainty by establishing a stable but not necessarily efficient structure to human interaction (North, 1990). Others say that resources endowments are important only as mediated through institution and therefore, institution are considered as a proximate cause of growth (Dinello et al. 2007).

Rural local institutions are described as the structures that have been serving rural communities for longer periods passing from one generation to another and through which local people’s indigenous
knowledge is manifested. This local institution are stable part of a web of long established customs, values, norms, conventions, ethics and traditions that entail fundamental behavioral patterns of a community which are proven to sustain local needs having been tried and filtered for generations. Local institutions play a vital role in creating a community development and alleviating poverty (Yared, 2001).
Chapter Three

3. Background of the study area

3.1 Physical Background

3.1.1 Location of the area

Amaro special woreda was one of the eight special woredas and 13 zones previously found in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR). Regarding its location, it is found at a distance of 471 km south of Addis Ababa and the Kele town which is the capital of the special woreda is found at 478 km from the same city. In reference to the capital of the region, the Awassa town, the Kele town is found at a distance of 206 km. in a south west direction (the special woreda administrative office 2010/11). As the same source indicates, this special woreda in its absolute location is situated between $5^0 \ 62'$ and $6^0 \ 02'$ latitude north of the equator and $37^0 \ 55'$ and $38^0 \ 9'$ longitude east. When described in relative to the adjacent areas, the special woreda is found south of Gamo Gofa zone, North of Burji special woreda, and west of Oromia region (Guji zone) and east of Konso and Derashe special woredas. The woreda map is shown on next page.

According to the special woreda administrative office, the special woreda had a total land area (size) of 170,980 hectares and is divided in to thirty three (33) rural kebele peasant associations and one town administration. As per the recent information, this special woreda and other neighboring special woredas such as Konso, Burji and Derashe were joined to form a zonal administration which increased the number of zones from the already existing thirteen to fourteen in the region.
3.1.2 Topography and agro ecology

The special woreda has heights ranging from 1100m.a.s.l to 3600m.a.s.l. The special woreda is divided into two parts by a long mountain range, one is to the eastern part and the other is to the western part. This mountain range runs from north to south through the center of woreda comprising high mountains in which the Delo mountain which is the woreda’s highest mountain with the height of 3600m is found.

3.1.3 Climate, soil, water and forest

The woreda has different places of diversified height and in correspondence to this, has also different agro-economical zones and these agro-ecological zones are grouped into three, namely Dega (Ale-in local language of the residents), Woina Dega (Gidda Ale) and Kolla...
(Gadha). When described statistically, Dega accounts 30%, Woina Dega accounts 32% and Kola accounts 38% (the woreda agriculture and rural development 2010). The existence of these different types of climatic zones make the woreda have temperature ranging from 12.6 Degree Celsius to 25 Degree Celsius. In a similar situation, the amount of rainfall ranges from 800mm to 1000mm.

When come to the type of the soil, the topography of the area makes the woreda have different soil types which the woreda population privilege. Even though its proportion is not displayed in the written form, there are different soil types in the study woreda including Red soil, Brown soil, Black soil and so on (the Woreda Agriculture And Rural Development 2010).

As of the source, the woreda has been endowed with high water resources including underground and surface water. It has many rivers. The mountain range that divides the woreda into two parts serves as a main source of the rivers flowing to different directions. It also serves as a divide between the rivers that flow to its western and eastern sides. Rivers that flow to the western side include Sarmale river, Gayyo river, Mole river, Dakase river, Dure river, Salle river, Barka river and othes. Rivers which flow to the eastern side include Asa river, Du’an0 river, Magga river, Kondilcho river, Bewwayne river, Lambase river, Sero, Lakka and others.

Information indicates that the forest coverage of the area is declining from time to time. This happens due to the fact that the people destroy the forest by clearing the land for agricultural, for firewood (fuels) and for construction purposes and this high rate of deforestation threatens the forest coverage of the area.
3.1.3 Land use and cover

Land is one of the basic resources belonging to physical assets. It provides livelihood to human beings especially to the rural population. Therefore, it is a very crucial resource which can determine the livelihoods of the people in general and the livelihoods of rural population in particular.

Table 3.1 land use and cover

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land use and cover</th>
<th>Size in hectare</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land covered by forest, bush and grass</td>
<td>25003</td>
<td>14.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture or grazing land</td>
<td>11600</td>
<td>6.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land covered by perennial crops</td>
<td>22087</td>
<td>12.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suitable land for perennial crops</td>
<td>30840</td>
<td>18.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arable land</td>
<td>60638</td>
<td>35.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land used for other purposes</td>
<td>16300</td>
<td>9.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsuitable land for use</td>
<td>4512</td>
<td>2.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>170980</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: the woreda agriculture and rural development (2010)

As it can be seen from the table above, there is large portion of arable land in the area. However, there is lack of investment provision. It is found that only 3000 hectare of land was occupied by investor while large portion of land remains idle needing creation of favorable conditions to attract investors to the area to bring this land into productive form.

3.1.5 Tourist attraction

The woreda has tourist attraction sites which can be seen as cultural and physical in nature (the woreda administrative office 2010). The physical part of the tourist attraction sites includes part of the Abbaya
and Chamo lakes, part of Nechsar National park, Yeero Wala forest, Gayyo water fall, Ugulo and Lussa Dimba caves, the Yeero hot spring, Delo mountain and the Amaro special woreda mountain ranges. The cultural part of the tourist attraction sites include the ancient Medhanealem Church of Yeero and the Kore(kooree) Millenium museum.

3.1.6. Socio-Economic situations

3.1.6.1 Demographic aspects

The Amaro special woreda is mainly inhabited by the Koore people. The statistical data of the woreda administration reveals that 95 percent of the total population is the Koore people (the kooretee, or the koregna language speakers). These people are called Koore while the area where they inhabit is called Amaro. The remaining 5 percent of the people belongs to different language groups. They include the Oromo, the Amhara, Gamo, Zeise, Gurage, Burji and Wolayta. The population of the woreda in 2010/11 is 161,036. Out of this total population the female population accounts 49.78 % while the male population accounts 50.22 %. Regarding the spatial distribution, the same sources indicate that the population density of the area is about 111 persons per square kilo meters. As of the woreda agriculture and rural development, 50.4 % of the population is found within the active or productive age groups while 49.6 % are unproductive. As per the source, the average family size of the woreda is seven with growth rate of 2.6 %.

Regarding the culture, most of the people of the people are adherents of Protestant Christianity while some others are followers of Orthodox Christianity and other religions.

3.1.6.2 Economic situation

It was able to recognize that 94.2% of the people are rural dwellers and base their livelihoods on rural agriculture while the 5.8% of the people
base their livelihood on employment, trade and other activities. Their agriculture is a small scale agriculture which is produced by traditional way of farming using human labor and is mainly dependent on the rain fall and hence; its productivity is determined by the amount and seasonality of rain fall that in addition to overloads at home and outside, makes women vulnerable to shocks, risks and seasonality.

The area is suitable for growing variety of crops. This is due to the fact that the area has different agro ecological zones ranging from Kolla to Dega and therefore these agro-ecological zones create a favorable condition for growing different crop types. Regarding seasons, the woreda has two main seasons. These are Meher (locally sila) and Belg (Gabba). During these seasons, different crops such as fruits, enset, vegetables, cereal crops, coffee, root crops, oil seeds and others are grown. These crops are grouped as seasonal and perennial crops. Some of the seasonal crops include teff, wheat, barley, maize, sorghum, lentils, chick peas haricot beans, potatoes, linseed, rape seed, sunflower, sweet potato, cabbage and others. Some of the perennial crops include coffee, banana, enset (false banana), papaya, mango, orange, cassava, sugar cane and others. However, analysis found that women are less productive due to their low educational backgrounds and the many roles they play and thus, uncertainty and food insecurity are their everyday life.

3.1.6.3 Inputs distribution

According to the woreda agriculture and rural development office of input distribution and management (2010/11), for the production year i.e. for the Belg and Meher seasons the following amount of inputs were distributed to the farmers of the area.

The analysis could show that men are more privileged than women in having access to different resources. The weight of inputs distribution is
more focusing on men. This exclusion is due to their low educational backgrounds.

In addition to crop farming, the people of the area practice livestock rearing. Therefore, table 3.2 under reveals the livestock possession of the area for 2009/11.

Table 3.2 Livestock resource of the area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of livestock</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>118580</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
<td>50474</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>35090</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equines</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>1835</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mule</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donkey</td>
<td>1165</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>208043</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey 2010*

The number of livestock population including cattle, goat, equines and sheep totals 208043. The number of cattle out numbers the number of goats, sheep and the equines representing about 57% of the total livestock. It was also recognized that there are chicken population with its number of 59050. The people of the area also have a long tradition of beekeeping.

3.1.7 Infrastructure

3.1.7.1 Road networks

The woreda has highly limited road coverage and consequently there is limited means of transportation in the area. As woreda administrative office, 2010, the current road coverage of the area is 44 kilometer and out of this, it is only 16 kilometer road which gives service to the people during summer and winter seasons. The existing road passes through
only few kebeles which are found nearly to the hinterland of the woreda and many of the Kebeles are excluded from access to it.

### 3.1.7.2 Water supply

For leading healthy life, clean water is necessary and decisive. In the study area however, it is found that the coverage of clean water does not include all the kebeles. This situation weakens the human capital through exposing them to diseases. Women are highly affected by this problem in this area as they are closer to unclean water due to the nature of their roles.

### 3.1.7.3 Institutional provision

#### 3.1.7.3.1 Education

Education plays a great role in providing people with knowledge, skills and experiences to enable them to adopt modern technology to respond to and adapt changes which affect their livelihoods. This in turn results in positive outcomes by reducing vulnerability to shocks, risks and seasonality. In order to produce skilled human power therefore, education provision through schools and other educational institutions is very important and the appropriate distribution of schools in a given area plays great role in solving the developmental problem of a country in economic, social and political aspects.

The distribution of educational institutions such as schools in the woreda is found to be uneven. The woreda education office indicates that there are 43 primary schools which include 20 first cycle and 23 second cycle primary schools. High schools are 3 and therefore, the total number of schools in the special woreda is 46. This suggests that a child should make long journey to cross the kebele boundary to go to the kebele where there are schools. The number of kebeles is 34 while the number of primary schools is 20 or 23 and only 3 high schools respectively. There is lack of transportation. This shows that under such
state of affairs, it is difficult to a child especially to females to have access to education.

There are high dropouts and class repetitions in the woreda. Information of the woreda education showed that there was 3224 or 9.2% dropouts and class repetition from the total enrollment of 35077 in 2009/10. This was due to the uneven distribution of schools, lack of transportation, and low economic level of the family and the attitude of the family to the child education especially to female education.

3.1.7.3.2 Health Insinuations

Good health is another factor which is very important to generate better livelihood outcomes. It enables people to use their labor and resources effectively. According to the special woreda health office 2009/10, the physical nature of the special woreda makes the human capital vulnerable to shocks such as malaria epidemics. In addition to malaria, other diseases also challenge the health status of the people. These include TB, HIV/AIDs and others like water born diseases. The health service providing institutions in the woreda include 1 health station, 6 health centers, 33 health posts, 3 rural vendors and 13 clinics. There is no hospital. The absence of hospital in the area makes the people especially women vulnerable to health problems. Women are vulnerable especially during child bearing as there is lack of other infrastructures such as transportation to go to other areas where hospitals are found.

3.1.7.3.3 Financial and Social Institutions

According to the woreda administrative office, there are different financial institutions such as Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and other micro financing institutions which give the saving, loan providing and other services to the people.

The woreda social cooperative works coordination office (2010/11) shows that 48 social cooperative associations are in the special woreda
with their total members of 5241, of which male members are about 4869 while female members are 372 representing only 7% of the total members of the association. There also 3 nongovernmental organization (NGOs) and 2 religiously coordinated institutions, generally 5 indigenous organizations providing services to the people.

### 3.1.8 Soil and water conservation

According to the woreda agriculture and rural development, there is high rate of soil degradation, soil erosion, decline in productivity and poverty. The reason behind this is increasing population, low educational background of the farmers which hinder adoption of new agricultural technologies, presence of high grazing land and deforestation for different purposes. There is problem with soil and water conservation. In addition to the above mentioned problems, people lack free participation in the conservation activities. This is due to the existence of expectation and dependencies among the people and the development workers. This is the result of the safety net programs and others used as engine to initiate the people to work

### 3.1.9 Empowerment and participation of the women

Participation enables people to make decision on social, political, and economic issues. Without participation, one cannot make decision in political, social and economic issues of the country. Taking this into account, the FDRE, constitution provides equal right to men and women to participate and make decision in different issues within the country. Considering this, the following table assesses the empowerment and participation level of the women in the study woreda.
Table 3.3 level of participation of men and women in different sectors in 2009/10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the sector</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>male</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>femal</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>48.3</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>51.7</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth and sports</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>87.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipality</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>77.8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture and rural development</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women and children affairs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>38.5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The woreda council</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The woreda administration</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance and economy</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>80.95</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>19.05</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture, tourism and communication</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and Industry</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, mineral and energy</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1029</td>
<td>72.5</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>27.5</td>
<td>1420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: the woreda agriculture and rural development 2010/11

Analysis shows that the number of women in each sector of the area is very low. This implies that the empowerment level of women is found at a minimum level. From the table above, it can be seen that the number of females in each sector represents only 27.5% as opposed to the 72.5% of the number of the male population.

3.1.10 Food security status

Food insecurity is a big problem happening in the area as of the woreda food security coordination office 2010. The number of aid receivers is increasing from time to time. In 2010/11, the number of aid receivers reached about 12,456 or (7.7%) out of the total population.
indicates that the reason for the increase is due to problems like frequent drought, soil fertility decline, natural resource degradation, and desertification which reduce the production and productivity leading to food insecurity (the woreda agriculture and food security office 2010/11).
Chapter Four

4. Result and Discussion

The data which was collected from the study woreda was analyzed and presented under this chapter which appeared under the topic result and discussion. The data were about the livelihood situations of women headed households. There were also data concerning access of women headed households to productive resources which are very important to solve their livelihood problems. The positions of the women especially those who head their households and their status in the eyes of the local community and those of the development agents and the professionals were also collected and analyzed. Here, the discussion starts from analyzing and discussing the age groups of the women headed households, their marital status, their educational background, their livelihood basis, their access to resources, and use of modern technologies for their farming. The following table displays the age structures of the women headed households in Dano Bulto and Zokesa Kebeles taking 60 household heads each from the two Kebeles.

4.1 General information about the respondents

Table 4.1 Age groups of sample women heading their households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age group of the HHWs</th>
<th>Dano Bulto Kebele</th>
<th>Zokesa Kebele</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>(%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 – 44</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 54</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>38.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 – 64</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 64</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.1 above shows that most women are found in the productive age groups. This shows that if favorable conditions are created, they can play better productive roles for solving their food insecurity problems and consequently, contribute to the development of the country as a whole. Gender inequality leads the women headed households to the earning of low income and low production and this in turn results in dependence on small amount of food and foods with low nutritional contents. As the study could find, women in the study woreda are found to be under such type of problems and livelihood insecurities.

Provision of sustainable livelihood depends on the capabilities of the people which are grouped as human capital and therefore, enhancing such capabilities is believed to contribute for the realization of sustainable livelihoods and this in turn contributes to the achievement of sustainable development of the country.

Table 4.2 Marital status of sample women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status of the WHHs</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced/separated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey, 2010*

Analysis shows that there is no single woman (female) who lives in her own home heading her household. Data indicate that there are married women who have husbands with more than one wife and, as their number is large, their husbands cannot head or fulfill the livelihood requirements of their households. Analysis revealed that factors which expose the women to headship are many. Most important factors of these include polygamous practice and death of husbands. Polygamous
practice is experienced in the area due to the traditional view that the people relate it with richness. When a man owns much property, he marries many wives. They marry many wives with the intention that these wives may help them in working and managing their properties. The other reason is sex preference of children. If one woman bears only female children and could not bear male children, the man marries another woman with the intention of bearing male children. Under this state of affairs, women face many problems. First, the polygamous causes resource fragmentations among many wives of a husband. This resource fragmentation results in lack of resources to produce adequate life sustenance and this leads them to poverty and food insecurity. Despite the fact that the women become vulnerable to such types of difficulties, shouldering the responsibilities of feeding or fulfilling the requirements of their households becomes their duty. More over, child bearing does not also consider the existing resource base and the economic capacity of the households which in turn puts its impact even on the future fates of their children for which especially female children are more vulnerable. This exhibits itself in scarcity of adequate food resulting in lack of better nutrition which in turn affects generally the human capital hindering them from education and others.

There are also other problems which many women face in relation to the polygamous tradition in the area. Many women confirm that resource fragmentation raises conflicting ideas among the wives of a husband. In general, the polygamous tradition has been found to be a factor resulting in negative impacts and also results in low resource access, low education and finally leads to poverty and food insecurity.
Studies could show that human capital influences livelihood strategies. To this end, education of the household head is very important in determining whether more highly remunerative off-farm salary employment or rural non-farm activities can a household pursue.

In the study area of this research, it could be realized that most of the women who head their households cannot read and write. This situation extremely constrains them from different privileges like access to trainings and extension services. As data indicated, extension services are mostly concentrated on men farmers than women farmers owing to their low educational backgrounds of the women. This exclusion from access to different privileges makes them easily vulnerable to shocks and risks because they do not get some experience, knowledge and skills which enable them to resist and adapt changes that affect their livelihood strategies. Generally, the low educational backgrounds are found to hinder women headed households from access to different services like extension services.

Table 4.3 Educational background of women heading their households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Background of WHHs</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannot read and write</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read and write</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary education (1- 8)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school (1-12)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above high school</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*
4.2 Livelihood strategies and food security status of women headed households

Table 4.4 Source of livelihoods of the women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livelihood source</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>78.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty trade</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firewood and charcoal sale</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of local drinks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>110*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Field survey, 2010

* NB * This indicates that there are multiple responses by the same respondents which increased the number of percentage to be more than 100 in the above table.

It was able to realize that the livelihood base of most women headed households is agriculture. Analysis could show that some women who could not earn their life sustenance from agriculture due to different reasons base their livelihoods on petty trade, sale of fire wood and charcoal and local drinks.

They pursue different livelihood strategies which can help them as coping mechanisms during food insecurity problems. The result of discussion implies that there is some sort of diversification of livelihood strategies like perennial cropping and cereal cropping as well as livestock husbandry. In some cases, petty trade is also practiced to overcome their problem of food insecurity. The one who falls into the problem of food insecurity may also get/share some food items from his/her relatives or neighbors. Pursuing of such activities at a time is believed to support each other or advantage them if one strategy is failed.
to resist the unexpected changes which affect the livelihood strategies. In addition to this, it is also found that the productive safety net program (PSNP) is playing significant role in solving the food security problems of the people as of the FGD.

However, the study could also reach on the conclusion clearly showing that the existing livelihood diversification in the area is narrow. The livelihood activities currently pursued by the people are only primary activities which are mainly agriculture and non-farm activities especially to the women are lacking. The non-farm incomes such as rural wage or salary employment, rental incomes and other non-farm activities are lacking in the area highly affecting the women headed households and therefore, creation of such activities for the people can play highly significant role to overcome the livelihood and food insecurity problems.

**Table 4.5 Source of cash income for the women headed households**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of cash income</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee and Fruit sale</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petty trade</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of food crops</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of firewood and charcoal</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of livestock</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2010.*

According to the table 4.5 above, the source of cash income for most households is sale of coffee and fruits. In both kebeles, more than half of the households derive their cash income from the sales of coffee and fruits products. From this, it can be understood that perennial crops are the main source of cash income of the peoples of the area. Petty trade
occupies the next position followed by sale of fire wood and charcoal. Selling fire wood and charcoal is the recent phenomenon which the people started as alternative measures to overcome their economic problems. The reason for this is that women cannot produce sufficient agricultural products due to the changing climate, erratic rainfall and lack of labor supports. This in turn shows that there is growing patterns of livelihood and food insecurity problems of women headed households in the area requiring urgent and near future responses.

**Table 4.6 Level of production gained by women headed households**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No   %</td>
<td>No   %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you gain enough production</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>11   18.3</td>
<td>10   16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>out of your livelihood activities</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>49   81.7</td>
<td>50   83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong> <strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2010*

The table above reveals that there is prevalence of food insecurity among the women headed households in the study woreda since they gain low output from their livelihood strategies. Analysis shows that over 80% of the sample women headed households in both kebeles get low production from their livelihood strategies and consequently, live under food insecurity problem. Their livelihoods themselves are insecure which in turn lead them to face the food insecurity problem. This results from livelihood insecurity itself. Studies show that livelihood security leads to food security. The better off people who have secured livelihoods are also found to have food security. This implies that livelihood security is a precondition to food security and conversely, livelihood insecurity also leads to food insecurity.

Data shows that the average income of the women headed households per year is 750 Birr which is equivalent to about 42 US Dollar. This shows that their daily income is below one dollar indicating that poverty
is rooted within them. This informs that there is a need for working for the promotion of the livelihoods and income sources of the target population through creating alternative livelihood strategies which are essential and have no other options.

There are different factors affecting the livelihood strategies of women headed households in the area. The first in affecting is lack of labor support. They have many responsibilities at their homes which prevent them from directing their potential only on productive works. As mothers, they are also less able to plough their lands for many different reasons. The traditional practice known as ‘Hayle’ in which a person who needed free labor support tells to his/her neighboring individuals to be supported and then are provided with the support by the individuals are becoming diminished. The reason for the diminishing of this traditional practice is that of the extension of the safety net program. The other is the formation of (budune/buden), a group of peer individuals to work together to each other turn by turn in cooperation. This activity is weakening the traditional institutions in which the women and the weak people were getting free labor supports from their neighbors. Therefore, they cannot expect such a support now. Others are physical factors which affect the livelihoods of the women. Drought is one of the other factors which frequently hit their livelihood strategies. The climate is changing. The rain sometimes comes late or sometimes earlier and the season becomes disordered. This situation destroys the farmed crops or makes the condition unsuitable for cropping. This situation results in food shortage leading to food insecurity. The others are human diseases like malaria epidemic which results from the hot nature of the Kolla agro ecology of the area. This prevents them from working on time to generate their livelihoods. There are still other problems which affect their livelihoods. There are plant diseases which destroy crop plants and their productivities leading to insecurities for
which women in the study area are more vulnerable. The plant disease locally known as *wol’a* destroys or affects the perennial crops such as enset, banana, and coffee and still treatment has not been found for it.

### 4.3 Access to livestock and related resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of oxen owned by the WHH</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th></th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>83.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey 2010*

The table above reveals that most of the women who head their households have no ox at all. The same analysis of data reveals that about 85 percent of the sample women in both study kebeles have no even single ox.

Studies confirm that lack of oxen plays a worsening role in affecting the rural livelihoods of the individuals in general and the food security of the people especially the women headed households in particular by forcing them to invite the share croppers to plough their lands rather than working it for themselves. In a similar situation, most women in the study area of this research are found to have no oxen and therefore, cannot earn sufficient life sustenance. This in turn makes them fall vulnerable to risks, shocks and seasonality and result in high dependence burden of the people on other productive groups which impede the economic development of the country. Thus, it needs special attention to be paid on the improvement measures of the livelihoods of
the women by different governmental and nongovernmental bodies to bring about the required development.

**Table 4.8 Access of women headed households to livestock resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of cows</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 – 2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Table 4.8 above indicates that large number of the women headed households are found to be far away from access to livestock resources. It can be seen from the table that it is only small number of women who have access to livestock. As the previous analysis could show, this also shows that poverty is deeply rooted within the study population of the area. It is seen that only small number of women headed households have access to livestock. It was also able to realize that the numbers of livestock owned by this small section of the women are insignificant being counted only between one and two.

Livestock is very important to rural economy. Studies have reached on conclusion that livestock can reinforce the arable cropping activities through manure provision and animal traction. Integration of cropping and livestock activities supports each other as income diversification, asset creation and risk management. However, the study could find contrasting results regarding this issue which implies that there are problems related to livestock ownership among women requiring some measures to be taken to correct the livelihood problems.
The knowledge about the roles and the significance of the livestock resource takes to a conclusion that urges stakeholders to work for promoting access of the women to the resource.

The other asset which is very important for women in overcoming the households’ problem of livelihood insecurity is poultry. When a household head wants to buy something, this asset may help them in generating income to the household through selling either the product of the chicken or the chicken itself.

Therefore, access to it by the household head is also taken as one of the factors affecting their economic situation and analyzed here. However, the analysis also reflected similar results as of the previous analysis did about the access of women headed households to the asset. It indicated that most of women again have no access to poultry too. This shows that women headed households are found under high crisis of economic problems requiring urgent corrective and supportive measures for overcoming their problems.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Providers of livestock to WHH</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own effort</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peasant associations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

**NB.** *This shows that the analysis includes only those women who have access to livestock resources out of the total samples.*

As the table above suggests that institutional supports for the provision of livestock for the women headed households is insignificant. From the
women who have access to livestock, large section has owned the resource through their own efforts. It is a small section of the women who could own it through the help of NGOs and peasant associations. This suggests that there are limited institutional supports to the people in the area.

4.4 Access to institutions and institutional services

For agricultural development, taking part in extension service provisions is very important. Transferring and adoption of new knowledge enable people to yield better production. For this end, therefore, initiating women to participate in trainings and extension services is considered to be paramount for creating favorable condition to help them through transferring knowledge and skill which can help them for generating better livelihood outcomes.

Table 4.10 Level of participation of women in extension services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question responded</th>
<th>Dano Buto</th>
<th></th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Response</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you provided with extension services?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: field survey, 2010

Extension service provision is very important for shaping the livelihood strategies for reducing vulnerability. However, analysis could show that above 95% of the women headed households of the study area is not included in extension services.

Studies show that agricultural technologies dissemination can be facilitated or constrained by social capital or social networks. Agricultural research can shape natural capital. It reduces vulnerability when its dissemination and adoption is facilitated by social networks and effectively used by human capital like knowledge, skill and labor.
Extension services can also play the same role in transferring knowledge and technologies.

In the study area however, this type of facilitation is lacking for women and as a consequence, their livelihood strategies falls vulnerable to different problems.

**Table 4.11 Level of application of fertilizers by women headed households**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question responded</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you apply fertilizers in your farming?</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010.*

Regarding access to fertilizers, analysis shows that many women are excluded. Table 4.11 above shows that 38.3% in Dano Bulto and 43.3% in Zokesa kebeles respectively are not applying it on their farm lands. Others confirmed that they, for the first time, were provided with fertilizers through the safety net program but they did not get advantaged from it due different reasons. Lack of labor support, lack of experience and rainfall uncertainty made it unproductive.

Table above shows that the high costs of fertilizers block many women from using it to their farming. Its cost is above their economic capacity to by it. The price of one quintal is very high that are not affordable by their existing economic capacity. Information showed that the price of DAP per quintal was found to be 1069 Birr whereas the price of Urea per quintal was 866 Birr which is difficult for the women to buy and use it for their farming. The high price together with the uncertainty of rainfall leads to high risk and vulnerability limiting their access to it. There are also other factors which affect their access to fertilizers. These include long distance of the providing institutions, lack of experience which
plays determining role in constraining their access to it. All these are constraining them and therefore need solutions (FGD).

**Table 4.12 Access of women headed households to credit services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question to the WHHs</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you get credit services?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>88.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field Survey 2010*

In addition to technological services, credit services are also very important to those who are not able to sufficiently build their financial strength for covering their economic needs. By operating some businesses by the credits they received, they can solve their economic problems and can also build their economic capacity. This can play a great role in promoting the economic growth of the country as a whole. Despite this, the table shows above that only 11.7% and 6.7% of the women who head their households in both kebeles respectively have access to credit services while a large number of others are excluded from it.

It is believed that the formal and the informal institutions can play the determining role peoples’ livelihood options by influencing peoples’ access to resources. The formal and the informal institutions, organizations, policies, laws and customs are believed to shape livelihoods by influencing access to assets, livelihood strategies, vulnerability, terms of exchange and other conditions. On the other extreme, low institutional influences and supports negatively affect peoples’ livelihood allowing the problem to persist long.

According to the FGD, institutional provision of credits to the women is insignificant. Hence, it is only a very small number of women who get
credit services from the micro financing institutions of the woreda. The information showed that when credit is needed, some of the women depend upon their relatives as source of credits due to different reasons.

4.13 Factors affecting access of women to credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Danu Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of guarantee</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to institutions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of experience</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of debt</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

There are many reasons which affect the access of women to credit services. Data shows that many women prefer not to take credits due to lack of guarantee. Parallel to this, fear of debt is also a constraint to many women. They fear debt because their economic capacity is low to return it back. In this case, if they cannot make it profitable, they will be at risk of debt. Therefore, they prefer to live with their problems rather than being indebted. Similarly, lack of collateral also plays significant role in hindering them from getting credits as it was able to realize from the data which gave clear picture of the issue. In addition to this, long distance to the providing institutions also plays determinant role since these institutions are not found their nearby villages to provide them with the required services. Interests to be paid are other factors which hinder them from the service.

The result of this study informs that there is a need for strengthened effort to be directed especially to the women heading their households to overcome their problems.
Here, it is found that the women mostly use a local traditional institution named as equb to overcome their financial problems as the FGD confirms.

4.4.1 Access to productive safety net program (PSNP)

Productive safety net program is one of the institutional packages considered to help people who are found in economically low position due to different reasons. This package gives due attention to poor people, disabled/weak and poor rural women.

In the study area, it was also able to observe that the program is also extended in the study woreda. It was found that in comparison to other institutional services, the program better addresses the problem of the women through creating wider space to involve them. It is credited for paying due attention to the poor women who head their households, to the disabled people and to the weak addressing their food insecurity problems. Women agree that the program is undertaken as alternative livelihood strategy and is compensating the high food insecurity problem (FGD).

It also has further role in addition to addressing the food insecurity problem. It is used as initiative for mobilizing and organizing the community labor for constructing soil and water conservation mechanisms which include terracing, diverting water ways, reforestation and the like in spite of the fact that it creates dependence and expectation among the community which reduces the free participation of the people in the conservation processes.

4.5 Access to infrastructural provisions and services

Access to safe water is very important as it maintains the health status of the people which enables people to promote their human capital by using their time and potential effectively in building their knowledge,
skills, and attitudes which are critically important for pursuit of better livelihood strategies and for applying their potential to generate better livelihood outcome.

**Table 4.14 Source of water for home consumption of WHHs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of drinking water</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hole water</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stream</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piped water</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey 2010

As it could be realized from the study, many people use unclean water for their home consumption including for drinking. The table above shows that about 70% of the women in both kebeles get their drinking water from rivers, streams or water holes. The reason for this was found that the provision of safe water did not cover many villages. Even though getting water is not the main challenge of the people, the consequence of the unsafe water that it brings due to lack of sanitation is the main challenge of the people which imposes health problem on them that obstacles the pursuit of better livelihood options. They are forced to use river or steam water which is not clean. The cleanness of the water is highly disturbed especially during rainy seasons when run-off is discharged into the rivers and streams and this leads the people to health problems.

As studies confirm that good health is very important for using the human capitals such as knowledge, skill and labor in an effective way and pursue better livelihood options. Hence, the knowledge of this show that there is a need for taking solution measures to remove factors which result in health problems. In this case, provision of clean water is
needed to the people to enable them use their labor, skill and knowledge effectively.

Access to market is very important for the people to sell their products and exchange other goods and services. Some people may also base their livelihoods completely on the market. Others may mix it with other livelihood strategies. It was found from the study that market is very important component of livelihood strategies for women. For conducting petty trade, market plays great role. They also use market for selling their agricultural products like coffee, fruits and others and buy other commodities from the market.

Table 4.15 Means of transportation that the women use to transport their goods to and from the market.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Means of transportation</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th></th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equines</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human back/labor</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>98.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Market is available for them two times per week. Big markets which are very important to them are far away from most of them. It is about one market per one kebele and is found far way from them creating difficulty of travelling of the long distances. Unavailability of transportation for most women makes attending the market difficult as data reveal. Lack of transportation is the main challenge making human back to be used as the main means of transportation to transport the commodities to the markets. These not only challenge attending the market but also their livelihood options as travelling the long distance takes much time and
power which should be used for livelihood efforts. The long distance still hampers quick access to information about the market.

In general, women’s problems regarding access to the market are many in the area. These include low periodic availability, lack of transportation and distance to be travelled.

4.6 Access to land

The other part of the analysis is about land which is one of the five or more groups of capitals. It is physical capital and is crucial resource for sustainable development of rural livelihoods of the households. For agricultural society such as rural farmers, it plays a determinant role in providing the agricultural production as their livelihood is based on it.

Land scarcity constrains people from getting better agricultural production. Therefore as the study area was based on agriculture, the researcher examined access of the households to land resource and presented as follows.

**Table 4.16 Access of women headed households to land resource**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question responded</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have your own land?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Table 4.16 above indicates that most of the confirmed that they have their own lands in both kebeles. According to them, female children cannot inherit land, but women are not protected on the death of their husbands. However, the problem occurs if the husband dies without bearing male children who inherit the land, or if he dies after bearing only female children. If this is so, the women may face problem. She may face appropriation from the land with her female children and may
be snatched the lands. Then the chased women face difficulty of finding a place for rest and the livelihood for survival.

According to the FGD, there are some efforts being applied with the purpose of overcoming the problem of land ownership. The woreda agriculture and rural development was distributing the landownership assurance books to the people including the women too which were expected to overcome the problem.

**Table 4.17 Fragmentation of the lands owned by the women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fragmentation</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3s</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

Table above reveals that the lands of women are fragmented into many places. This situation makes using the land difficult for the women of the area as they are occupied by different activities at home and outside the home. The fragmentation of the land exposes farming unsuitable and creates difficulty of working. The occurrence of change together with the fragmentation exposes women to vulnerability. Due to the division, it is difficult to apply labor in an organized way. This also makes it difficult for using inputs and therefore leads to vulnerability to risks and shocks due to the fact that these difficulties lead to low production from the plots which cannot be sufficient to support the family. It also makes conditions difficult to apply conservation mechanisms due to its
fragmentations in many places. As of the data, it is generalized that fragmentation of the land makes conditions unsuitable for the women to conserve and farm the lands as the plots are fragmented into many places.

Table 4.18 Area of plots owned by women headed households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of the plots owned (in timad)</th>
<th>Dan Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 1 or no land</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 – 6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 – 8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 – 10</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

It can be seen from the table above that many women have land which has an area of one to two timads. As of the same table, there are also other women who have lands with its total land area ranging below 8 timads and this has negative implications on the women because it is below the optimum size as compared to the total size of the family. Information showed that the total size of the family in the woreda is 7. For this much number, the optimal land size may be about 8 timads which is equivalent to about 2 hectares. Aggravated by other factors, this situation makes the women to earn low production which cannot support their family members adequately. It also exposes to vulnerability to shocks and risks.
Table 4.19 Level of fertility of plots owned by women headed households.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of fertility</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertile</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi fertile</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>78.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infertile</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (have no land)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2010

Table 4.19 above shows that 10 percent in Dano Bulto and 11.7 percent in Zokesa have plots of land which are fertile. In both kebeles, most women have land which is grouped as semi fertile. Accordingly, 78.3 percent of the households in Dano Bulto and 75 percent in Zokesa have the land which has soil fertility medium or semi fertile. The 6.7 percent in Dano Bulto and the 10 percent in Zokesa have the land which have lost its fertility and became infertile whereas 5 percent in Dano Bulto and 3.3 percent in Zokesa have no any type of land whether fertile, infertile or semi fertile.

Data showed that the plots of the lands of many of sample women have lost their fertility due to cultivation for over long period of time. As of the FGD the area has a long lasted experience of cultivating crops including cereal and perennial crops as well as livestock rearing and this is counted as a factor which weakened the lands of many women which also led to decline in its fertility. Data also indicates that lack of application of better land conservation mechanisms results in fertility decline by exposing it to erosions by run offs. This condition is being worsened by repeated grazing on the same plots over long periods of time as the data suggest. Deforestation for different purposes has also large impacts in losing the fertility of their lands in the area.
Table 4.20 Land use system of women headed households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of land uses</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For crop farming</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For perennial cropping</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>46.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For grazing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idle for a time being</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>60</td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2010

Table 4.20 above shows that the women use their plots for different purposes. Most of the women use their land for planting perennial crops and then a large number of them also use it for cereal cropping. They plant perennial crops like enset, coffee and other fruit plants. Perennial cropping is highly practiced activity in the area. This activity is very important in overcoming the food security problems. Enset especially plays very significant role in this case. It was able to observe that planting trees together with their perennial crops is seen in some cases. However, it was also realized that lack of labor support, lack of oxen, lack of experience and their low economic situations are hindering them from using their lands and consequently, the lands of many women were found to be idle.

### 4.7 Access to irrigation

This part analyzes irrigation practice of women for their plots of lands because it is very important for agricultural practices rather than confining only on rainfall. Those who practice irrigation can resist bad seasons during change of climate in which the rain becomes erratic. Table under provides information about the use of irrigation in the area.
which provides the level of application it by the women headed households.

**Table 4.21 Irrigation practices by women headed households**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question responded</th>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Dano Bulto</th>
<th>Zokesa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have irrigated plot?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>28.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Field survey, 2010*

The table above displays that a large number of women is left out of using irrigation to their farming. Even those who have irrigated lands confirmed that they irrigate only their farmsteads not all of their farmlands including crop lands. The reason is many. As it was able to know that lack of labor support is their main challenge that is hindering them from many advantages. It is not only this factor which affects them. There are also other factors which prevent them from irrigation. In Woina Dega area, for example, the sloppy and rugged nature of the topography damages the water ways and this blocks people including men from using irrigations.

They have experience and knowledge about the importance of irrigation for farming. But not only women, but also men face challenges and hence, left the practice especially in the rugged areas. The reason is that the landscape of the area makes it unsuitable for irrigation practices. Irrigation is a long lasted practice experienced in the area. However, landslides repeatedly damages the water ways which were constructed by their human power by terracing and digging water ways and canals. In response to this, the people tried again and again many times to reconstruct the irrigation. But it became beyond the capacity of the people to construct it by human labor only. Then, after many attempts to reconstruct it, the persons stopped their practicing as per of the FGD.
Chapter Five

5. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1. Summary

The livelihoods of women headed households, on which the study was conducted in Amaro woreda was preferred to be the study issue because women in the country have historically been discriminated group and therefore the legacy of this discrimination exposes them to different problems including poverty, despite the fact that they are expected to contribute much efforts to the development of the country in economic, social and political aspects.

In the study woreda, female children do not inherit land and other properties from their parents. The polygamous practices experienced by the men in the area forces them to shoulder more risks of fulfilling the needs of the households. In addition to this, they cannot share properties equally with their husbands during divorce, and therefore, these and other factors were taken into account for affecting their pursuit of better livelihood strategies. Hence, analyzing their livelihood strategies, their access to resources like land, livestock, credits, modern technologies, their food security status, their coping mechanisms for the food insecurity problems and their decision making levels became the objectives of the study which led to the study of the issue.

In order to investigate such issues, two sample kebeles from two agro ecological zones were systematically selected from the woreda, since the information secured from the woreda agriculture and rural development office 2010 showed the existence of high food and livelihood insecurity in these two agro-ecological zones which include the Kola and Woina Dega. Thus, these two agro-ecological zones were taken to be the sample
considering the resources and time allocated for the work and the transportation coverage found in the woreda.

The Woina Dega dwellers of Dano Bulto and the Kola dwellers of Zokesa kebeles were selected as the sample of the women headed households of the area. Then 60 each from both kebeles, constituting 120 women who head their households was selected representing about 38% of the women headed households of the kebeles and provided the necessary data. Then the data were collected through household survey by distribution of structured questionnaires, FGD, interviews and document analysis.

This was then followed by data analysis and presentation through tables and percentages and this again was followed by their respective interpretations which showed the state of affairs in which the study population, meaning, the women who head their households are found. The findings revealed that there are problems related to the livelihoods of the women, their access to resources, food security, empowerment and participation.

5.2 Conclusions

The livelihoods of the women

The study found that most women who head their households follow a livelihood strategy which is mainly agricultural based. Some women practice petty trade, while others practice selling fire wood and charcoals.

Livelihood diversification is very narrow. Their diversification includes agricultural practices like mixing perennial cropping, cereal cropping and for some extent, livestock rearing. There is no non-farm or off-farm diversifications which are independent of the influence of the changing climate. Their livelihoods are affected by climate change, drought, and lack of labor support, seasonality, human diseases like malaria, TB
which affect the human capital and plant diseases that destroy perennial crops like enset, banana, coffee and others leading to low productivity.

Lack of better health service providing institutions such as hospitals is high problem in affecting the human capital. Lack of transportation and uneven distribution and coverage of educational institutions also are highly challenging especially female/women in the area. Lack of transportation not only challenges access to the health service from going to the far away areas where there is better health institutions but also hinders access even to the local markets. Clean water provision also does not covered all the area and this also challenges the human capital of the area through leading health disorders.

Resource access

Access to resources/assets like livestock including oxen, cow, goat, and others such as poultry by the women who head their households is very low. Polygamous practice has been found to be one of the critical issues which expose women to different livelihood problems by leading them to resource fragmentation among many wives of the husband. Institutional facilitation of the livelihood strategies is also low. Their access to extension services to be provided with training, agricultural inputs, credits and other service providing institutions is found to be low. The price of fertilizer is high which does not consider the economic capacity of the women and therefore, they are far from access to it. It is only the productive safety net program which better involves the women. Most women also do not complain lack of land as a problem.

The study reached on the fact that the financial problem of the women headed households is not solved. Some women choose to borrow money from relatives while most others choose living with their problems for
different reasons. These include lack of guarantee, fear of debt and lack of collateral and long distance of the crediting institutions.

**Food security**

From their livelihood activities, they gain low production which is not adequate for supporting their households for the year. This inadequate production creates food insecurity problems among the target population. The annual average income per the women headed households is found to be 750 birr, and this level of income is also very low and cannot adequately support the family members of the household. Information shows that food insecurity is highly challenging and persisting in the area.

**Coping mechanisms**

The study could find that the women undertake different coping mechanisms. These include integrating perennial cropping, cereal cropping and petty trading. Selling fire wood and charcoal is also practiced. Sharing/borrowing food is involved. The safety net program also found as one of the coping method playing role in overcoming the food insecurity problems of the women. But they lack non-farm and off-farm diversification mechanisms.

**Empowerment in decision making**

The participation level of these women was also found to be low. Information showed that the number of women in different governmental sectors is found to be very low representing only 27.5% while the number of men represents 72.5%.

Data also revealed that they are not taking part in farmers training programs and in agriculture extension services in equal basis. In this regard, only few women are privileged. The exclusion of most women from trainings and extension services are due to their low educational backgrounds and hence, only few women who have primary education
are privileged the service. This situation also affects most women who cannot take part in the service use as they cannot gain knowledge and skills for how to improve their livelihood strategies. Generally, the empowerment level is low affecting their decision making level in equal basis.

5.3 Recommendation

The study could reach on the conclusions which confirmed the existence of different factors and problems that the women headed households face as it could be seen in the previous sections. Based on the conclusion which confirmed the presence of different problems in the study area, the following points were suggested by the researcher as recommendations for overcoming the problems challenging the women headed households in the area.

Recommended responses to the livelihood strategies

It should be worked for creating other diversified livelihood strategies which cannot be dependent on the changing climate and seasons. This situation creates multiple alternative livelihood strategies like non-farm and off-farm activities from which women and others who need to pursue better livelihood option can get more advantage.

Women’s capacity should be built for adapting the changes in physical factors like climate, seasons, trends and others by involving them in extension services and trainings which are provided to the people in the area.

Attracting and creating investment provisions are paramount importance and should be worked for. Because it results in provision of production and also create working space for the people who need working. It was found that there is large portion of land which is currently idle due to very low investment in the area and hence, attracting investment provision is highly important.
Studies should be conducted on the plant diseases aiming to solve the problems which hit the plants and their productivities.

**Resource access creation**

Promoting the resource accessing opportunities and assuring its implementation is very important and can play significant role in overcoming the problems. Therefore, the concerned bodies should take measures in this regard.

Extending the services providing institutions and working for promoting the accessing opportunities of the women population for the purpose of providing them with credits, trainings, extension services should be emphasized. The prices of inputs such as fertilizers are not considering the economic capacity of the women and therefore, it should consider their capacity for making them privileged the service.

The capital assets like human capital, social capital and others should be built through increased provisions of institution like health institutions, educational institutions, co operatives and other social networks. These types of measures are believed to reduce vulnerability of the women for different problems like disease (malaria, TB, HIV/AIDs), climate changes and others which hit capitals especially the human one.

The labor power of the women should be strengthened by facilitating access of the women to different resources like oxen and other related resources.

Polygamous practice has been found as a factor having negative impacts on the livelihoods of the women by creating resource fragmentation among many wives of a husband. Therefore, awareness creation among the people regarding the consequence of the practice should be worked for.
Similarly, infrastructural improvements should be given high attentions including provision of pure water, transportation, improved health service institutions and markets. These play a great role and are relevant to improve the livelihoods of the people through improving the efficiency of capitals and consequently contribute to the insurance of food security of the households. Therefore the concerned bodies should pay attention in the areas.

It should also be worked for introducing the features and the existing potential of the area to the concerned governmental and other bodies which can bring benefits to the country in general and to the special woreda in particular by using the existing conditions in collaboration with the government.

**Overcoming food security problems**

Studies suggest that food security question is answered through creating livelihood security and therefore, working for secured livelihood provision is recommended to bring food security.

**Coping mechanisms**

Women should be involved in extension packages and other institutional services to promote their adaptation capacity to risks and shocks so that they can resist the problems.

**Empowerment issues**

Empowerment level of the women in general is found to be low. Therefore, strengthened empowerment strategy should be put into practice.

It should also be worked for bringing increased awareness among the people about gender equality and for destroying discriminations based on sex. Then, the participation level of women in general in different sectors should be raised.
The researcher also suggests that further study in the area may result in more deep and detailed knowledge about the area in general and about the issue in particular.

Finally, the researcher recommends that all the points raised above should be seen by the concerned bodies who can respond by applying the solution mechanisms for the problems.
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Appendices

Appendix – 1

Questionnaire to be filled by sample population

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect data necessary for the study of livelihood strategies, access to agriculture productive resources such as land, credit, extension services, status of food security, solution mechanisms being taken for the incidence of food insecurity, participation level and level of decision making of household heading women population. Therefore, you the respondents are politely asked to provide the necessary information you are asked.

Thank you for providing willingly.

I. Respondents’ personal information

Please encircle on the alternatives which you choose and fill the blank spaces according to the questions asked. It is possible to have more than one answer for a single question.

1. Name: _________________________ Sex: ________ Age:__________
2. Marital status:
   A. Single     B. Married   C. Divorced/separated     D. Widowed
3. Education status:
   A. Cannot read and write   C. Can read and write E. (5 – 8) G. Above
   B. Primary education     D. High school(9 -10) F. (11 -12)
4. Total family size ___________________________
**Part II: Questions related to resource access and livelihood strategies**

1. What is your main source of livelihood?
   A. Agriculture         C. Sale of fire woods & charcoal
   B. Petty trade          D. Sale of local drinks
   Others _______________________________________________________________

2. If your answer for Q 1 is agriculture, which one you mostly practice?
   A. Crop production                 C. Mixed farming
   B. Planting perennial crops    D. Animal husbandry
   Others _______________________________________________________________

3. Do you gain enough production from your agriculture to sustain your family for the year without any shortage?
   A. Yes            B. No

4. What is your main source of cash income?
   A. Sale of cash crops           C. Petty trade
   B. Sale of food crops          D. Sale of fire wood and charcoal
   E. Sale of livestock           F. Sale of local drinks
   Other__________________________________________________________

5. Do you have your own land?              A. Yes                               B. No

6. If your answer is yes for above question how could you possess it?
   A. Through inheritance from parents
   B. Gift from parents
   C. Given by kebele land administration
   D. By lease
   E. By purchase
   F. Others
   (specify)________________________________________________________

7. How many fragment of land it is? (specify)______________________________

8. What is the total (area) of the land you have in timad? _________________
9. For what purpose you use these plots?
   A. For cropping
   B. For grazing
   C. It is fallowed
   Others ________________________________

10. If the plots presently what is the reason?
    A. Lack of labor support
    B. Lack of oxen
    C. Lack of seeds, fertilizer
    D. lack of money
    Others (specify) ________________________________

11. Regarding its fertility, how you judge your different plots?
    A. Fertile
    B. Medium (semi fertile)
    C. Infertile (not fertile)

12. If you plots of land are/is infertile, what are the factors for making it infertile?
    A. Cultivation over a long period
    B. Grazing over a longer period
    C. Erosion by floods/run offs
    Others (specify) ________________________________

13. Do you apply fertilizer to your land to keep it fertile?
    A. Yes
    B. No

14. If your answer for Q above is yes, what type of fertilizer do you use?
    A. Modern
    B. Manure
    C. Compost
    D. Crop residue
    Other (specify) ________________________________

15. Do you have irrigated plot?
    A. Yes
    B. No

16. If your answer for Q is No, what is the reason?
    A. Unavailability of irrigable water
    B. Lack of labor support
    C. Not need to irrigate
    Other (specify) ________________________________

17. Do you use modern technologies other those fertilizers like selected seed, insecticides and pesticides for the purpose of gaining better production? A. Yes B. No

18. If your answer for Q is No, what is the reason for not using?
    A. Its high cost
    B. Its long distance travelled to take it
    C. Lack of guarantee
    D. Unimportance
    Other (specify) ________________________________
19. Do you get credits?  
   A. Yes      B. No

20. If yes, who provide you with this service?
   A. Micro financing institutions  
      C. Relative
   B. Individual lender       D. Local informal institutions
   C. Others (specify) ________________________________

21. For what purpose you borrow the credits you acquire?
   A. For child education  
      C. To buy seed, livestock, fertilizer
   B. To buy seed, livestock, fertilizer
   Others (specify) ________________________________

22. If you answer is no for Q above, what is the reason?
   A. You have enough money  
      C. fear of debt
   B. Lack of guarantee       D. Long distance of the lending institutions?
   Others______________________________

23. If you have livestock, poultry, etc, fill the table below, please.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of tame animals</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oxen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cow</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Goat</td>
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<td>Sheep</td>
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<td>Poultry</td>
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<td>Others</td>
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24. Who provides you with those livestock you have?
   A. Bought yourself  
      C. Provided by Peasant associations
   B. Provided by NGOs aid agencies
   Others (specify) ________________________________

25. Do you get some opportunities for women training provided agricultural institutions like farmers training centers?
   Yes      B. No
26 What is the source of your drinking water?
   A. Piped water     B. Water hole     C. River water     D. Stream water

27 How much time (in hour/minute) it takes to go to the source of water to fetch for drinking home consumption purposes? _____________ hrs/min.

28 How much time it takes to you to go to the market where you buy or sell products/goods for your economic purposes?
   A. Under 1 hour   B. 2-3hours
   C. 3-4hours      D. 4-5hours      E. above5hrs

29 What means of transportation you use for transporting goods to/from the markets?
   A. Car        B. pack animals               C. human back
Appendix – 2

Question for focused group discussion (FGD)

1. When food security problem occurs, what solution mechanism do you employ to overcome the problem?
2. How you value (judge) the equality of getting opportunity of women to access resource/assets like land, training etc?
3. What factors do frequently affect the livelihood strategies in your area?
4. How you see the productive safety net program in solving problems associated with food security and income shortage?
5. What other institutional supports other than the safety net program you are being provided by formal institutions like NGOs and NGOs? And how you see their services?
6. How the extension services are distributed in your area? (e.g. Apicultural extension, regarding women men)
Appendix – 3

Interview Question

1. How women population is perceived in your community?
2. Do they (women) have entitlement to land holding?
3. Do you work (participate) in safety net program? If no why?
4. What saving method you use to save your money?
5. Are there local informal institutions in which you are a member?
**Declaration**

I, the under signed declare that the thesis is my original work, has not been presented for a degree in any other university and that all sources of materials used for the thesis have been dully acknowledged.

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