



ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY WATER RESOURCES PROJECTS,
IN AWI ZONE, AMHARA REGION, ETHIOPIA.**

BY
HABTAMU MULAT

JUNE 2022
ADDIS ABABA,ETHIOPIA

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HABTAMU MULAT

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO

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OF SOCIAL WORK

RESEARCH ADVISOR

TENAGNE ALEMU (PhD)

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

JUNE,2022

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

DECLARATION

First, I declare that this thesis is entitled Investigating the Role of Women Empowerment in the Management of Community Water Resources Projects, in Awi zone, Amhara region, Ethiopia. The paper was submitted to the School of Social Work in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master in Social Work and is my work. All sources of materials used for this thesis have also been fully acknowledged. Second, I certify that the thesis complies with the regulations stated in the Senate Legislation of Addis Ababa University and meets the accepted standards concerning originality and quality. Finally, I confirm that this thesis has not been presented to any other institution anywhere for the award of any academic degree, diploma or certificate.

This is a true copy of the thesis.

Habtamu Mulat Beza

Signature_____ **Date**_____

Addis Ababa University

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the thesis prepared by HabtamuMulatBezaititled: Investigating the Role of Women Empowerment in the Management of Water Resource projects, Amhara Region, Awi Zone and submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Degree of Master of Arts in Socal Work complies with the regulations of the University and meets the accepted standards concerning originality and quality.

Approved by Boards of Examiners and Advisor

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Chair of the Department of Graduate Program Coordinator

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGES
DECLARATION.....	II
CERTIFICATION.....	III
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	IV
TABLE OF CONTENTS	V
LIST OF TABLES	VIII
LIST OF FIGURES	VIII
ABSTRACT.....	XI
CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	2
1.3 Objectives of the Study.....	4
1.4 Research Questions	5
1.5 The Rationale for the Research.....	5
1.6 Scope of the Study	6
1.7 Significance of the Study	6
1.8 Organization of the Study	6
CHAPTER TWO - REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	8
2.1 Introduction.....	8
2.2 Women in Ethiopia	8
2.3 Overview of Water Resources Management.....	9
2.4 Definition and Concept of Water Resource Management	9
2.5 Gender Issues in Water Resource Management.....	10
2.6 Overview of Women's Empowerment in Ethiopia.....	12
2.7 Women Empowerment Importance in WRM	13
2.8 Mechanisms to Empower Women in WRM	13
2.9 Increasing Female Participation Approaches.....	14
2.9.1 Gender Mainstreaming.....	14
2.9.2 Capacity Building	15

2.9.3	Altering Cultural Rules and Norms	15
2.9.4	Legislation, Regulations, and Policy Incentives	16
CHAPTER THREE - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....		17
3.1	Introduction.....	17
3.2	Description of the Study Areas	17
3.2.1	Location and Geographical Setting.....	17
3.2.2	Climate.....	19
3.2.3	Economy	19
3.2.4	Demographics	19
3.2.5	Water Projects and Water Coverage	20
3.3	Research Methodology	20
3.4	Sampling Design	20
3.5	Data Collection Techniques	21
3.5.1	Interview and Procedure for Interview	22
3.5.2	Focus Group Discussion	23
3.5.3	Secondary Data	24
3.6	Data Collection Procedures.....	24
3.7	Data Analysis	25
3.8	Trustworthiness of the Findings.....	25
3.9	Limitation of the Research.....	26
3.10	Ethical Considerations	26
CHAPTER FOUR - FINDINGS OF THE STUDY		28
4.1	Introduction.....	28
4.2	Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Participants	28
4.3	Water Source of the Respondents	30
4.4	Women’s Roles in the Management of Water Resource Projects	31
4.4.1	Domestic Role.....	32
4.4.2	Productive Role.....	32
4.4.3	Decision-Making Role	33
4.5	Household and Community-level Decision Making.....	34
4.5.1	Household Level Decision-Making	34
4.5.2	Decisions Making at the Community Level.....	35
4.6	Women's Way of participation in the Management of Water Resource Projects	36

INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF WOMEN EMPWORMENT IN THE
.....VII

4.7	Benefits of Women's Participation in Water Resource Projects	37
4.8	Challenges of Women Participation/ Factors that contribute to the Low Involvement of Women in Water Management.....	39
4.8.1	Lack Self-Confidence	39
4.8.2	Socio-Cultural Issues	40
4.8.3	Educational Illiteracy	41
4.8.4	Motherhood and Workload	42
4.8.5	Power Imbalance.....	43
4.9	Measures to Mitigate Women's Challenges and Issues in Water Resource Projects	43
CHAPTER FIVE - CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....		45
5.1	Introduction.....	45
5.2	Conclusion	45
5.3	Recommendations	47
5.4	Social Work Implications.....	48
5.4.1	The Implication of Social Work Education	48
5.4.2	The Implication of Social Work practice	49
5.4.3	The Implication of Social Work Policy	49
5.4.4	Implication for Research.....	50
REFERENCE.....		51
ANNEXES		54
Annex I: Participant Information Sheet for Consent.....		54
Annex II: A Consent Statement Form.....		56
Annex III: Data Collection Tools.....		57
Annex IV: የትምህርትቤትስምምነትናፈቃድመጠየቂያደብዳቤ		60
Annex V: Letters from the Zone to the Wereda.....		61

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Socio-demographic profile of study participants.....	29
Table 2 Major Source of Water sources	30
Table 3 Ways of women’s participation in the management of water resource projects.	37
Table 4 Benefits of the participation in the management of water resource projects for the women.....	38
Table 5 Mitigation measures of women’s participation in Water Resource Management....	44

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 Location map of the research area.....	18
Figure 2 The hand pump used by the local community.....	31

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APA	American Psychological Association
Cap-Net	Capacity Development in Sustainable Water Management Network
CSA	Central Statistics Authority
ECDSWS	Ethiopian Construction Design Supervision Works Corporation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GTP	Growth and Transformation Plan
GWA	Gender and Water Alliance
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
MOFED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
MOWR	Ministry of Water and Resource
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
WRM	Water Resource Management
WUA	Water Users Association

DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL TERMS

Culture – is the enduring behavior or attitudes brought about by a desire to follow the beliefs or standards of other people.

Empowerment –is about people pursuing their own goals, living according to their values, developing self-reliance, and being able to make choices and influence both individually and collectively the decisions that affect their lives.

Empowering women – is a situation that enables women to have equal opportunities with men for participating in the development process.

Gender – refers to the Social and Cultural meaning of being male or female that includes socially constructed roles, responsibilities, and expectations by women and men themselves in a given society.

Gender equality – means fair treatment for both women and men, according to their respective needs.

Gender mainstreaming – is the process of reducing the gaps in development opportunities between women and men and working towards equality between them.

Gender stereotypes – reflect those traditional practices that are oversimplified but strongly held ideas about the characteristics of males and females.

Patriarchy - a hierarchical social system and way of thinking where ‘fathers’ or ‘patriarchs’ rule which has become a major form of domination and subordination. The term ‘patriarchal’ refers to a power relation in which women’s interests are subordinated to the interest of men.

Woreda – district

ABSTRACT

This study explored the role of women in the management of community water resource projects as an enabling factor to the development of the nation. It also examined the role of women in decision-making before and after the involvement of water resource projects.

The subject of the study is taken from the Amhara Regional States in Banjawereda of Gisa and Lidetakebeles sample women. Both primary and secondary data collection techniques such as in-depth interviewing and focus group discussions were used in the study. Field observations were also employed as a supplementary method. In this study, the interviews were made through voice recording and field notes taken. The voice-recorded interviews of participants" were transcribed word for word in Amharic. The secondary data were collected from document analysis.

The study findings explain the nature of women involvement and roles in water resource management as they attempt to achieve productivity, decision-making, and equity. The role of women in the management of water resources is used to apply their ability and capacity effectively and efficiently.

The study further indicated the need for government and nongovernmental integrated work towards achieving empowerment of women and transforming the underdeveloped community into developing communities.

Keywords: Empowerment; Community; Water Resource Projects; Role; Participation; Rural Water Supply

CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Water is a valuable natural resource fundamental for life and it is believed that facilitates the overall socio-economic development of a nation. Women are often the primary users of water in domestic consumption, subsistence agriculture, health, and sanitation. Women in many cases also take the primary role in educating children, on child and family health including sanitation and caring for the sick. Understanding and empowering women will help to plan water interventions and policies which are based on the knowledge of how and why people make the choices they do in water use to meet their needs. (MOFED, 2010)

The Central Statistics Authority Report (2017) explains the lack of safe water as the major cause of waterborne diseases and death in most developing countries including Ethiopia. Apart from causing poor health and death, the negative consequences of the unavailability of safe water on society have another chain of negative consequences such as the workload on women and children in fetching mostly from very distant areas.

The increasing growing population of people in the world leads to pressure on the earth's water resource grows. The imbalance between water users and available water sources results from this growth of the population in the world. Consequently, tensions among different users are intensified and the most affected and vulnerable are the world's poor people. Additionally, lack of water critically impedes countries prospects for socio-economic health and development. Women, and children, suffer from the lack of access to safe water as they commonly carry the main responsibility for collecting water for domestic purposes. (UNESCO, 2020)

To solve such problems empowering and participating women in the management of community water resource projects is the one way that governments need to consider.

In most rural areas women's participation in local institutions such as water users' organizations (WUAs) or farmers' organizations is limited. Even when they do belong to organizations, social restrictions often prevent them from participating in decision-making, and male members often do not perceive the relevance of increasing women's access to resources and services and broadening their involvement in local organizations. This situation hinders more participatory and equitable decision-making on water resources at local and national levels.

This paper examined women's role and participation in the management of water resource projects and the implications for their economic development. Women in the Awi zone of BanjaWoreda'sGisa and Lidetakebeles were the focus of this study. It also highlighted some lessons learned in past programs and policies and concluded with actions recommended to increase women's productivity in all sectors.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Empowerment has understandably become one of the central themes of national and international development agendas and continues to gain traction in human development discourses globally.

The Ethiopian government is committed to the empowerment of women, their well-being, advancement in every sphere, and the development of the nation. According to the government of Ethiopia "Empowering women is empowering a nation". The government of Ethiopia developing and implementing national policies focused on the empowerment of women,

increasing opportunities for women in assumeleadership roles in government, and revising legislations and laws that protect women.

The Ethiopian government has been taking measures for ending poverty and accelerating sustainable economic growth as is stated in its agenda in the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) from 2010 to 2015.

According to Ethiopia's Ministry of Education (MoE), poor access to formal education and women's lower participation rates in existing formal education opportunities in Africa, especially in Ethiopia, have contributed to the deep-rooted problem of illiteracy (MoE, 2015)

Potable water supply coverage is still only 79.5 % instudywereda. As a result, the distance traveled and time istaken to fetch water have negative consequences for health and economic productivity. The main burden to feed families and its negative impact tend to fall on women, who are traditionally responsible for maintaining the household water supply and on their children.

Lack of accessible water is a crisis for the community is a crisis, specifically for women. Women in the study area are primarily responsible for searching for water resources for their families to survive their lives. Water is used for cooking their food, and drinking, to keep their hygiene and sanitation. Health and water services are highly related and must get to survive their lives. (water.org)

The low rate of women's participation in major national projects and the low level of empowerment are the key elements affecting the efficient and effective decision-making ability of women.

BanjaWereda, oneweredaof the Awizone, is the site for the study. Deep wells, Shallow hand-dug wells, and small springs are the major water sources of the wereda. Like other parts of the wereda, water for the household is collected by women and girls. Similarly, women's role in water issues remains collecting, storing, and using for various purposes rather than participating in decision making.

So, this research aims to asses obstacles facing women to participate in achieving their development of such water resource projects. In addition, the study tries to investigate the role of women in the management of water resource projects in Banjaworedaof Lideta and Gisakebeles as its result may help to create a general overview of the status of women in society.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to explore the role of women's empowerment in the management of water resources projects in the community.

The study was the following specific objectives.

- Exploring the role of women's participation in the management of community water resource projects.
- Identifying factors that facilitated or hampered women's participation in the management of community water resource projects.
- Identifying the methods of enhancing women's participation in the management of community water resource projects.
- Assessing the way of participation in the management of community water resource projects.

1.4 Research Questions

To meet the objective of the study, the following research guiding questions were answered.

1. What is the role of women's participation in the management of water resource projects?
2. What are the major factors that hinder women's participation in the management of water resource projects?
3. Are there any mechanisms to improve women's participation in the management of water resource projects?
4. What are the measures taken to enhance women's participation in the management of water resource projects?

1.5 The Rationale for the Research

This research explored the roles of women's empowerment in the management of water resource projects in Awi Zone Banja Woreda. It was motivated by the researcher's current work experience related to community water resource projects in the ECDSWS office. This office was doing activities with the gender and community water projects relation. Women faced different problems like decision ability, low level of confidence, and low capacity.

The researcher used their experience of frequent discussion, during fieldwork, with women about their daily experiences of managing water resources in the community. This frequent discussion aroused an interest in the researcher to know more about women's experiences with water resources and their effect on their lives through systematic research. On the other hand, the proximity of such issues makes the researchers interested to conduct research.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The target groups of the study were the local communities of Awi Zone who were participating in community water resource projects. People who had information and experiences on the issue under study were also consulted for the study. These groups had been assessed based on their age, sex, and other socio-economic parameters like income level, and family size. Geographically, the study covered the Amhara Region Awi zone Banja Wereda of Gisa and Lidetakebeles. Due to financial and time constraints, the study covered only two purposively selected kebeles of the woreda.

1.7 Significance of the Study

This study would be helpful in understanding, analyzing and increasing awareness about the participation of women in water resource management. Moreover, this research is significant as a means of suggesting recommendations for the better functioning of the water resource development projects for women and society. The study gives a foundation for other researchers who are interested to study it more in detail. The study anticipates the benefit to society and provides recommendations and suggestions to policymakers.

Finally, this study draws government attention and other concerned organizations to women's participation in policy and decision-making.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This thesis is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1 presents the background of the study with women in water management. The research problem, the aim of the study, the research questions, the scope of the study, and the significance of the study are stated in the first chapter.

Chapter 2 presents the literature review of the study. The concept of Gender issues, Women empowerment, Feminist theory, and approaches related to the increment of female participation has also been discussed.

Chapter 3 highlights the methods used and the techniques employed in data collection and analysis. The chapter also presented how the issue of reliability and validity of the research results has been achieved. The limitations of the study and Ethical Considerations have been presented. The chapter also provides a geographical and socio-economic description of the study areas were briefly elaborated.

Chapter 4 presents the research results based on interviews conducted in the study kebeles. The chapter explores the role played by both women and men in the management of water resource projects. Also, factors affecting women's participation is examined with interpretations. The part of this thesis. The conclusions, recommendations, and implications for the study are discussed in the final chapter.

CHAPTER TWO -REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter of the study reviews and critically analyses available literature on the Investigating Role of Women's Empowerment in the management of water resource projects and also the factors that contribute to the low participation of women in water resource management. An in-depth literature review was carried out to seize secondary data from reports, books, and other publications on the sociological approach to water supply management, women's participation, and water management-related gender issues.

2.2 Women in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, women traditionally enjoy little independent decision-making on most individual and family issues, including the option to choose whether to give birth in a health facility or seek the assistance of a trained provider (Wilder, 2007). According to Wilder, women, as well as their husbands, accept the view that under some circumstances, a man is justified in beating his wife. This situation is further complicated by deep traditional social and economic patterns that place powerful constraints on the rights of women and their opportunities to direct their own lives or participate in and contribute to the community and national development. Women and children spend hours a day collecting water.

Norman (2019) states that water committees must be gender-balanced, as commonly women spend hours a day collecting water, for their voice to then be silenced in decision making. Now, more than ever before, equitable water governance is required, based on notions of decentralization, user participation, and demand management.

2.3 Overview of Water Resources Management

Water resources are sources of water that are useful for agricultural, industrial, household, recreational and environmental activities. Community water sources obtain water from two systems: surface water and groundwater. The availability and safety of water are the factors to a good life. Access to clean water is crucial, especially these days when we are facing the effects of climate change.

The water resources should be managed effectively and sustainably, to minimize the impact on society and the environment. Effective water management requires planners and policymakers to evaluate in terms of their economic, environmental, and social impacts. To deal with this complex nature and coordinate policy effectively, it is often argued that economic and policy instruments should be used as part of a wider framework to manage water resources (Allabadi, 2012; White, 2013).

2.4 Definition and Concept of Water Resource Management

Eroglu (2007), in his study about water resource management in Turkey, defined water resource management as; “the wholeness that collects all the conditions and methods related to the determination and planning of need concerned with water resources, rational water use, detailed observation, efficient protection under its framework”.

According to Eroglu (2007), to guarantee the supply of water in the required place and at the required time with sufficient quality and to protect people and their activities from damaging effects of water resource development projects of different content and scope. As he noted, the major targets of WRM of which the water resource is basic elements are;

- Determination of existing and future qualitative and quantitative characteristics of surface and groundwater resources, evaluation of supply possibilities.
- Determination, planning, and arrangement of community water demands.
- Formation of water balances, collection of factors that will provide continuity of these balances and development of a long-term strategy for national use of water resources.
- Monitoring of water resources to protect them from pollution and exhaustion.
- Designation of processes in water systems and operational conditions.
- Make it possible for the multipurpose utilization of water resources, determination of priorities of these purposes, and re-evaluation of allocations.
- Improvement of rational water use.
- Provide sustainability of natural potential of water resources and protect them.
- Provide effective utilization of technical elements (e.g. reservoirs, treatment plants, etc.) to protect communities from adverse effects of water resources.
- Benefits from managerial elements, economic instruments (e.g. prices, penalties,etc), laws, and regulations.

2.5 Gender Issues in Water Resource Management

Gender issues are one of the greatest factors associated with water project effectiveness. Furthermore, equal participation improves project outcomes, as well as enables sustainability, i.e. projects, are more likely to be successful if women and men are equally active participants and decision-makers. Although women globally are being recognized as vital actors in water supply management, they are commonly excluded from decision-making and formulating, planning, and implementing management policies and measures. (GWA. 2006)

In the international community, the involvement of women's equality with men in managing community water projects has a positive impact on ensuring equitable access to water-related resources like agricultural sectors of the country's development. In human life, Water is used for the survival of life.

The poor health and low productivity of a woman as a result of from lack and inaccessibility of potable water resources. The lack of safe water in most communities is the major cause of waterborne diseases. Most developing countries including Ethiopia faced such water resource problems. Lack of safe water supply has negative consequences on women's society like increasing the workload at the household and community level. Women fetching water mostly from very distant areas results in the consumption of time and cost.(CSA,2017)

The concept of gender is as socially constructed roles, benefits, attributes, and relationships ascribed to women and men. Thus, as these roles are socially constructed, gender is not biologically determined but rather derives from historical, cultural, and religious patterns and traditions. Hence, gender roles embrace socially constructed behaviors, roles, and norms that societies and communities ascribe as being specifically male or female. Gender relations, constituted in legal and institutional systems, as well as within the family, are hierarchical relations of power, commonly disfavouing women. (Acheampong 2008)

In many water projects, livelihoods and social relations are limitedly understood and it is a common idea that gender merely is the act of working with both men and women, further reflected in policies and programs. This implies seeing gender simply as unequal power relations between men and women, however, this enables overlooking other disparate social relations. (Minoia. 2007)

2.6 Overview of Women's Empowerment in Ethiopia

Women's ability to make the decision and affect the outcome of importance to themselves and their families refers to Women's empowerment. Control over one's own life and a resource is often stressed. It's about gaining power and liberty; it is the faculty or capacity to act and the strength and potency to accomplish a common community and civic duty. Women's empowerment is the vital energy to make choices and decisions to overcome deeply embedded practices and to cultivate higher, more effective ones in women (UNDP, 2008 – 2011).

According to the Central Statics Agency, 2016, among 3 of the women who responded only 1 of employed (compared to 88% of men); almost half of the women who took part had received no form of education (marriage meant leaving school for 75% of them), and it was found that husbands still largely hold control in terms of how a woman spends her earnings. (CSA,2016)

Women compose half of the world's population and the second wing of the bird. And in many parts of the world, including Ethiopia, they are systematically oppressed. How can we progress as a species if such a large part of the population is prevented from fulfilling their true potential? Women raise children – empowering a woman means empowering a whole family; and in many cases, a whole community.

Empowerment of women more facilitated by giving women the right to education is and increasing the positive development of society. Moreover, the enjoyment of the right to education is the best means to empower women to use their rights in other areas of their lives.

Finally, employment gives women the opportunity of living independently of men, be free of violence, and be able to make decisions regarding their own lives. Without education the employment of girls is low.

2.7 Women Empowerment Importance in WRM

In the international community, the involvement of women's equality with men in managing community water projects has a positive impact on ensuring equitable access to water-related resources like agricultural sectors of the country's development. In human life, Water is used for the survival of life. Water development projects accelerate the overall socio-economic development of a country. In the global context, there is a key area of needing women's decision-making capabilities.

Despite worldwide attempts made toward women's empowerment women's economic condition is very weak. Anyone whether man or woman will be marginalized if he/she doesn't earn income. Economic independence is the key to women's empowerment. As soon as they start generating income they come into the mainstream and start playing important role in decision-making. (Vindo, 2012)

Therefore, the participation of women in the development of water and sanitation schemes is a determinant factor for its sustainability. The right to the full involvement of women in the planning, implementation, decision – making and training; as well as empowers them to play a leading role in self-reliance initiatives (MOWR/FDRE, 2000)

2.8 Mechanisms to Empower Women in WRM

According to the International Development Research Center Report of 2021, to achieve women's participation, people must understand and accept women's potential contributions to the effectiveness of improved water supply and sanitation and make women aware of new information about how they can improve the quality of their lives and those of their families. Based on the concept of genuine community involvement, there must be a dialogue with

community members (Circle of blue water news, 2010), so that needs and choices can be identified and women's status and roles fully understood and appreciated.

Increasing awareness and education among girls and women about human rights and personal rights, as well as emphasizing education, life skills, and leadership development is an important mechanism. It also necessitates educational support for poor girls and promotes female education through role models and mentoring. Education is an important mechanism to empower women. As she stated, equality in education represents, in general, a package of policies that includes fair access and reasonable treatment including opportunities for underrepresented groups like women not only to enter but to progress well in educational systems. (Wilder, 2007)

2.9 Increasing Female Participation Approaches

2.9.1 Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is a process for improving the relevance of development agendas to the lives of all people, regardless of gender. In the context of integrated water resources management – IWRM – it means that the opportunities and benefits arising from water sector interventions will be equally available to women and men. The concept of gender mainstreaming is “the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, and programs in all areas and at all levels.” (GWA. 2016)

Gender mainstreaming can be understood as a strategy to make women's and men's opinions and knowledge part of the designing, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic, and societal areas.

Gender mainstreaming implies enabling equal participation for both women and men to actively participate in planning, implementation, and evaluation steps in water development and management measures. (Zwarteveen. 2006.)

2.9.2 Capacity Building

Education and training matter throughout the life cycle. Access to quality education during childhood is important in itself and has important spill-over effects in breaking intergenerational poverty cycles, delaying marriage and childbearing, and improving labor market outcomes later in life.

The capacity training is not only about improving skills, but also about making women aware of their rights, “The women participation must be promoted carefully to ensure that women who are usually excluded can participate by building confidence and developing essential skills. Furthermore, efforts must be made to ensure that men allow women to participate. However, to address gender in participatory approaches, it must be understood that gender is not always the sensitive topic it is assumed to be. Moreover, it must be recognized that gender is not a theoretical concept but rather a fact that women and men can address. With specific efforts, gender can be discussed and addressed through participatory approaches using the right methods and attitudes.(Wallace & Coles. 2005)

2.9.3 Altering Cultural Rules and Norms

Gender perspective that integrates women in decision-making processes, women's knowledge will engender more sustainable and efficient approaches to water management.

According to Ivens (2008), effective female participatory approaches require processes where power imbalances in the household as well as in the public sphere are addressed. This further

considers ownership of resources and assets and how power relates to roles, responsibilities, and opportunities. An enabling environment must be created where women feel comfortable raising their voices and concerns so that women and men equally can be involved in designing the development agenda.

2.9.4 Legislation, Regulations, and Policy Incentives

To maximize benefits from any gender approach in water management, gender considerations should be integrated at all societal and institutional levels; in policies and laws, institutions, as well as at the operational level. (CAP-NET, GWA. 2016)

According to the GWA (CAP-NET, GWA. 2016), essential in improving stakeholder participation and women's participation is to formulate it as a principle of law. Thus, women's involvement ought to be explicitly expressed in legislation. Davila Poblete (2004.) states that since gender is socially constructed, gender approaches must be actively implemented in programs and projects to obtain gender equity. Formulating and implementing sufficient and effective policies that promote gender equality and female participation is thus complicated in circumstances of well-established cultural traditions and conduct.

CHAPTER THREE - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The success of a research project is dependent upon the selection of appropriate research methods. The Research design is about planning how to link theoretical concepts and questions with the empirical world to meet the objectives of the study. This chapter starts with the descriptions of the study areas and participants of the study. It also outlines sampling design and the research design techniques that were employed during data collection and how the data collected was analyzed. Ethical considerations of the paper are also discussed.

3.2 Description of the Study Areas

The research was conducted on existing water resource project areas of Banja Wereda, Awi Zone, and Amhara Region. The study participants included women participating in the water resource projects, staff of the wereda water sectorial office found at research sites, staff from water resource projects of the wereda, and people, who have played an advisory role in community-based projects. A total of 12 women participants were identified through the chairperson of the kebeles.

In this section of the chapter, the researcher gives a general background to the study wereda and kebele with the aid of a map. The researcher begins with a brief description of the location, climate, livelihood condition, land use and land cover, and demography of the area.

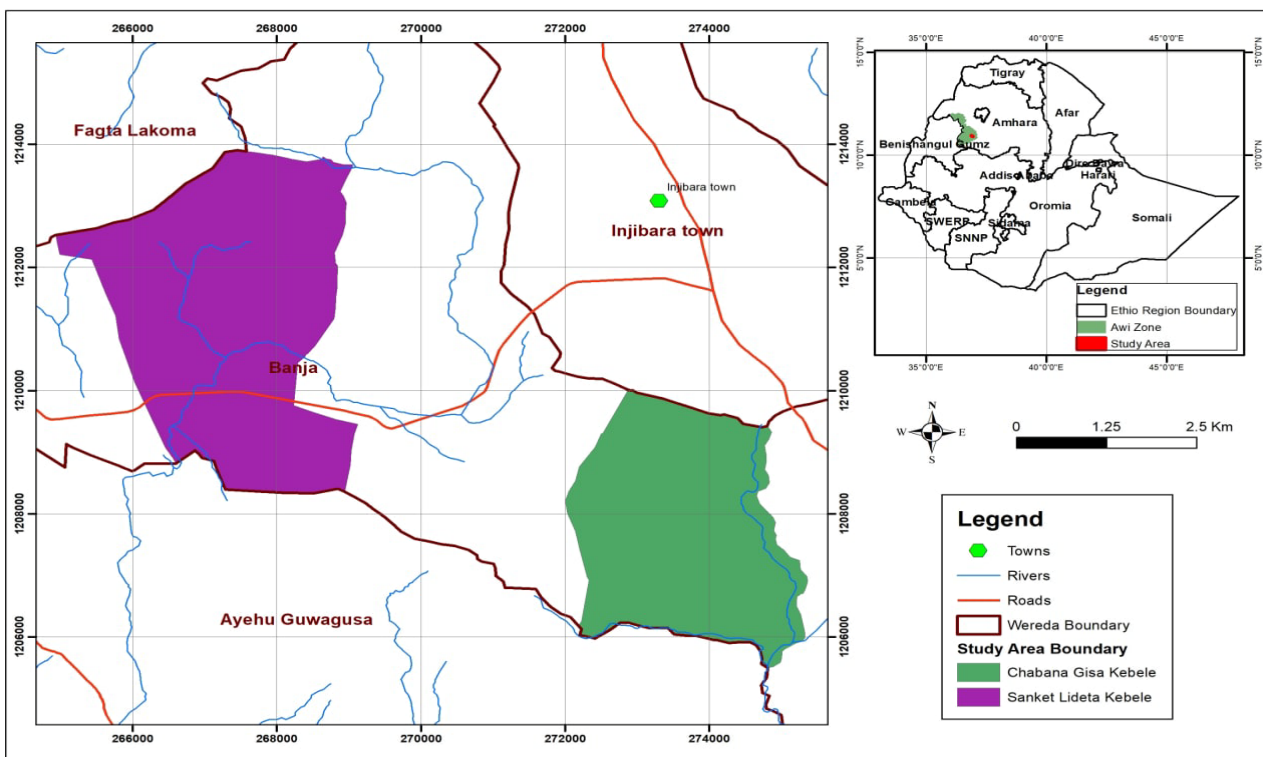
3.2.1 Location and Geographical Setting

Banja Wereda is one of the weredas in the Amhara Region of North West Ethiopia. It is part of the Awi Zone. The district is bordered on the south by Ankeshawereda, on the west by Guanguawereda, on the north by Fagetawereda, and on the east by Sekelawereda.

The administrative and business center for the wereda is Enjibara town. The wereda is found 470 km from Addis Ababa and 33 km from the zone. The wereda is divided into 25 rural and 2 urban kebeles.

The altitude of this wereda ranges from 1800 to 2570 meters above sea level. The total area of land of the woreda is estimated at 47,915.08 ha. Of the total land, flat land accounts for 17.36%, mountain and hills 82.67%.

Figure 1 Location map of the research area



Source: Developed by the researcher (01/01/22)

3.2.2 Climate

BanjaWereda is predominantly classified as Dega ecology, while the annual temperature ranges from 16°C to 20°C. The mean annual rainfall of the area ranges from 2200 to 2400 mm. There are two cropping seasons in the woreda. The first cropping season is Belg which is a short rainy season between April and May and the second is Meher which covers between June and September. Maize, finger millet, sorghum, teff, rice, wheat, and nug are the main crops grown in the study area.

3.2.3 Economy

Teff, corn, sorghum, cotton, and sesame are important cash crops. The study area is also known for its breed of cattle, which has a large frame and is one of the best native milk cows in the region.

Irrigation plays a central role in increasing production to an extent that helps to mitigate the short supply of food elsewhere in the country. About 10,203 ha of the land in Banjawereda is currently cultivated .there 29 rivers that ara the potential to use for irrigation purposes.

3.2.4 Demographics

Based on the 2013 national census conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA), the woreda has a population of 100,835 inhabitants. In terms of gender, the population has held steady in a split of about 49,613 males and 51,222 females. The total number of households in the wereda is 15,704. The largest ethnic group reported in the Banjawereda is the Agew (52%) and Amhara(48%). Agewegna is spoken as a first language and followed by Amharic.

3.2.5 Water Projects and Water Coverage

According to the reports in the Banjawereda, the Water resource development sector has about 564 /hand-dug well/,73 motorized Hand pump access to safe drinking water. In general, as the report in Banjaworeda indicated, 79.5% of all households in the woreda had access to safe drinking water.

3.3 Research Methodology

The study employed a qualitative case study research method. A qualitative case study is a research methodology that helps in the exploration of a phenomenon within some particular context through various data sources (Baxter & Jack, 2008).

In the case study design, the main purpose is to generate a holistic view of the studied case, thus recognizing the case in its entirety. Selecting the case is commonly based on theoretical assumptions or certain inherent conditions and characteristics of specific interest to the researcher. (Svenning. 2006)

The case in this matter was to investigate the role and participation of women empowerment in the water management of Banjawereda, with the main focus at the micro (community) level.

However, the wereda was selected due to the existence of water-related issues both economically and physically. Culturally women play a great role in utilizing the country's water resources, the country faces great issues related to women's role in water management and society at large.

3.4 Sampling Design

Sampling refers to the procedure whereby a sample is extracted from a general population. The study uses a non-probability sampling technique in the selection of respondents to be part of the research. The researcher used Total Population Purposive sampling for the qualitative thinking to

approach the meanings and social relationships of those being studied. The reason for using Total population purposive sampling was that the researcher believed interviewing key informants was is fundamental to getting a piece of deep information about the role of women in the management of community water projects.

A non-probability sampling design was employed to select the required number of informants for an in-depth interview and discussions with officials of the department of water supply sectors.

To generate the necessary and ample data for this research, 15 individuals were selected purposively. Among the total participants(15),12 are in-depth interviewees consisting of women households who are involved in the empowering of water resource projects in the study areas. Three (3) are key informant interviewees and FGD participants consisting of wereda and zone water resource experts.

3.5 Data Collection Techniques

According to Yin,2014, in the case study type of research, the data collection methods are drawn from different sources of information like using field observation, by making structured interviews with participants, and reviewing some hard copy and soft copy materials.

Within the case study research design, various data collecting methods may be applied. In this study, primary data was gathered through the use of a semi-structured interview. Secondary data was also used in this study. The secondary data were collected from published and unpublished materials which are available in the form of journals, articles, internet sources, proclamations, policies, reports, and guidelines.

3.5.1 Interview and Procedure for Interview

The interviews in this study were purposefully semi-structured since the intent of the interviews was to explore issues of women's roles and the influencing factors in that water setting.

The interviews were used to understand the nature of women's roles in water resource projects, as well as the contextual factors influencing their roles. The interview also helped the researcher to explore and deeply understand how the interviewee views the issues raised and the understanding of their role and contributions to water resource projects. The choice of this data collection tool was due to its flexibility, as it offers rich and detailed data.

The semi-structured interview procedure implies a dialogue between the interviewer and the respondent where questions and answers generally are not previously determined. The interview was also appropriate for this study because the phenomenon under study involved sensitive topics such as power relations and gender, which are better explored individually than in a group (Charmaz, 2014).

In-depth interviews were held with women members of the community involves in the management of water resource projects to gather information about their perceptions of gender roles and the constraints women face in the management of water resources. A total of 12 respondents were identified through the chairperson of the kebeles. Contact with respondents was made in person. Respondents were interviewed, with each interview lasting between 20 to 35 minutes. All the interviews were audio-recorded with the aid of a digital recorder. The interviews were conducted at the kebele administration office located in both Lideta and Gisa Kebeles. The interviews were conducted mostly on Sunday and religious holiday days. The interviews were conducted in the Amharic language. Field notes were also used during and after the interview session women.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion

Focus groups can be seen as a type of group interview, but one that tends to concentrate in-depth on a particular theme or topic with an element of interaction. The group is often made up of people who have particular experience or knowledge about the subject of the research, or those that have a particular interest in it (Walliman, 2011)

FGD is helpful for research that encourages the participation of people who are reluctant or afraid to be interviewed. In a focus group discussion, the discussion will be more naturalistic and enables the participant in generating more topics than an interview. (Moriarty,2011)

During the time the research takes place the zone and wereda officials face heavy workloads. So, the researcher conducted onlyone FGD/ Focus Group Discussion with wereda and zone water resource experts and helped in getting detailed information about the issue and the inner feelings of the community because being in a group with others that have the same issues to discuss may give the confidence to speak about their experiences in a good manner. The participants were three experts from wereda and zone. Between 1 to 2 hours were used for the focus group discussion.These participants have been selected with the assumption that they have depth knowledge due to the nature of their work and long stay with the community or the sector.

The Zone Water resource experts have provided detailed information on the actual and perceived impacts of women's empowerment in the management of community water resource projects. The wereda experts also have provided information on the role of women and their way of participation in projects. The views of Woreda and Zone officials have also been consulted regarding the issue understudy.

Generally, Focus-Group Discussions were employed to generate qualitative data to supplement data obtained through in-depth interviews.

3.5.3 Secondary Data

To complement the primary data, a review of secondary materials was conducted. Materials from scholarly literature such as books, journal articles, published and unpublished dissertations, reports, conference proceedings, government policies, and pieces of legislation were used in this study. The research used a secondary document that is related to the issues of the role of women in the management of water resource projects and also used as a supportive source of the primary data.

3.6 Data Collection Procedures

The researcher followed the data collection procedures. First, the researcher took the cooperation paper from the School of Social Work to get permission and cooperation from the concerned body. Then the researcher went to the study area and submitted the paper to the woreda and concerned administration office. After giving permission, the organization directed the permission letter to each research kebeles of BanjaWoreda Water Resource Offices. First, the objective study briefly describes the concerned body. Before starting the data collection, I tried to use a get keeper to communicate smoothly with the participants and have enough access to the information. Then, after getting the consent, the Data collection procedures were made in a consistent order.

3.7 Data Analysis

In this study, the interviews were made through voice recording and field notes taken. The voice-recorded interviews of participants“ were transcribed word for word in Amharic. The interviews were transcribed verbatim by the researcher. The accuracy of the transcriptions is assured by replying to the audio interview. The transcripts data were read several times to gain a better understanding of the experiences of participants. The voice-recorded interview and transcriptions were carefully reviewed for consistency purposes. The researcher also compared the voice interview with the field notes to check their consistency.

3.8 Trustworthiness of the Findings

The researcher assures the quality and trustworthiness of the data by triangulating the stories and the data generated from the respondents with those of the key informants who are very close to the issue and with the data collected from the FGD participants. In this study, triangulation was established by comparing the data collected from interviews with participants of the study.

The combination of using two or more methodological approaches in data sources, and in analysis methods is the process of Triangulation. This process of triangulation stopped the researcher from reaching a counterfeit conclusion. To avoid biases during translation, double translation was used. In addition to this, written responses were read out again to the respondents to assure that what they want to say had been understood by the researcher. The methods of triangulation increased the acceptability and reliability of the research results. The use of Data collection techniques like interviews, FGD, field observation, and document review increases the soundness of the findings.

3.9 Limitation of the Research

Every research has its limitations. Accordingly, this study is the following limitations. First, the population of the study merely included the Participants of the water resource projects in the Amhara region Awi zone specifically in the two selected kebeles, and the finding of this study could only be generalized to the population of the two kebeles. Moreover, since all the measures are self-report questionnaires, which are based on the perspective of the water resource participants only, self-bias, might have influenced the accuracy of the information given by the respondent.

In addition, objective validation of these measures through other data sources is not obtained. Thus, it is suggested that further investigation be done using a mixed-method approach, which includes additional responses from non-participants of the water resource project. The unavailability of secondary information was the other limitation of the study needed to supplement the primary data.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

Participants were informed that their voluntary participation has a great impact on the study and also they have the freedom to withdraw from the study at any time without any unfavorable consequences, and they are not harmed as a result of their participation or non-participation in the process.

The researcher also has ethical obligations To avoid plagiarism, used sources were cited according to the reference style of the department which is APA style.

The researcher first informed the respondents about the research and its purpose before every interview and discussion. He also told the respondents that have the right to withdraw/ from

participation in the research process anytime he/she wants without reasoning. To maintain confidentiality, pseudo names were used. Moreover, in the group discussions also respondents were told if there is any secret issue to be shared they can approach the researcher inperson to keep and assure confidentiality.

CHAPTER FOUR - FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

4.1 Introduction

In this section, socio-cultural, educational, and other factors that hindered women from participating in the management of community water resource projects were analyzed. Besides, the chapter also presents the impacts of community water resource projects on women in terms of the decision-making processes at the household and community level. The mechanisms that enhance women's participation in community water resource projects were also presented.

4.2 Socioeconomic Characteristics of the Participants

A brief socioeconomic background of study participants who volunteered to share their experiences in participation in managing water development projects is presented in the table below. Note that pseudo names are given to the participants to assure confidentiality as the study promised to them.

Table 1Socio-demographic profile of study participants

Pseudo Name	Sex	Age	Martial status	Educational background	Family size	Occup ation	Place of residence
Yeshi	Female	34	Married	Able to read and write	7	Farmer	Lideta
Mulu	Female	46	Divorced	Able to read and write	4	Farmer	Lideta
Woinshet	Female	29	Married	Able to read and write	6	Framer	Lideta
Tsehay	Female	45	Divorced	8 th grade	3	Trader	Lideta
Selam	Female	34	Married	4 th grade	3	Trader	Lideta
Aster	Female	42	Married	Able to read and write	9	Farmer	Lideta
Alem	Female	37	Married	Able to read and write	5	Farmer	Gisa
Fentanesh	Female	52	Married	Able to read and write	5	Farmer	Gisa
Kebebush	Female	31	Married	Able to read and write	6	Farmer	Gisa
Selenat	Female	27	Married	Able to read and write	7	Farmer	Gisa
Lemlem	Female	24	Single	5 th grade	3	Trader	Gisa
Etalem	Female	30	Married	8 th grade	5	Trader	Gisa

Note: This table shows the general socioeconomic background of the respondents

The participants of this study were women who were involved in water resource projects. From the total of 15 research participants in this study 12 were women participants and 3 were water resource professionals including the head of zone water supply resource sector, and 2 wereda water resource professionals.

All of the participants of the study were of Agew ethnicity from the Amahara region. As stated in the above table, there was one single participant. **Yeshi, Woinshet, Selam, Aster, Alem,**

Fentanesh, Kebebush, Silenat, and Etalem were married and had children. **Zemenay, Mulu, and Tsehay** had already been divorced. All of the respondents were orthodox religious followers. The participants were also engaged in different economic activities such as **Tsehay** and **Selam** used selling Agricultural outputs after participating in water development projects. All of the participants were from two study kebeles of Banjawereda, Awi zone administration. From the educational background view, eight of the women respondents were able to read and write, **Tsehay** and **Etalem** were attended up to grade eight, and **Selam** and **Lemlem** attended fourth and Fifth Classes respectively.

4.3 Water Source of the Respondents

Community water sources obtain water from two systems: surface water and groundwater. Access and availability of clean water are crucial, especially these days when we are facing the effects of climate change. The major problems in the existing water sources in the areas are frequent operation failure, cleanses of the water, distance from the settlement, and very low discharge.

Table 2 Major Source of Water sources

S.N	Source of Water Supply	Responses	Percentage /%
1	Hand pumps	11	91.6%
2	Piped Water	12	100%
3	River	5	41.6%
4	Not Protected Spring	7	58.3%

Note: The water supply sources of the respondents

Figure 2 The hand pump used by the local community

Source: From field Observation 2022

4.4 Women's Roles in the Management of Water Resource Projects

The set of perceived behavioral norms associated with males and females are gender roles, and not determined biologically. Rather, they are constructed socially. That is, they are based on the societal norms as well as historical antecedents of the people (Kabeta&Gebremeskel, 2013).

This study aimed to explore women's roles in the management of water resource projects. Due to the interviews asked about their role in the household and community level economy, this study divides Women's roles into three categories.

4.4.1 Domestic Role

Women were the first responsible persons to collect water for household purposes like cooking, fetching water for the household, and cleaning the house. Sometimes men take responsibility for fetching water when their wives fell sick or they were not at home.

Water is considered an important resource in the presentation of some of the domestic roles. Therefore, if water resources are scarce, it affects both men and women negatively due to reduced productivity. Some Respondents Stated that:

“Fetching water and doing the activities in the house is the role of the woman. A man is not supposed to do that.”

“According to my tradition, the woman is the one who is supposed to wash plates, cook, and fetch water for the house. My culture has a place for a woman and a man.”

“As a woman, it is my responsibility to do all the housework, and I make sure I do it. I do not expect the men to do it because it is a sign of disrespect in our place here.”

4.4.2 Productive Role

In terms of productive roles, both men and women members of the community of the study areas were engaged. However, women are nominally involved in productive roles. The main productive activity that both genders engaged in was farming, which used water for the irrigation scheme. The finding of the study explained that men were involved more in productive roles than women. Although women's productive roles in using water resources were unrecognized. Women did not only engage in domestic roles but they were also involved in productive roles alongside men.

The study revealed that women and men perform different roles concerning water use and management. Respondents interviewed associated productive roles with activities leading to the production of goods and services, such as farming and livestock rearing and the use of water in such activities. This role, according to respondents, is very important to their livelihood. These roles influence interaction with other people and resources, and how changes in the resources impact men and women.

The study showed that productive roles are performed by both men and women; however, they were regarded as the domain of the men. Several respondents recounted that productive roles were performed by both men and women. These were expressed in the statements of some participants:

“I work on the farm with my husband and sometimes my children help me. That is what we do to eat and get money to do everything.”

“My job is farming and that is why I am involved in the management of water resources. I am the one who does the farming; I plant, I water and I sell the agricultural products. Sometimes I let my husband help me if I have plenty of work.”

4.4.3 Decision-Making Role

The study tried to show women’s participation in the decision-making process, their capability, commitment, and favorable situation in leadership roles. The involvement of women in key organizational activities and access to information regarding issues concerning them such as gender-related and women’s empowerment issues.

The study showed that women tend to have limited access to the decision-making role in the management of water resource projects. The cultural practices of the people are reigning factors

hindering women's decision-making roles. These traditional norms and practices were found to originate in deeply rooted socially constructed roles that heavily favor men, thus creating a strongly male-dominated society. In addition, the confidence levels of women and the low levels of capacity, and the high volumes of workload are identified as obstacles hampering the effective role of women. Some responses of the respondent de to the factors that hindered the decision making roles:

“We don't participate as much as we should, so we need the government to help in educating us about the issues so that we can participate well as the men do.”

“The women themselves, some of the women, they are undermining themselves. They say in culture, women are under men, and that is why they undermine themselves. But we as men, don't allow women to do that situation because there is gender equality. Even we are busy teaching them.”

4.5 Household and Community-level Decision Making

4.5.1 Household Level Decision-Making

The study showed that most of the respondents control household resources like financial and material resources after participation in the community water resource development project.

Both gender equality and a level of women empowerment are related to the Household decision-making in the community. The involvement of women in water resource development projects is used to practice the decision-making process with both sexes' participation. Socio-cultural issues affect the decision-making process in the household After marriage the involvement in the household decision questionable from time to time.

Generally, the study participants and focus group discussion participants at Banja Wereda offices asserted that the decision-making power at the household level was the highest achievement compared to their experience before they were involved in water resource development projects in the two study kebeles.

Selam was one of the active respondents of the study and she reflected on how the traditional norms and expectations of the larger society affected the decision-making process:

“I am living in a community where males are dominantly decided in household issues. As any woman does, I am expected to obey the norms and values of my community. I should act and practice to fulfill the social ways of the community. I had no choice but to ignore such norms other than obeying what my parents decided. I got married in my childhood without my consent. Sometimes my husband wants to do by him, I politely argue and discuss with him to convince him and point out what is best for the family. These all changes have resulted from the involvement of community water resource projects in our kebele.”

4.5.2 Decisions Making at the Community Level

Women's ownership and management of community water resources were unthinkable before the existence of water resource projects in the community. The traditional role attributed to women by society hinders participation in development activities like the management of water resource projects. Sometimes Women attend decision-making at the community level, because of the demand of external actors such as government offices.

The community decision-making process is briefly described by one of the respondents

(Fentanesh):

“Before I participated in water resource projects, I participated in a Community Health project, which was a woman-specific project established by an NGO. In the project, although women were organized as a group and supposed to make important decisions, it was not successful. Moreover, lack of skill and knowledge to generate ideas about the project, and difficulty to decide the community level. After I was involved in water resource development projects, I have participated in the community-level decision-making process.”

The focus group discussion at the water development office level, which had been facilitated by the wereda the projects has brought significant change related to the societal perception towards women. the participant in water development projects in the community showed a strong capacity in managing and controlling community resources.

4.6 Women'sWay of participation in the Management of Water Resource Projects

Women should play a greater role in managing water since they have substantialinvolvement and stake in both domestic and agricultural water use. However, women's perspectives androles in water management are rarely taken into consideration in framing policies and programs.

The study revealed the women's participation and the way of participation in the management of water resources projects. Women are the main collectors and users of water. They have to decide where to collect water, how to draw, transport, and store it, how much water to draw, how many sources of water to exploit, and for what purposes (drinking, kitchen, and other domestic use).

Table 3 Ways of women's participation in the management of water resource projects.

S.no	Items Responses	Number of study participants' response	Percentage/%
1	Consulted during preparation projectand Site selection	12	100%
2	Decision making in technology choice	10	84%
3	Free labor contribution	11	92%
4	Cash contribution	12	100%
5	Any Traings related to water resource proejcts	8	76%

Note: Way women participate in water resource projects

4.7 Benefits of Women's Participation in Water Resource Projects

The involvement in the management of water resource projects benefited the women specifically and the larger community generally. The good mutual support by themselves improved personal hygiene and sanitation and facilitated awareness about gaining leadership skills and knowledge. Participation in the management of water resource projects has enormous benefits. At the national level, this type of project delivers important long-term economic growth benefits to the country.

The study participants say that the involvement of women in the management of water resources makes the increment of productivity in the agricultural and food sectors. The process of empowering women also increases the degree of the management of the water development projects.

The following table summarizes study participants' responses when asked about the benefits of involving in the management of water resource projects to its larger community and the national level and the women by themselves.

Table 4 Benefits of the participation in the management of water resource projects for the women

S.no	List of summarized benefits	Participants' response	Percentage/%
1	Provide potable water services	12	100%
2	Benefited us to keep personal hygiene and sanitation	10	84%
3	Helped us to understand mutual support together	11	92%
4	Increasing decision-making ability at all level	12	100%
5	Protecting of women right by empowering them	8	76%
6	Enabled us to have leadership skills and knowledge	11	92%

Note: Benefits of women's participation in water resource projects

4.8 Challenges of Women Participation/ Factors that contribute to the Low Involvement of Women in Water Management

The involvement of women in the management of community water resource projects has its challenges. However, water resource projects also made a vital contribution to the process of women's empowerment in the understanding of equal rights. The main challenge of the water development projects was dominated by men, this has a great impact on the decision-making process. The finding of this study also revealed that different challenges hinder women in participation in community water resource projects.

From the discussion with the wereda office and interview of the respondent, the major challenge of women's participation in water resource projects is Lack of self-confidence women, Sociocultural, Educational, Barrier, Motherhood, and power imbalance.

4.8.1 Lack Self-Confidence

In analyzing the interview data, the study discovered that low capacity and lack of self-confidence of women were the factors affecting the participation of women in water resource projects.

The expression of fear and shyness results from the low self-confidence of women their view. Women were unable to express their views freely during different meetings when men are involved. Some respondents state the above issue in the following way:

“Sometimes some women are too shy, and they don’t want to participate and talk, but we as a gentleman, we like them to be part of the meetings but most of them are too shy.”

“The women are filled with fear; they are still living in the past where women fear men. The women still fear the men in the association.”

The study from the interview asserted that women not only have lack self-confidence but also no experience in dealing with the issues related to water.

4.8.2 Socio-Cultural Issues

In most cultures, women must have acquired the skills necessary to do household work; like cook food, washing cloth, taking care of family, and the like. As a result, the respondents (100%) in both study areas replied that socialization is a major factor that contributes to having low participation of women in water resource management. Besides, the interview result noted that what makes women behave in society, and acceptance has highly influenced the participation of women in external activities.

The study shows that the cultural practices in the study areas were an obstacle for women to enter the public arena at large and specifically to participate in the WUA. First and foremost, these practices originate in deeply rooted socially constructed roles that heavily favor men, thus creating a strongly male-dominated society. The nature of women's role in the management of water resource projects, as revealed by the study, was largely influenced by the cultural norms of the people.

According to the study the respondents noted that most folks and proverbs in society discourage the inspiration of women in a field. For example, A house constructed by women is collapsed when a hyena shouts, The presence of women working together results in damage, and No matter the wisdom of a woman, the decision is to the man, etc.

Generally, the sociocultural factors hampered the involvement of women in the management of water resource projects. Socialization in the family and society, household responsibilities, Reproductive responsibilities such as giving birth, child care, and others, etc are also factors that hinder participation in water resource projects. One of the active respondents of the study reflected on how the traditional norms and expectations of the larger society affected the decision-making process stated below:

“I am living in a community where males are dominantly decided in household issues. As any woman does, I am expected to obey the norms and values of my community. I should act and practice to fulfill the social ways of the community. I had no choice but to ignore such norms other than to obey what my parents decided. I got married in my childhood without my consent. I am in a position to decide the sell important assets/resources with my consent. Sometimes my husband wants to do by him, I politely argue and discuss with him to convince him and point out what is best for the family. Currently, he has confidence in my suggestions. These all changes have resulted from the involvement of community water resource projects in our kebele.”

4.8.3 Educational Illiteracy

According to the questionnaire results, low educational qualification is the major factor that has a high contribution to decreasing the participation of women in water resource management. Educational barriers to women's participation in management are related to the socio-cultural issues for women's advancement in the public activities of the country.

It was indicated that, even though some girls got opportunities to participate in education, their success in education still lags behind that of boys because of socio-cultural factors, particularly

gender division of labor and the negative attitude of society and the family toward girls' education. As a result of this, there is a low number of women on management staff, which in turn resulted in gender inequality in the management positions of the water resource and energy bureau.

Additionally, the high levels of illiteracy further impede women's opportunities to become active participants in water management. Illiteracy, in general, is a problem in the country;

“We don't have a good literacy rate in this country [however] it is worse for women. More boys go to school than women. The link between education and women's role within the water community can be understood in girls' schooling is highly limited.”

4.8.4 Motherhood and Workload

Decent work is central to economic empowerment, given its inherent importance to women's well-being and ability to advance in areas such as acquiring income and assets. Formal sector work is more likely to be 'decent'.

Several of the respondents who were interviewed explained that their participation in the activities of the water resource projects was essential, especially since they are farmers, they are most often overwhelmed with activities at the home as well as on the farm, which sometimes limits their participation. One respondent described her experience as follows:

“I go to the farm every day as well as do the domestic work, though sometimes my children help me. I don't get the time to participate in such projects because I have a lot of work and sometimes I get so tired. That is the reason why I don't involve myself much in the activities of the water resource projects.”

The respondent stresses that sometimes you hear the men say that there is no one stopping the women, but I think that the number of challenges that women experience and the fact also that our reproductive role affects your ability to rise, you know, within a certain time frame. So you find the men going ahead of the women.”.

4.8.5 Power Imbalance

The ownership of resources and assets and how power relates to roles, responsibilities, and opportunities. Since study society is highly hierarchical and male-dominated, great power and status imbalances are stemming from traditional norms and practices.

As stated by the water officer respondent, “[...] traditionally when you go to a village or a rural area in many parts of the country you will not speak to a woman without the consent of a man unless it’s a female-headed household.”

Traditionally, even in situations where a woman has the decision making role, for instance in Female-Headed Households, if there is a man present you would not speak to the woman; “[...] if you ask to speak to somebody who makes decisions, even if it the woman who makes decisions, if there's a man in the house, by default you will speak to the man [but] traditionally the head of the house is male.”

4.9 Measures to Mitigate Women's Challenges and Issues in Water Resource

Projects

From the study interview, 100% of all respondents in study areas agreed to mitigate women’s challenges in the participation in water resources by ‘eliminating socio-cultural barriers’ management. 84% of the respondents in both study areas agreed that changing the attitude of society is another measure to enhance women’s participation.

As a result, the interviewees underlined that there is a need for legal reforms to promote women's equality and to protect their interests against gender-biased cultural practices. Similarly, 75% of the respondents in both kebeles agreed on the importance of 'increasing women's educational qualification' as a measure to enhance women's participation in water resource management.

The table indicated that 66% of the respondents pointed out that 'creating opportunities for women to observe major water committee activities. 58% of the respondents in both study areas stated, that developing women's management skills are other measures to be taken to enhance women's participation in water resource management. According to the interviewees, developing women's skills is important even though women are visible to be active and responsible for their management roles as well as management styles.

Table 5 Mitigation measures of women's participation in Water Resource Management

S.no	List of Measurments	Number of study participants response	Percentage/%
1	Eliminating socio-cultural barriers	12	100%
2	Try to change the attitude of the society	10	84%
3	Increasing women's educational qualification	9	75%
4	Developing women's managerial skill	7	58%
5	Creating opportunities for women to observe major water committee activities	8	66%

Note The mitigation measures for the challenges and issues of women's participation.

CHAPTER FIVE - CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The foregoing chapter discussed the conclusion and recommendations that arose from the study. This was done to help advance further the understanding of women in the management of water resource projects.

5.2 Conclusion

The study attempted to explore the women's role in the management of water resource projects. The study described the divisions of labor concerning water resources management that define women's and men's roles. Particularly, the study looked at the domestic and productive roles performed by women and men. Domestic roles were regarded as the domain of women with decisions related to domestic work. Men, on the other hand, were more concerned with productive roles. In contrast, women also use water for productive activities as well as for domestic roles.

The study has found that women are often the ones responsible for household activities and spend several hours every day in domestic roles. Men were predominantly involved with productive water roles and other related activities.

The study also considered the decision-making roles and factors affecting women's performance in such roles. The key factors found to affect the role of women in decision-making in the management of water resource projects were sociocultural practices, low self-confidence, low levels of capacity, and high workloads and motherhood. The impact of culture on women in water management raises concerns about gender issues in rural and remote areas where the

people there are poorer and more culturally conservative. In the study, it was brought out that women experience significant restrictions from participating in water management activities where cultural factors and their confidence level constitute the main cause of their low levels of involvement.

The study found that different factors affect the participation and role of women in water resource projects. Capacity building and education are among the factors that affect the involvement of women in water resources projects. Increasing women's capacity and education are crucial for women's empowerment. The low levels of capacity among women, increase their dependency on men and their vulnerability to gender discrimination. They also reduce their ability to participate in water resource management issues and increase their likelihood of being excluded from new opportunities.

Water resource projects increased participants' decision-making power at the household and the community level. In a conclusion, organizing women and making them participate in such development projects and also increasing awareness of various beliefs and practices which continue women's subordination. Moreover, working towards their economic empowerment is vital and has a direct implication for sustainable development.

5.3 Recommendations

This section provides recommendations for improving the role of women's participation in the management of water resource projects. Women's poor representation in water management and gender equity should be improved. The study indicated the following recommendations:

- Develop joint interventions that combine vocational training with life skills support to the women for facilitating the Empowerment role.
- The government should provide an equal opportunity to participate in the management of water resource projects. Moreover, both men and women should be trained for them to be able to execute the allocated roles in water resources management.
- Increase the development of knowledge and skills in financial management, decisionmaking, community participation, leadership, confidence building, and communications. Women's not only acquired water-related skills and knowledge but also got access to employment opportunities in their water resource projects.
- Regional governmental and nongovernmental bodies must create effective networking mechanisms with local and organizations in the community to facilitate an effective women empowerment process in water resource projects.
- Engagements in community dialogue to create a better understanding of women's equal rights and in transforming male-controlled norms. The plan or the program of water resource projects must include packages that are advantageous to women in the community.
- There is a need to improve gender mainstreaming through the establishment of appropriate policies and guidelines that enable women to have equal opportunities in

resource allocation and management and to share their views and concerns in decision-making.

Finally, further research should be carried out to further investigate the role of women's empowerment and participation in the management of water resource projects in the community and evaluate its impact on the overall community.

5.4 Social Work Implications

The presentation of a given study has its implication for different bodies as the type and concern of the conducted study topic. The finding of this study which is conducted on the issue of women's role in the management of water resource projects in the community has crucial implications for various concerned bodies.

According to the Social Work Code of Ethics (2010), a Social worker is to help people and address problems through the principles of human rights and social justice. The empowerment of women in developmental projects has many positive impacts on society as a whole and for women in particular.

5.4.1 The Implication of Social Work Education

Education for developing countries like Ethiopia is the first important tool for achieving accelerated development for the well-being of people. The curriculum should be designed in the context of the country and should be relevant to the economy. Despite the large population proportion of Women in Ethiopia, little is known about the condition of women.

To flourish this kind of competency among the social work graduates, the women's concentration in the MSW program should incorporate such research findings in its teaching process to make the knowledge base practice or research-informed. Social workers must also continue to educate

themselves about the ever-changing culture through various pieces of training and specialized education. This research, therefore, will contribute its part in making the social work education in Ethiopia better and more research-informed.

5.4.2 The Implication of Social Work practice

Women's empowerment needs the enhance the overall well-being of women by addressing the causes that prohibit women in public areas. In empowering women both sexes are equally practiced in the process. Thus, the social work profession can contribute to the process of effective women empowerment in several ways. Practitioners in social work will benefit from the profession in enabling women societies to develop their skills and knowledge for making changes in their own life and their community. The social work profession contributes to the process of linking the resources that are available in their environment and women on their behalf. The wereda office can make use of Social Work professionals as important means to ensure the well-being of its members holistically

5.4.3 The Implication of Social Work Policy

The study can contribute to contextual knowledge formation by promoting action research. Despite their contribution, Ethiopian rural women are not in a position to attain economic resources and social positions equally, relative to their men counterparts.

The country showed its obligation by establishing institutional frameworks and policy documents used to reduce women's vulnerability and discrimination. Accordingly, the Ethiopian women policy, issued in 1993 aims at ensuring gender-sensitive interventions to change the unequal position of women in the country.

5.4.4 Implication for Research

The research will give highlight the role of women's empowerment in water resource projects in the Awi zone and can be a starting point for future researchers who are interested in further investigating the matter by looking at the challenges which affect the women's lives in different dimensions adversely. Therefore, this research indicates potential thematic areas for future research. This may help to increase understanding of the role and the decision-making ability of women in a comprehensive and in-depth way.

There appeared to be an absence of research that assesses the role of women's empowerment specifically in the management of water resource projects. Thus, this research indicates there is a need to conduct more research to understand the issue of women's role in the management of water resource projects.

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ANNEXES

Annex I: Participant Information Sheet for Consent

Study title: Investigating the Role of Women Empowerment in Management Community Water Projects.

In Case of **Amhara Region Awi Zone, BanjaWereda,Gisa and LidetaKebeles.**

Background and aims of the study

This study will be conducted by HabtamuMulatBeza, a second-degree student in the school of Social Work, Addis Ababa University (Tel: +251 913955201; e-mail: habtamulat@Gmail.com).

This paper will investigate the Role of Women's Empowerment in Managing Community Water Projects In the Case of **Amhara Region Awi Zone, BanajaWoreda'sGisa, and Lidetakebeles.** Specifically, the research will first assess the role of women empowerment that affects the success of water projects in the community. The research will be a community-based cross-sectional qualitative research conducted for both knowledge building and practical intervention through interviews (in-depth and key informant), document review, and observation.

Do I have to take part?

If you choose to participate, you may withdraw yourself and your data from the study without precondition at any time, and without giving a reason, by advising the researcher of this decision.

What will happen in the study?

If you decide to take part in the study, the researcher will interview you and audio record the interview. The interview will take approximately up to 1 an hour.

Are there any potential risks in taking part?

The researcher hopes that the experience of taking part in this study will be enjoyable for you. There will be no specific risks in this study, but looking back on your experience how do women's participation in your residential area. You are not obligated to discuss any memories or incidents that you do not feel comfortable sharing.

What happens to the research data provided?

If you agree with participating in this study, the data collected from your interview will contribute towards the writing up of a thesis on the role of women empowerment in water projects in specific study areas. All participants can request a summary of the research findings by contacting the researcher.

All interviews will be kept anonymous, both in the transcript/records of the research and in the final written thesis. The researcher will ask your permission to use direct quotes in the thesis when necessary, but you are not obligated to agree to this.

Is the research be published?

If you agree to participate in this study, the research will be written up as a thesis. Once written, it will be deposited both in print and online in the Addis Ababa University archives, to facilitate its use in the future.

Whom do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the relevant researcher (Tel: +251 913955201) or email-habtamulat@gmail.com or the advisor Dr. TenagneAlemu(Tel: +251 944246324)

Annex II: A Consent Statement Form

Study title: Investigating the Role of Women Empowerment in Managing Community Water Projects. In Case of **Amhara Regional States of AwiZone, BanjaWereda in Gisa and LidetaKebeles.**

Researcher details: HabtamuMulatBeza, MSW student in the school of Social work, Addis Ababa University **Tel:** +251 913955201 **E-mail:** habtamulat@gmail.com

Purpose of study: This paper will explore the Role of Women's Empowerment in Managing Community Water Projects In the Case of Amhara Region Awi Zone, Banjawereda.

- ✓ I understand who will have access to large personal data provided
- ✓ I understand how personal data will be stored and what will happen to the data at the end of the project
- ✓ I understand how the research will be written up and published
- ✓ I understand how to raise concerns or make a complaint.
- ✓ I consent to be audio recorded.
- ✓ I consent to have my photo taken.
- ✓ I understand that audio recordings/photos will be used in research outputs
- ✓ I consent to the use of direct quotes.
- ✓ I agree to take part in the study.

Name of participant: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date** -----

Name of researcher: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date** -----

Annex III: Data Collection Tools

A. Interview guide/Checklist

This checklist/ interview guide is prepared to gather qualitative data from community members to assess the contribution of involving rural women in community water management to the empowerment process with particular reference to sample water development projects.

I. For members of water development projects

1. Background Information of the respondent

- ✓ Name -----Sex----- • Age -----• Marital Status -----• Educational background ----- • Family size -----• Occupation if different to farming -----• Role in the association-----

2. Role of women's

- ✓ What was your major role before participating in water development projects?
- ✓ When comparing your role before and after participating in water development projects, what is your perception of it?

3. Status Related

- ✓ Your status at the household and community level before participation in water development projects
- ✓ If there are improvements in self-perception (self-confidence, decision-making ability.) and community attitude (respect, social position) towards participation in water projects, what are the reasons?

4. Household resource ownership and Decision-making

- ✓ Ownership status to resources before and after being active participants in the projects
- ✓ Do you use any land or property (for farming/livestock/trading etc.?)
- ✓ Who is traditionally allowed to inherit land/property or other assets and why?
- ✓ What issues are you personally most involved in decision-making?

Household resources

- ✓ To what degree do you feel you can make your personal decisions regarding these issues?
- ✓ How do you assess your decision-making power/do you think you have equal say in decision-making like your husband or male child?

5. Decision-making at the Community level

- ✓ Issues that require your decision-making right in the community (list)
- ✓ Do you participate in any community activities designed by other NGOs/governments?
- ✓ Who makes the main decisions about public services in your community?
- ✓ Can you give one community activity in which you have been involved in the decision-making process, how do you describe the process?
- ✓ Issues that affect your decision-making power (Individual, family, and community level)

6. Challenges of water development projects and recommendation

- ✓ Gaps in water development projects particularly in empowering women
- ✓ What do you suggest to water development projects to enhance the well-being of its community?

II. Interview guide/Checklist for local officials

1. Personal Background

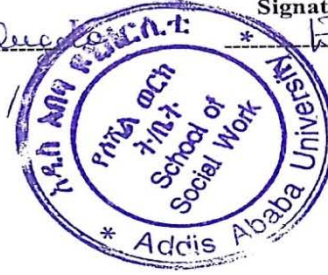
✓ Name -----• Position----- • Years of experience in the position-----

2. Benefits of water development projects to its larger community and the national level

- ✓ What benefits does a water development project have to its larger community and the national level?
- ✓ Role of women before and after the existence of water development projects
- ✓ Is there any change in the gender relationships of the community after the establishment of water development projects?
- ✓ Do women have equal participation levels in community development interventions after the establishment of water development projects?
- ✓ Do women decide on any household matters by themselves?
- ✓ Have you encountered when women participate in decision making at community development interventions
- ✓ How do you rank the achievement of water development projects compared with other local community-based institutions?
- ✓ What was your General thought about water development projects?
- ✓ How do you rank the existence of water development projects in empowerment?
- ✓ What suggestions do you have for water development projects to enhance the well-being of its member socially, economically, and culturally?

Thank You

Annex IV: የትምህርት ቤት ስምምነትና ፈቃድ መጠየቂያ ደብዳቤ

አዲስ አበባ ዩኒቨርሲቲ ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY የሶሻል ወርክ ትምህርት ቤት		SCHOOL OF SOCIALWORK
Date <u>30/06/2021</u>		
To <u>AW Zone Water Resource dev't Department</u>		
Student <u>Habtamu Mulet</u> is Conducting a Research for his/ her MA thesis Term paper towards a Partial Fulfillment of the requirement for MA degree in Social Work the title of his /her thesis is <u>The Role of women Empowerment in managing Community Water Resource Projects in Aw Zone woredas</u> Their for kindly request your to provide relevant information to the Student Thank you in advice for your cooperation		
Sincerely		
Advisor <u>Knebet Tuleuc</u>		Signature <u>* Enabhele</u>
Office Tele. + 251 111 225950		
P.O.Box 1176, AAU		

