



ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL LIVELIHOOD AND DEVELOPMENT

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF NON-MEMBER FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN
MULTI-PURPOSE FARMERS' COOPERATIVE: THE CASE OF MACHAKIL WOREDA, EAST
GOJJAM ADMINISTRATIVE ZONE, AMHARA NATIONAL REGIONAL STATE**

BY

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JANUARY, 2021

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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Declaration

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this thesis is my work and it has not been presented before in any of the universities. And also, I assert that all the materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

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BIOGRAPHY

Mengistu Kebede Alemu was born on November 19/1967 G.C in Amanuel town, East Gojjam Zone, Amhara National Regional State. He attended his Elementary and Junior Secondary School in Amanuel Elementary and Secondary School respectively. He completed his high school education in Debre Markos Comprehensive Senior High School and successfully passed the ESLCE examination. Then, he joined Hawassa Junior College of Agriculture in 1988 G.C. and studied in the field of Animal science and technology and awarded a Diploma in 1989 G.C. He worked in the Ministry of Agriculture in different regions, with different levels and positions. He continued for further education and took his bachelor degree from Haromaya university summer in-service program in rural development and agricultural extension in the year 2010 G.C. Still now he is working in the ministry of agriculture and he got the opportunity to study for the MA degree program in Addis Ababa University in the year 2019 E.C. in the field of livelihood and rural development.

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List of Abbreviations

ANRS	Amhara National Regional State
CO-OPS	Cooperatives
EPRDF	Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCA	Federal Cooperative agency
FHH	Female-Headed Household
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GO'S	Governmental Organizations
ICA	International Cooperative alliance
ILO	International Labor Organization
MHH	Male Headed Household
MPFCs	Multi-purpose farmer’s cooperatives
NGO'S	Non-Governmental Organizations
OCDC	Organizing Cooperatives for Development Capacity
UN	United nation
USAID	United State Aid for International Development

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted with the main objective of socio-economic assessment of non-member female-headed households in multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives in Machakil Woreda, ANRS. Machakil worda was selected purposively from ANRS East Gojjam Zone. Three multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives were selected from Machakil woreda, these are Amanuel Zuria, Embuli, and Yewula primary multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives purposively. From the three multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives, 121 respondents were selected using a systematic sampling method. This means 32, 59, and 30 respondents from each sample multi-purpose farmers' cooperative proportionally based on nonmember population of each kebele after establishing sample intervals using the systematic method for the survey, respectively. In addition to these 12 key informants were interviewed and 3 focus group discussions were conducted. The required data were collected using quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The collected raw data were analyzed using the quantitative and qualitative method of data analysis and descriptive statistical tools were used. In the study socio-economic situation of non-member, female-headed households in multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives were identified. The results show non-member female-headed households live under social situations like heavy workload and time constraints, economic situations like lack of capital and cultural situations like attitude towards women were the basic socio-economic situations of nonmembers female headed households in MPFCs. The socio-economic situations were mainly due to lack of training and awareness creation to the nonmember female headed households about the benefits of multipurpose farmers cooperatives. However, MPFCs give equal opportunity to women and men and the economic and political situation is also supportive of cooperatives development but participation of female headed households are still very low. Thus, the study examines the socio-economic situation of nonmembers of female headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperaties of machakil woreda.

Keywords: - Multipurpose farmer's cooperatives; female-headed households; social, economic, and cultural factors

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically controlled enterprise, (ICA, 2015b).

Cooperative associations in Ethiopian society existed for centuries. However, the history of formal cooperatives in Ethiopia dated back to 1960, when the first cooperatives' directive was enacted. Since this time cooperative policy and law has undertaken many reforms and cooperatives have come to play a crucial role in economic and social development, (Negarit Gazeta, 1998).

Multipurpose farmers' cooperative societies offer platforms to improve agricultural production, as they play a key role in regulating the market, Processing of members farm produce the construction of warehouses, provision for grading and standardization of product, standardization of weight and measures, daily dissemination of information on market prices of agricultural commodities, facilitates transport services, etc. These marketing functions are performing by multi-purpose farmers cooperatives to add value to members' farm produce and possibly eliminate the exploitation of farmers by the middlemen. A Cooperative is viewed as an organization for the promotion of the economic interests of its members. Meanwhile, multipurpose farmer's cooperative society does not only restrict itself to the economic wellbeing of its members but also giving them social inclusion, (Kishor,2010).

According to the UN (2009) women represent more than half of the world's population and play a key role in food production. They are said to be the food feeding of the world. Women are the backbone of the agricultural sector and the food production system. Agricultural activities heavily relied on family labor and women play an important role in farming and improving the quality of life in rural areas.

However, various empirical studies show that cooperatives have been clearly identified as an innovative strategy for the most vulnerable population groups including women by promoting

their participation in cooperatives. Besides, cooperatives offer women as a member and employment opportunities for participation and influence over economic activities. Cooperatives also benefit from the under-utilized human resources by enhancing women's productive capabilities. The active involvement of women will make cooperative economically and politically strong, (Birhanu, 2006). Gender integration in cooperative development is an essential, effective, and equitable participation of members as a necessary condition for sustainable cooperative development, (Ros. A, 2009).

The study examines socio-economic situations of non-member females headed households in multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives and describes the social, economic and cultural situations of nonmember female headed households of machakil woreda in selected multi-purpose farmers cooperatives.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Women in developing countries, like Ethiopia, are confronted by formidable obstacles that challenge their active participation in cooperatives. One of these constraints is the traditional role of women that is the productive and reproductive role of women in the society. The prevalent misconception that women are responsible for reproductive and engaged in domestic activities hinders their choice of economic occupations and opportunities and this is the root cause of their heavy work burden and time constraint (FAO, 2015).

Women's lack to control over productive resources are also a major factor that constrains their participation in existing cooperatives. In many countries' women lack access to land, credit, and their educational background, and their business activity and knowledge of cooperatives are very restricted compared to men's. Because they are unable to participate in cooperatives and they are left out from the benefits that cooperatives and their support structures often provide to their members such as education and training, production inputs, technology, credit, and marketing outlets (FAO, 2015).

Some empirical studies in Ethiopia show that the current government policy environment is suitable and supportive for female-headed household participation in agricultural cooperative but the participation of female-headed households is still very low, (United Nations, 2009). For example, in machakil worda until the end of 2019 G.C total population that are attending in MPFCs is 25687, out of this female-headed household members are 4787 i.e. 19% from the total. This shows that the participation of female-headed households in MPFCs as compared with males is very low.

Generally, this research is conducted to identify socio-economic situations of non-member female-headed households in the MPFCs of the study area. Identifying the socio-economic situation is a vital issue in developing strategy for improving the cooperative movement, and increasing their contribution to the economy. Therefore, this study will try to fill this gap by identifying the socio-economic situations of nonmember female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives in Machakil Worda, East Gojjam Zone, Amhara National Regional State.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The main objective of the study is to identify the socio-economic situation of non-member female-headed households in multi-purpose farmers' cooperatives of Machakil Worda East Gojjam Zone, Amhara National Regional State.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

To achieve this general objective, the study is intended to:

1. Describe social situations of non-member female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives of Machakil woreda.
2. Identify economic situations of non-member female-headed households participation in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives of Machakil woreda.
3. Pinpoint cultural conditions of non-member female-headed households participation in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives of Machakil woreda.

1.4. Research Questions

As per the objectives of the research, this study answers the following questions:

1. What are the major social situations of non-member female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives of Machakil Woreda?
2. What are the major economic situations of non-members female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives of Machakil woreda?
3. What are the major cultural conditions of non-member female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives of Machakil woreda?

1.5. Significance of the Study

The current development thinking is attempting to address gender neutrality without excluding women including in cooperative business too. What is needed in the gender proactive approach is that taking into account both women and men as a real economic and social actor and addressing their common social, economic, and cultural situation. A clear understanding of the

specific situation of female-headed households will provide the basis for identifying the constraints and opportunities for promoting participation and membership of female-headed households in MPFCs.

Therefore, the study examines unknown social, economic, and cultural situation of nonmember female headed households in the MPFCs and contributes knowledge about the development of the Cooperative economy. It would give an insight into different stakeholders designing rural community participatory programs. Also, the result may serve as input for further research in the cooperative sector.

1.6. Scope of the Study

The focus of this study is to show socio-economic situation of non-member female-headed households in p of MPFCs of Machakil woreda. Therefore, its concern was focused on assessment of socio-economic situation of nonmember female-headed households in MPFCs of Machakil woreda.

The geographic scope of the study is confined to Amhara National Regional State, East Gojjam Zone, Machakil Woreda. Furthermore, in Machakil woreda there are 15 MPFCs but due to lack of finance, time and other related resources the study will be conducted in three selected multipurpose farmer's cooperatives. These are Amanuel Zuria, Yewula, and Embuli MPFCs. Thus, the study limited its scope only to the three kebele in Machakil woreda.

1.7. Organization of the Study

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first chapter deals with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, significance, and scope of the study. Chapter two treats the review of related literature. Chapter three focuses on research methodology including a description of the study area, research design, sample size and sampling technique, data sources, methods of data collection, and analysis of the study. Next to this, chapter four consists of the result and discussion part while the last chapter deals with conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1. Concepts and Definitions

Cooperatives are defined in different ways. One way of defining cooperative is an association of persons who have voluntarily joined together to achieve a common goal through the formation of democratically controlled organization making an equitable contribution to the capital required and accepting a fair share of the risks and benefits of the undertaking in which the members actively participate, (ILO,1966).

Another widely accepted cooperative definition is the one adopted by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 1987: A cooperative is a user-owned, user-controlled business that distributes benefits on the basis of use. This definition captures what is generally called the three primary cooperative principles: user ownership, user control, and proportional distribution of benefit, (David, 1989).

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), 2015b, defines cooperatives as it is an autonomous association of peoples united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

Generally, according to Chambo (2009), the definition of cooperative is built on four main words. First, they are formed by groups of people, who have a specified need. Second, the organization is formed freely by members after contributing to its assets. Third, the organization formed is governed democratically to achieve desired objectives on equitable norms, and fourth it is an independent enterprise promoted, owned, and controlled by members to meet their needs.

2.2. Cooperative Values and Principles

The values of cooperatives are self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. Rockdale the earlier founder of cooperative follows the ethical value of openness, honesty, social responsibility, and support of others, (ICA, 1995).

The cooperative principles are the main issues that cooperative values changed in to practice. The cooperative principles are;

1. Co-op. societies are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership without gender, social, racial, political, and religious discrimination.
2. Cooperative societies are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Every member has equal voting rights and accordingly, one member shall have an equal vote.
3. Members shall receive dividends from profit according to their shares and contribution.
4. Cooperative societies are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into an agreement with other organizations including the government or raise capital from external sources, shall do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their autonomy.
5. Cooperative societies provide education and training for their members elected representatives, managers, and employers to enable them to contribute effectively to the development of their societies.
6. Cooperative societies serve their members most effectively and strengthen the social movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
7. Cooperative societies work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by members, (cooperative societies proclamation *N*^o., 147/1998).

2.3. Challenges of Cooperative in Ethiopia

Cooperatives are useful for the social and economic development of the country have been recognized by the government of Ethiopia. In the long term operational, structural, and managerial problems that constraining cooperatives development are not fully abolished, the

government is doing its best to make cooperatives possible institution, (Federal cooperative agency annual magazine, 2010). Some of the problems that challenge Ethiopian cooperatives are; Low members' participation because of lack of capital, Lack of satisfying their needs, lack of integrated integration of cooperatives, Poor entrepreneurship ability, poor project formulation and implementing, weak legal, audit, and supervision help, poor business development support in the area of value addition and absence of current market information and networking problems with partners, (Status of cooperative in Ethiopia October 2010). Concerning this concern overtaken by the government taking place encountering. Hence a proclamation no 147/1999 is under the implementation of the cooperatives regional bureau and federal cooperative are confirmed and become functional. Cooperatives, in Ethiopia like other enterprises importantly influenced by external problems in the political and economic environment. These conclude the collision of structural change in the economic liberalization and globalization are changing government policies, (Abebe, 2005).

2.4. Socio-Economic Benefit of Cooperatives to Women

As Davis, (1995), explains that cooperatives are business organizations and their main goal is gathering resources to make better economic and social needs through joint action for the good of all members than the individual interest. Moreover, members peruse the objective of making their economic and social condition better through joint actions by using the jointly rightful resources to manufacture goods and services for the members. This can be an additional raise up through the implementation of cooperative worth, self-responsibility, self-help, equality, democracy, and solidarity.

Cooperatives have other importance over forms of business organization is seeking the same goods through economies of scale, reducing prices and accessibility of inputs, decreasing exchange costs, strengthening their collective power, access to external resources which are not available, gain greater influence to be lucrative. The other advantage is gaining through cooperation beginning from the earliest times through times of cooperation is the responsibility to modify which began at the Rochdale consumer store with the first try to sell undulated bread to members and clients.

2.4.1 Economic Benefit of Cooperative

According to Frederick et al, (2003) cooperatives have the benefit of economic advancements for women, joining in and preventing their concerns and providing security to the women by granting them to change personal risks into collective risks. They also explain that a cooperative society can benefit women from economic advantages if the member uses it to achieve collective objectives in a community development program for example in the construction of warehouses, water supply, road buildings, local stores, schooling, and health center, shop and so on. Usually, the supply of collective goods will be the accountability of the state and their financing is taxable income. On the other hand, in many developing countries, like Ethiopia, the state does not have any means to provide these goods, thus cooperatives represent choices. In fact, according to Hussi, et al, (1993), in many rural societies of first world countries, including Ethiopia, the existing cooperatives might be the only formal organization included in serving the necessity of rural farmers.

2.4.2 Social Benefit of Cooperatives

Cooperatives are arranged as business institutions to satisfy the necessity of their members. In the rural areas where the government or private sectors are immobilized, cooperatives, as a self-help group organization, are widely available, especially for the rural farmers and more for women particularly. They can enable rural farmers to organize and make their situation better. In short, cooperatives increase and support entrepreneurial growth making raising incomes and helping to decrease poverty while enhancing member participation, productive employment, social protection, and community building. According to the UN, 2009, therefore, cooperatives directly help the community and have a changing effect on the economy of the members.

Furthermore, cooperative offers several benefits to the community in addition to economic advantages to members. This is so because the object of cooperation is to alter the member's situation in such a way that it makes the social life richer and happier. The ultimate goal of the cooperation is to satisfy rural people's focus which is to increase individual life with the spirit of self-help and mutual assistance and expand the change so that mutually to full social life. Additionally, the social advantage of cooperation is more than the economic purpose. Cooperative may deliver special education in responsibility, democracy, and tolerance to practice

for political power; to come up with an industrial link in the element of authority is much more evenly delivered than in private business. Cooperative may be to supply unique education in responsibility, democracy, and tolerance to practice for political power; to come up with an industrial link in the element of authority is much more evenly delivered than in private business. Cooperative, to motivate a general improvement rather than the advance of specific individuals, protect a strong family spirit and of self-esteem and power which is impersonal, to protect relations, constructive and unifying reaction to social and economic challenges are important, (OCDC, 2007).

2.5. Women and Agricultural Co-operatives

In the third world country, most of the people live in a rural area that is facing poverty. The main occupation of rural people is agriculture, (FAO, 2011). Women's put on 43% of agricultural labor in low- and middle-income countries, (FAO, 2015). The constraining factors to assist women in agriculture come again and again in the literature, that is around women farmers' access to land, and their finite availability to inputs, credits, seeds, and denotation services. Satisfying the gender gap supports to raise most people living in rural areas out of poverty (FAO, 2011). In 2014, during the UN's International Co-operative Day, the World Farmer's Organization's President, Peter Kendall, emphasized the "influence that agricultural co-operatives have on sustainable growth around the world, and their key role in rooting up hunger and accomplishing food security" (World Farmers' Organization, 2014). The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations support women's co-operatives as means to help women, "develop their social capital, obtain a greater voice in decision-making, progress self-esteem, and self-reliance, and cooperatively arrange a better contract, access to a diverse range of resources and services involving agricultural resources and assets; markets to exploit their produce; capital, credit, and other financial services; and social services" ,(FAO, 2012a).

2.6. Multi-Purpose Farmers' Cooperative

Multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives are member-based organizations for agricultural farmers in rural societies, (ICA, 2006). Multipurpose farmer's cooperatives undertake multiform activities. Progress self-esteem and self-reliance, and cooperatively arrange a better contract, access to a

diverse range of resources and services involving agricultural resources and assets; markets to exploit their produce; capital, credit, and other financial services; and social services

According to Chukwu (1990), members work on the root of completely the same goal outline of activities, planned according to members' necessary described at the grass-root level, looking at the socio-economic life of the members. Moreover, it is explained that the multipurpose farmers' cooperative societies are gaining wide popularity amid Nigerians since some advantages which conclude, diversification of concerns and services, reduced administrative costs, economies of scale, and linkage of economic activities (Agbo, 2010). Multipurpose farmer's Cooperative activity in agricultural production is motivated among farmers.

Multi-purpose farmer's cooperatives are key organizations for facilitating rural development and poverty alleviation. They used as a bridge for community participation in economic development, enhancing members to bond their struggle and gain economic uses, (Hlatshwako, 2010).

2.7. The Challenges of Women Participation in Multipurpose Farmers' Cooperative

Multipurpose farmer's cooperatives, in recent times, everywhere have come under heavy problems because of heavy competition and pressures of open market economy systems. They are now expected to join the challenges which they had never participate in before. Their services remain traditional and they necessarily need government help in the form of protection and subsidies. In many countries, multipurpose farmer's cooperatives are under large reorganization. To overtake these and additional same challenges, multipurpose farmers' cooperative organizations, being a social development agency should play an active role in encouraging gender equality because women have been active and central roles in development works. However, in terms of the ratio of membership of women in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives, the percentage is rather low, but they have a strong impact on them through the heads of the household, (FOA,2014).

The experiences of development agents, field workers, and rural farm women in Africa including Ethiopia show the following general problems:

- Lack of property inheritance rights, limitation on obtaining membership of multipurpose farmer's cooperatives consequently being impoverished farm credit, inadequate health care services in rural areas.
- Poor access to loan and agricultural inputs and other further services
- The absence of suitable agricultural technology to decrease the physical load of farm women.
- Poor provision of water for the household and farm operations.
- Lack of leadership and poor participation in the organizational and economic affairs of their multipurpose farmer's cooperatives.
- Less participation in decision-making.
- Traditional, religious, social, and cultural problems.
- High illiteracy rates and poor living situations among rural women.
- Lack of female farm development extension workers.
- Deficiency of marketing facilities and chances, (FOA, 2014).

2.8. Factors Affecting Women's Participation in Cooperatives

The world over statistics shows that women's participation in cooperatives is low especially in rural cooperatives. This is perhaps more difficult to explain in the developed countries where gender discrimination has in principle been overcome. In the developing countries, cultural and religious factors are often evoked women's 'inside role', not speaking in front of men, traditions of men negotiating and handling money matters, illiteracy, supposed inferior abilities and social pressures make it difficult for women to play an active and visible public role. The types of business cooperatives deal in, particularly in cash crop which tends to be a male domain, is another factor and male resistance to women's participation also go a long way to keeping women out. Absolute lack of time to join up with other women seems to be a major factor everywhere. There are varieties of factors that affect women's participation in cooperatives, these factors as listed by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA, 2002), which hinder the active participation of women in cooperative.

2.8.1. Social Challenges

In developing countries, women have social challenges that block their active involvement in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives. Among these constraining factors is the triple role of

women in the community that is reproductive and Productive role and the dominant wrong belief those women's reproductive and domestic responsibilities confirm their main role. This places women at the margins of the multipurpose farmer's cooperative business world. It blocks their option of economic profession and chances and is the main problem of their heavy workload and lack of time in involving multipurpose farmer's cooperatives. Fulfilling income-earning activities in addition to their nonpaid work as mothers and homemakers often leaves little time to participate in meetings. Furtherly, Lack of Training and education hinders the active participation of women in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives. Knowledge is necessary to enable people to take an active part in the management of cooperatives. Women in third world countries often lack basic education which is necessary for additional training. Special training programmers should be given to illiterate person's both men and women. Women's however, be confronted by problems from involving in education and training activities because of not being to travel far distances, absence of time, since gender-based work and Carrey other tasks, (Charltion, 1984).

With a heavy workload and lack of time, rural women in developing countries often work long hours. They may have a working day that starts at 7:00 in the morning and finished at 9:00 or 10:00 at night. They also have the main responsibility for the family. This includes providing water and fuel, often carried long distances, and the need for cooking, cleaning, and washing. Women also bring up the children and take care of their relatives. They also help at weddings and funerals, hard labor in fields which are often situated far away from their village. Women in urban areas also often work hours for low salaries in factories, offices, and domestic services far away from their homes. The gender division of labor was found to be one of the causes of women's disadvantaged position. For example, women were associated with reproductive domestic works and men to productive activity. The gender-based division of labor assigns to women the dominant responsibility with reproductive domestic works and men to the productive activity. The working day for many women in developing countries leaves little time for active participation in cooperative society's activities, (Charltion, 1984).

2.8.2. Economic Challenges

Lack of financial means restricts women-headed households from becoming members of cooperatives where they face problems in paying the membership fee and equitable share. It will

also face a challenge in using their access to buying seeds, cooperative services, pesticides, fertilizers, food, and household items. Lack of financial means, the small worth of business of the cooperative initiatives which does not assign employment of professional staff, problems in holding external financing without corresponding security, and lack of business ability are some of the economic limitations for women-headed households (ILO, 1993). In general Poor entrepreneurship skills, Lack of capital, lack of current market information, and poor business development skills in the area of worth addition are some of the problems confronted in cooperative development in Ethiopia which affect women headed household participation, (Status of Cooperative in Ethiopia, 2010).

2.8.3. Cultural Challenges

The most cultural challenge that affects women-headed households in membership of multi-purpose farmers cooperatives was the attitude of the society towards women. In most countries, there are formal prejudices about what women can do and cannot do. These sometimes prevent women from full participation in cooperative activities. They may not be employed for certain tasks or allowed to attend and speak at meetings where men are. The prevalent misconceptions on women's reproductive and domestic responsibilities constitute and place them at the margin of the cooperative business world. On the other hand, laws and even cooperative rules and by-laws, sometimes hinder women's membership in cooperative societies. For example, membership in some agricultural cooperatives is restricted to owners of land and these are invariably men not women. But it is the women who work in the field. Religious rules and traditions may also impede women's participation in cooperatives (Haile 2009). Cultural values working against women limited membership in cooperatives were the smaller size of women in cooperative, gender biases of local officials and lack of access to critical resources and services are also other problems. Lack of inadequate influence on cooperative activity and lack necessary powers and forced to take on a passive role whereas men usually dominate the decision-making activities within cooperatives. Some study shows that women refuse to enter mixed cooperatives since they want to avoid the male hegemony. The lack of power of women has its roots in various factors such as the previous orientation of development assistance towards men, the strong promotion of cash crop production such as land, input, capital, and a lack of strong government support, (Yigremew, 2001).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Description of the Study Area

This research was conducted at Machakil worda which is located in the north western part of Ethiopia at Amhara National Regional State, East Gojjam Administrative Zone. It stretches from 10° 05' N and 10°25' N and covers an area of 79556 ha. The worda capital city is Amanuel town, which is located at a distance of 330 Km North West of Addis Ababa. The total population living in Machakil worda is 131907 people. Out of this 64632 are males and 67275 are females. The average family size is 3. (Machakil worda cooperative promotion offices Feb.5/2020 G.C).

In Machakil worda, there are 15 MPFCs and they are more than 40 years old since their establishment. The major kind of services they render is input distribution, credit services, grain marketing services, provision of household, and consumable goods.

The total numbers of members are 25687, out of this 20900 are male's and 4787 are females. The above members have a net equity capital worth birr 46,719,518 million. The total equity capital that the female headed household members holding is birr 8,702,766 i.e. 18%. The remaining birr 38,016,752 i.e. 82 % is obtained from the male shareholders. This shows that female-headed households share equity and membership is very low as compared to males.

The study was conducted in three selected kebele of machakil wereda. These are Amanuel Zuria, Embuli and Yewula kebele multipurpose farmers' cooperative. They were established in 1977 G.C. and formally started implementing their activities during 1978 G.C. The three MPFCs are located near Amanuel town along the side of the main asphalt road of Addis Ababa to Bahirdar. The members travel to the worda town on their foot that there is no means of transport to connect the rural villages to the center town Amanuel. Besides, pack animals are dominantly used to transport their goods. They carry out grain marketing, distribution of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer (DAP, UREA), improved seeds and agrochemicals to its member and nonmembers.

Moreover, this study should identify and describe socio-economic situations of non-member female-headed households of machakil woreda in selected MPFCs.

3.2. Research Design

The selected research design for this study is descriptive research where socio-economic situations of non-member female-headed households in multipurpose farmers cooperatives would be described.

3.3. Population

The target populations were all non-member females who are the heads of the household live in Amanuel Zuria, Yewula, and Embuli kebele.

3.4. Sampling Techniques

To select sample multipurpose farmers cooperatives and individual respondents, the following procedure was adopted.

In the first stage, Machakil worda was selected purposively due to a couple of reasons. On one hand, the worda was well known for its multipurpose farmers' cooperative activity. The other reason for selecting the woreda was due to its assessability factors that are the road, strong organizational structure, and the existence of employee manpower in each MPFCs.

In the second stage, from 15 multipurpose farmers cooperatives in the woreda, three multipurpose farmers cooperatives were selected using the purposive sampling method because the selected sample multipurpose farmers cooperatives were good in their infrastructure and also their data documentation was good as compared with other MPFCs.

In the third stage, all nonmember female-headed household in each kebele was listed to select 121 respondents. The total number of non-member female-headed households in the three kebele are 546. Out of these 121 respondents were selected from the three kebele proportionally based on the nonmember female-headed household's population of each kebele and individual samples from each kebele were selected after establishing sample intervals using a systematic method.

In addition to this 28 non-member, female-headed households were selected randomly for focus group discussion and 12 respondents from the cooperative employee, cooperative promoters,

development agents, and committee members were selected purposively for key informant interview.

3.5. Sample Size Determination

The total number of nonmember female-headed households in the three kebele are 546. The determination of sample size is made based on Yamane (1967) formula with a precision of error at 8%.

$$n = \frac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$$

Where; n = The sample size

N= Total number of households

e =Maximum variability 8 % (0.08)

1= Probability of the event occurring

$$n = \frac{546}{1+546 (0.08)^2} \quad n = 121$$

Table 1. Sample size distribution for the interview

No	Name of MPFC	Total non-member FHH	Sample Survey Nonmember FHH	No. of Samples for KI				Sample for FGD
				Committee Member	Coops. employee	DA'S	Coop. Promoters	
1	Amanuel Zuria	141	32	1	1	1	1	8
2	Embuli	267	59	1	1	1	1	12
3	Yewula	138	30	1	1	1	1	8
	Total	546	121	3	3	3	3	28

Source: -Machakil worda cooperative promotion office Feb.5/2020 G.C

Therefore, the total number of sample respondents is 161, that is 121 nonmember female-headed household individual respondents, 12 KI, and 28 FGD selected from the three sample kebele.

3.6. Method of Data Collection

To achieve the stated objectives of this research, the study employed both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods. The main source of data for the study was primary data. The primary data was collected by using a structured questionnaire, Focused Group Discussion (FGD), and key informant's interview using checklists with the sample respondents.

3.6.1. Structured Questionnaire

A structured questionnaire was prepared to collect primary data from 121 non-member female-headed households in the study area of the sample kebele. Information about respondent's socio-economic situations that hinder their participation in multipurpose farmers cooperatives was obtained directly through the interview, which was conducted at the household level. Interviewers read the questions exactly as they appear on the survey questionnaire. The choice of answers to the questions is often fixed in advance, although open-ended questions were included within a structured questionnaire. Also, the structured questioner standardizes the order in which the questions were asked the survey respondents, so the questioners are always asked within the same context.

Data collectors were given training before they start data collection. The questioners were primarily prepared in English and translated into the Amharic language to make clarity in meaning and concepts of questions for interviewers and interviewees. The first draft of the interview was pretested to evaluate the questions' procedures and estimate the time required to fill a single questionnaire. Finally, the actual data collected from the sample population was conducted after every correction was made from the information obtained from pre-test results.

The questionnaires cover a wide range of issues, including personal information of the respondent, institutional access, social, economic, and cultural situations that hinder the participation of nonmember female headed households in multipurpose farmers cooperatives were asked.

3.6.2. Focus Group Discussions

Focus group discussions were conducted in the selected three cooperative nonmembers female-headed household with 6-12 respondents from each sample kebele. The purpose of the focus group discussion was to collect data in detail on the socio-economic situations constraining female headed household membership in MPFC.

3.6.3. Key Informant Interview

Collecting information from different stockholders is believed to increase the validity and reliability of the data. Therefore, key Informant interviews with different stockholders such as cooperative employees, cooperative promoters, development agents, and committee members were conducted. For the key informant interview, 12 respondents were selected from Machakil woreda, by selecting those, who directly or indirectly get involvement in the cooperative movement.

3.7. Data Analysis Method

Once raw data was collected, quantitative and qualitative methods of data analysis were employed and descriptive statistical tools were used.

3.7.1. Quantitative Data Analysis

The quantitative raw data collected using questionnaires was organized after the field data collection was completed. Responses to the questionnaires were carefully collected and summarized. Outputs were categorized into different components relating to relevant variables for convenience in analyzing the findings.

3.7.2. Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data collected through interviews, focus group discussions and key informant interview are captured. Major themes are identified in line with research questions and summarized for using descriptive analysis.

The data were processed using SPSS software.

CHAPTER FOUR RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4. Descriptive Analysis Results

This section presents the findings from the descriptive analysis. The descriptive analysis result was presented using tables and figures as follows.

4.1. Demographic situations of respondents

The demographic situations of non-member female headed households in multipurpose farmers cooperatives are age, education, family size, religion, marital states, occupation, and source of income are some of the socio-economic situations that are discussed below.

4.1.1. Sex of the Respondents

The main objective of the study was identifying socio-economic situation nonmember female-headed households in MPFCs, therefore, the selected sample respondents are females in their sex.

4.1.2. Age of the Respondents

The age of the sample non-member female-headed household grouped into three categories, as shown in table 2 below, 3.3% were in the age category of 20-25 and 42.2% were within the age category of 26-40, the rest 54.5% were within the age category of 41- 60. This shows most of the respondents were under middle and old age category.

Table. 2: Ages of the sample respondents

Age in year	Frequency	Percent
20-25	4	3.3
26-40	51	42.2
41-60	66	54.5
Total	121	100

Sources: - Owen field data, May /2020 G.C

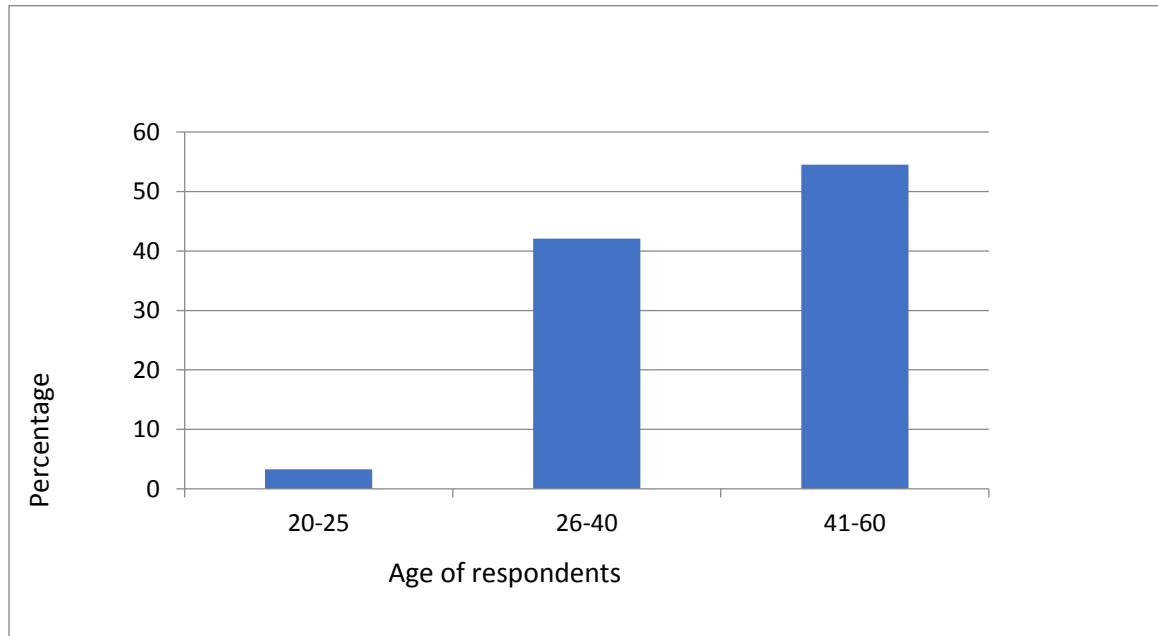


Fig: 4.1 Ages of the sample respondents

4.1.3. Educational Level of the Respondents

The educational level of the respondents was grouped into five categories i.e.; Illiterate, read & write, primary education, secondary education, and above secondary education.

As observed in Table 3 below, the educational background of the sample nonmember female-headed households in the study area is very low, i.e. 80.2% are uneducated, 17.4% are read & write, and 2.5% primary education.

Education plays an important role to facilitate the socio-economic development of any country. When we look at the educational level of respondents it was very low. In Ethiopia, especially in rural areas, educational infrastructure is very low. The fact in the study area was also the same. There are low education facilities in the woreda and the majority of respondents were illiterate.

Table 3: Educational status of the sample nonmember female-headed household in the study area

Educational states	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	97	80.2
Read & Write	21	17.4
Primary education	3	2.5
Total	121	100.0

Sources: - Owen field data, May/ 2020 G.C

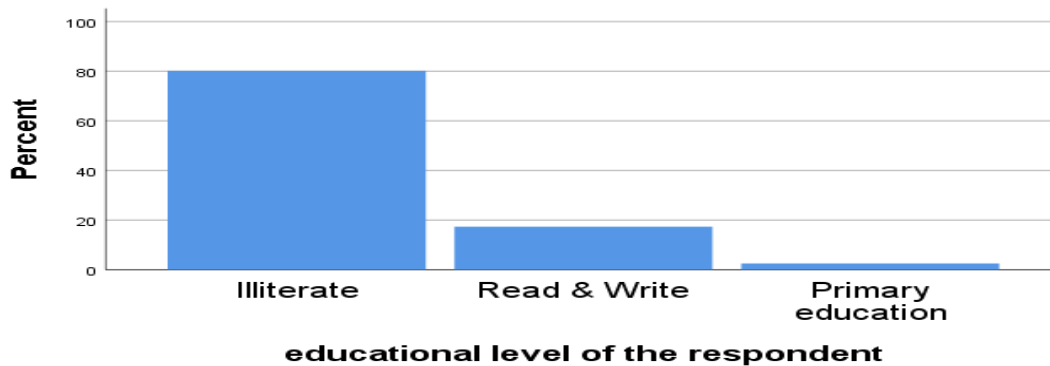


Fig: 4.2. Educational status of the sample women headed a household in the study area

4.1.4. Marital Status of the respondents

The marital states of the sample nonmember female-headed households are arranged in four categories, i.e. married, unmarried, widowed, and divorced.

As indicated in table 4 below, 22.3% are single, 34.7% are divorced and 43.0% are widowed. This shows that most of the respondents grouped under the widowed and divorced group.

Table 4: Marital status of sample nonmember female-headed households in three samples MPFCs

Marital status	Frequency	Percent
Single	27	22.3
Divorced	42	34.7
Widowed	52	43.0
Total	121	100.0

Source: - Owen field data, May /2020 G.C

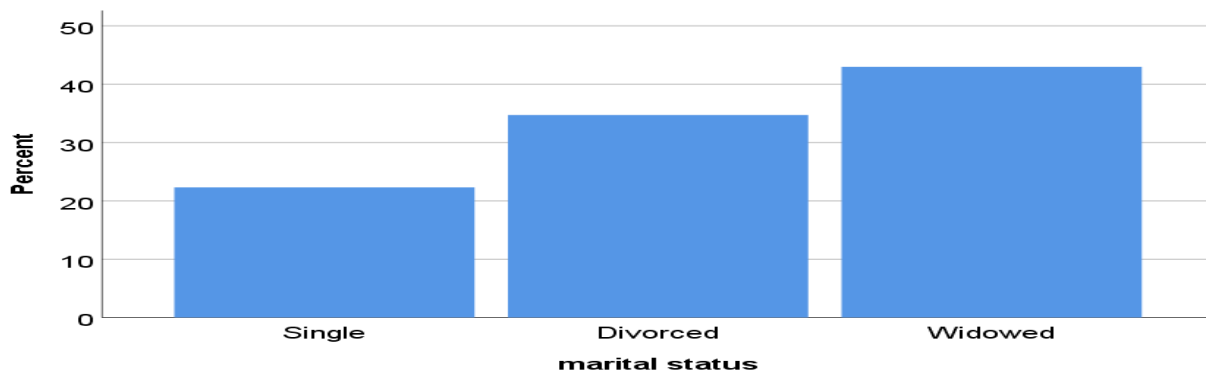


Fig: 4.3. Marital status of sample women-headed households in three samples MPFCs

4.1.5. Family Size of the respondents

The sample nonmember female-headed household family size was evaluated. Table 5 below shows from the total respondents 63.6% have a 1-3 family, 33.9% have 4-6 family and 2.5% have above 10 families. This shows most of the respondents have 1-3 family.

Table 5: Family size of sample nonmember female-headed households in three samples MPFCs

Family size	Frequency	Percent
1-3	77	63.6
4-6	41	33.9
10+	3	2.5
Total	121	100.0

Source: - Owen field data, May/2020 G.C

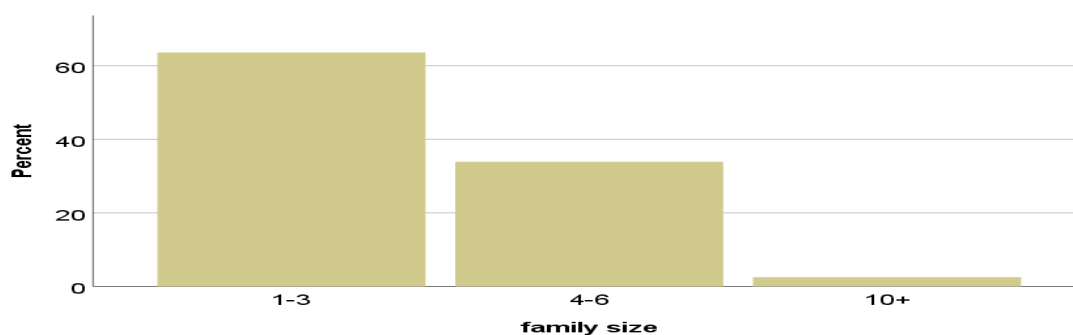


Fig: 4.4. Family size of sample nonmember female-headed households in three samples MPFCs

4.1.6. Religion of the respondents

The religion of the respondents is also assessed in the study area; the result shows that all the respondents are Orthodox Tewahido church followers.

4.1.7. Respondents Period of Stay in the Village

The sample nonmember female-headed households period of stay in the village was assessed in the study (Table 6). The result shows 4.1% of them live in the village for 1-4 years, 8.3% of them live in the village for 4-7 years, 5.8% of them live in the village for 7-10 years and 81.8% of them live in the village for 10 years and above.

Table 6: Sample nonmember female-headed households Period of stay in the village.

Period of stay in a year	Frequency	Percent
1-4	5	4.1
4-7	10	8.3
7-10	7	5.8
10+	99	81.8
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

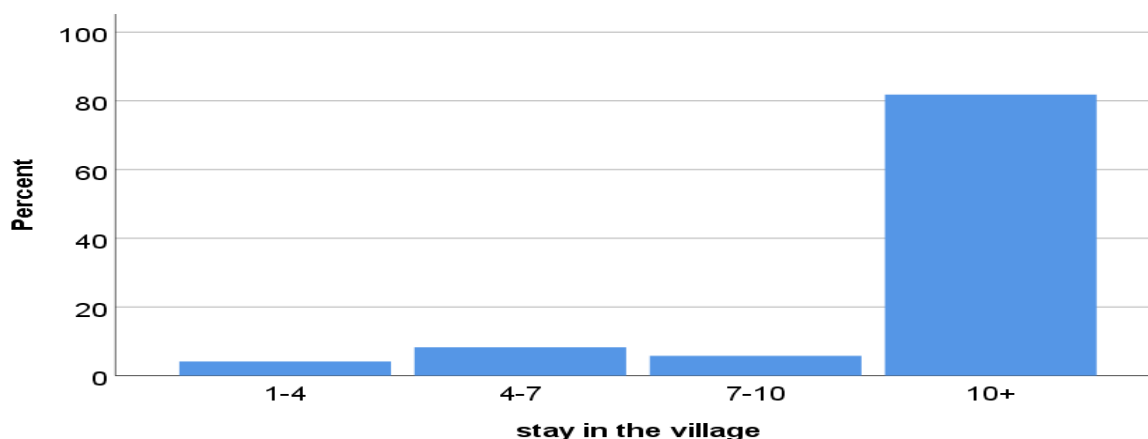


Fig.4.5: Sample nonmember female-headed households Period of stay in the village

4.1.8. Distance of sample nonmember female-Headed Household from the MPFC Station

The distance between the MPFCs station and the nonmember female-headed households' village are one of the socio-economic situation that identified in the study. The result shows that from the total 121 respondents 9.9% are found 1-2 km, 17 respondents 14% are found 3-5km, 40 respondents 33.1% are found 6-7km and the rest 52 respondents 43% are found above 8km. The respondents, FGD and KI revealed that if the distance of multipurpose farmer's cooperatives far from their residents knowing the benefits of MPFCs would decrease and vase versa.

Table 7: Distance in Km of the MPFCs Society from nonmember FHH Residence

Distance (Km)	Frequency	Percent
1-2	12	9.9
3-4	17	14.0
5-7	40	33.1
8+	52	43.0
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.

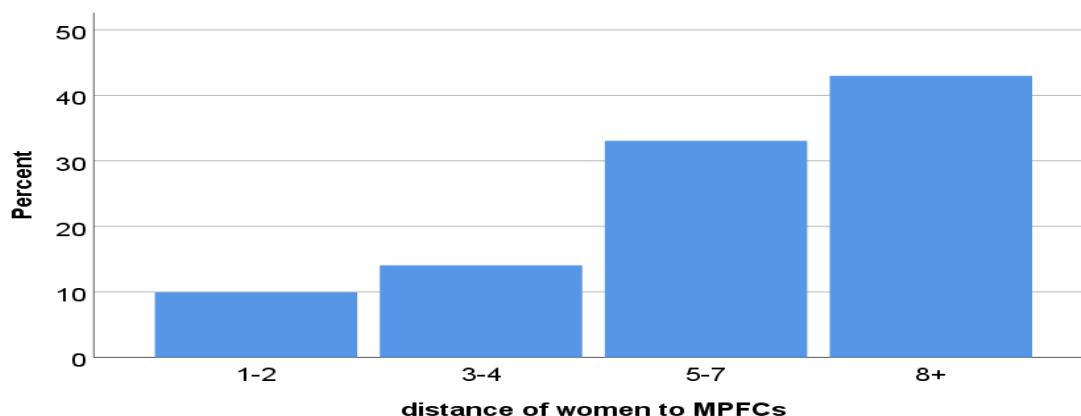


Fig.4.6: Distance in Km of the MPFCs Society from nonmember FHH Residence

4.1.9. Contact with Development Agents and Cooperative Officials

The interaction between nonmember female-headed households and government officials of various disciplines such as cooperative extension workers, Development agents; health workers, etc. also assessed in the study to show socio-economic situations of nonmembers female headed households in MPFCs.

Table 8: Contact of nonmember female-headed households with DA's and Cooperative Officials

Extension contact	Frequency	Percent
Medium	4	3.3
Low	31	25.6
no contact	86	71.1
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

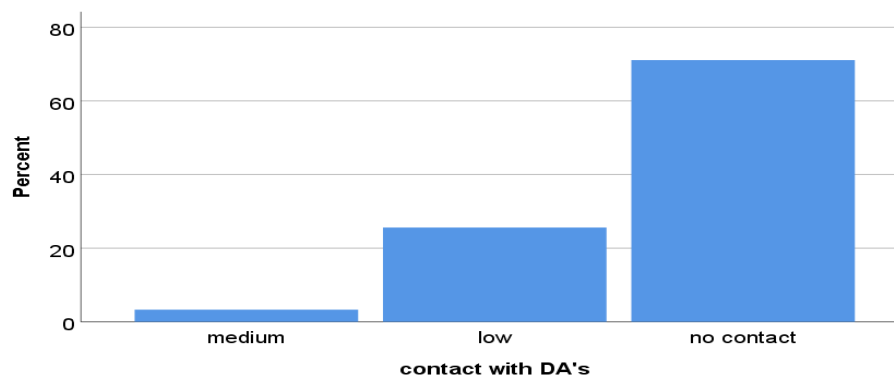


Fig.4.7: Contact of WHH with DA's and Cooperative Officials

According to the above table 8, 86 respondents 71.1% responded that they have no contact with DA's and cooperative officials while 4, and 31 respondents 3.3%, and 25.6% had medium and low level of contact with DA's and cooperative extension workers respectively.

4.1.10. Respondents occupation

The majority of sample nonmember female-headed household in the study area revealed that 49.6% were engaged in farming, while 19% was engaged in non-farming activities, 21.5% of the sample respondents were engaged in Child care & domestic work, 5.8% was engaged in daily laborer and the rest 4.1% engaged in other activities i.e. selling cultural drinks like 'areki' and 'tella'. The study indicates that the economy is predominately based on agriculture. So, the majority of nonmember female headed households in the three multipurpose farmers' cooperative were engaged in farming activity.

Table 9: Occupational status of sample nonmember female-headed households in the study area

Occupation	Frequency	Percent
Farming	60	49.6
Non-farming activity	23	19.0
Child care & domestic work	26	21.5
Daily laborer	7	5.8
Others	5	4.1
Total	121	100.0

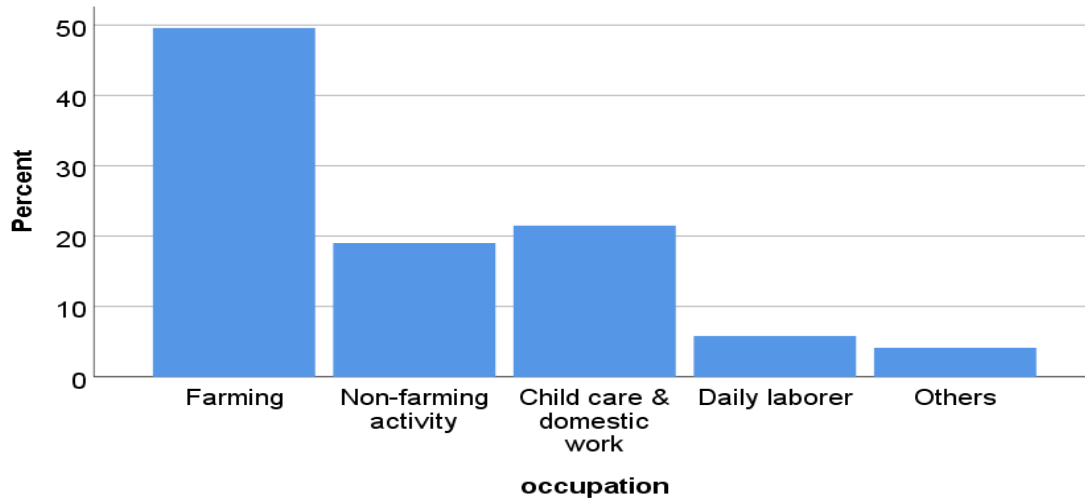


Fig.4.8. Occupational status of sample nonmember female-headed households in the study area

4.1.11. Source of Income of the respondents

The main source of income for the sample nonmember female-headed household in the study area comes from both farming and animal husbandry activities.

Table 10: Source of income of sample nonmember female-headed households in the study area

Income source	Frequency	Percent
Crop production	12	9.9
Animal Husbandry	7	5.8
Crop production &Animal husbandry	82	67.8
Labor work	17	14.0
Others	3	2.5
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

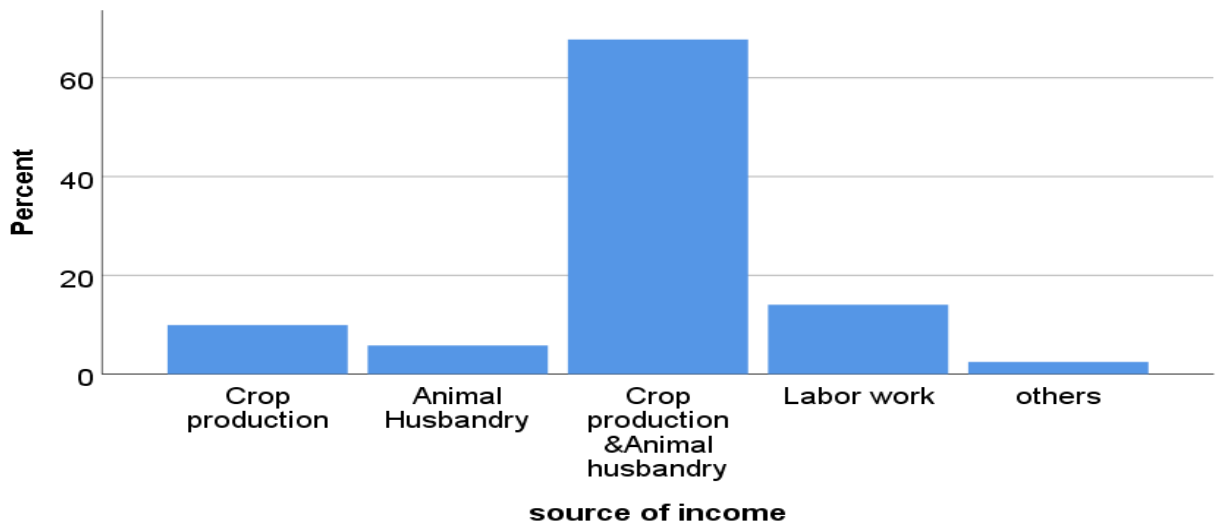


Fig.4.9. Source of income of sample nonmember female-headed households in the study area

From table 10 above, the result shows that 82 respondents, which is 67.8% their income source comes from crop production and animal husbandry activities, 17 respondents which are 14% their income source comes from Labor work, 12 respondents which are 9.9% their income source comes from crop production, 7 respondents which account 5.8% their income source comes from animal husbandry and 3 respondents which account 2.5% their income source comes from other activity like selling ‘areki’ and ‘tella’. FGD revealed that even if nonmember female-headed households have little proportion of land but by renting land from others their main source of income is dominantly comes from agricultural activities.

4.2. Cooperative Education and Training to nonmember femaleheaded households

The cooperatives were recognized based on cooperative proclamation 147/1998 to undertake various development activities. Besides, they are also responsible for training and educating the community on the values and principles of cooperatives. Multi-purpose farmer’s cooperatives are mainly service provider cooperatives and their achievements are measured by the level of household income, profit, dividend distribution, employment creation, and infrastructure development. Besides these giving various types of training and awareness creation activity to the community is the responsibility of MPFCs.

Table 11: The respondents' answers to the question did you get cooperative training?

FHH training	Frequency	Percent
Yes	10	8.3
No	111	91.7
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen field data, May/2020 G.C

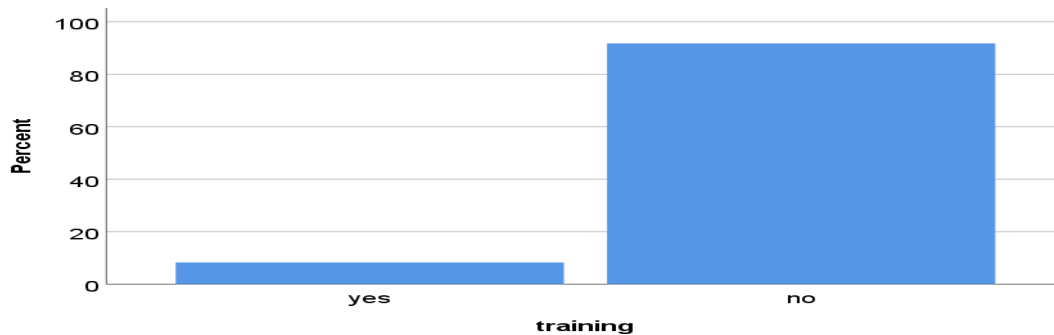


Fig: 4.10: Respondents response to training

As the data in table 11 above shows, only 8.3% of respondents got training service and the remaining 91.7% don't get any training. Therefore most of the sample nonmember female headed households don't get trainig about the benefits of multipurpose farmers cooperatives. So, government and cooperative promotion offices need to give attention to carry out training service to nonmember female-headed households in MPFCs.

4.3. Knowledge of Respondents about Multipurpose Farmers Cooperatives

Knowledge of nonmember female headed households about multipurpose farmer's cooperatives was assessed in the study.To evaluate their understanding about MPFCs this question was asked "Do you know the cooperative principle, values, regulation, rights, and obligation but the response of all the respondents of the study area was no. So, multipurpose farmers cocooperatives in the study area should work much on creating awareness for nonmember female-headed households about the principles, values, rights, regulation, and the general benefit of MPFCs.

4.4. Cooperative Extension Services to nonmember female headed households

The study shows that from the total respondents 23.1% cooperative extension service is adequately provided to the community the rest 76.8% cooperative extension service is not provided adequately. From this, it was felt that extension service is not adequately provided to the community. Focus group discussion and key informant interviews also revealed that due to lack of professional manpower in the study area the extension service given by the government was not adequate.

Table 12: Cooperative extension service

Coop. Ext. Service	Frequency	Percent
Yes	28	23.1
No	93	76.9
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

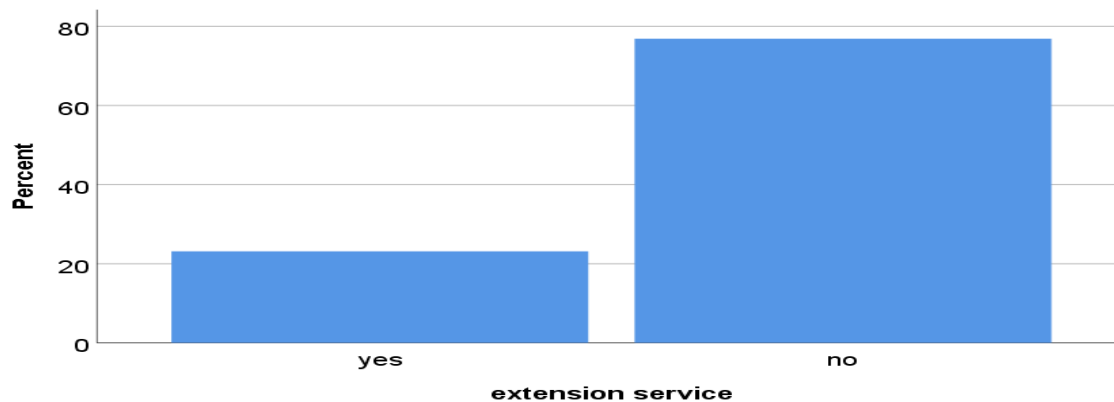


Fig: 4.11. Cooperative extension services

4.5. Socio-Economic situation of Nonmember Female-Headed Households in MPFCs

This discussion part helps us to answer the main objective of the research questions i.e. socio-economic situations of non-member female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives.

4.5.1. Social situations

The respondent's opinions about their social situations are evaluated with the following attributes and the responses are presented in Table 15 below.

Table 13: Social situations of nonmember female-headed household in MPFCs?

Social situations	Frequency	Percent
Less-educated	18	14.9
Head of HH	21	17.4
Less acknowledgment	6	5.0
less decision-making power	3	2.5
Lack of time	30	24.8
Heavy workload	23	19.0
Gender-based work	20	16.5
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

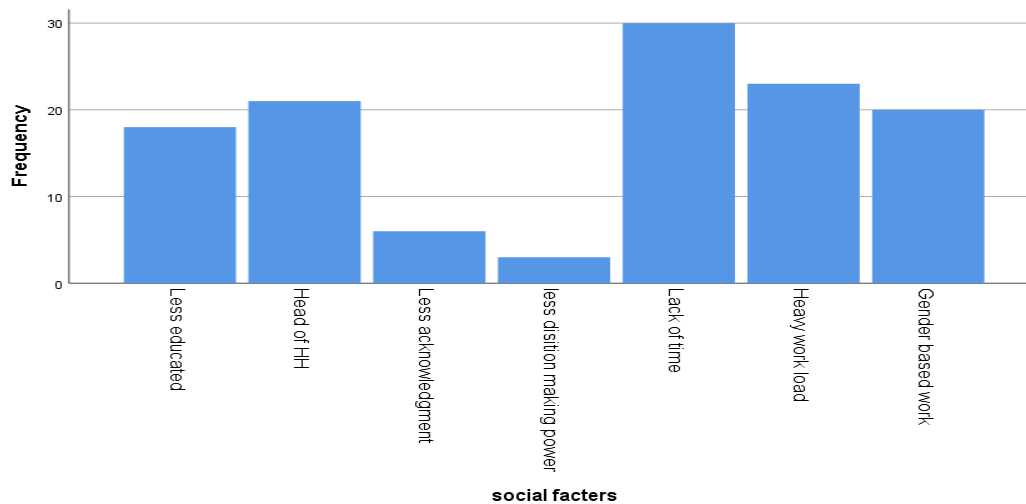


Fig4.12. Social situations of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs

From the descriptive result (Table 17) above one could observe that 14.9% of the respondents said that less education are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, 17.4% of the respondents argue that the Head of HH are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, 5.0% of the respondents argue that Less acknowledgment are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, 2.5% of the respondents reflected that less decision making power are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, 24.8% of the respondents reflected that lack of time are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, 19.0% of the respondents raised that Heavy workload are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, and 16.5% of the respondents argue that Gender-based work are the existing social situation of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, Respondents, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and key informant interview results show that less education, heavy workload, and lack of time are the major social situations of nonmember female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives.

4.5.2. Economic situations

The actual statistics which are collected from the respondents show that most economic situation of nonmember female-headed households in multipurpose farmer's cooperatives are due to lack of finance for the payment of registration fee and equitable share. To show their economic states the following asset-building means are evaluated.

4.5.2.1. Asset Ownership of the Respondents

As we know, in rural areas the major important economic asset for the formation of the household economy are land, livestock, and non-farm activities.

4.5.2.2. Farm Land Size

In the study area, land is an important resource to undertake agricultural activity. It plays a great role in crop production and animal raising. Regarding the possession of land in the study area from the sample's respondents 34 respondents about 28.1% of them have not land, 60 respondents about 49.6% were having land below 1 hectare, 25 respondents about 20.7 % were having land 1- 2 hectares, and 2 respondents about 1.7% having land more than 2 hectares. This shows that most of the sample respondents has not enough land and does not produce more yield to fulfill the family need. So, they can't earn enough income from land.

Table 14: - Possessions of land in sample respondents

Land size	Frequency	Percent
0	34	28.1
below 1	60	49.6
1-2	25	20.7
2+	2	1.7
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

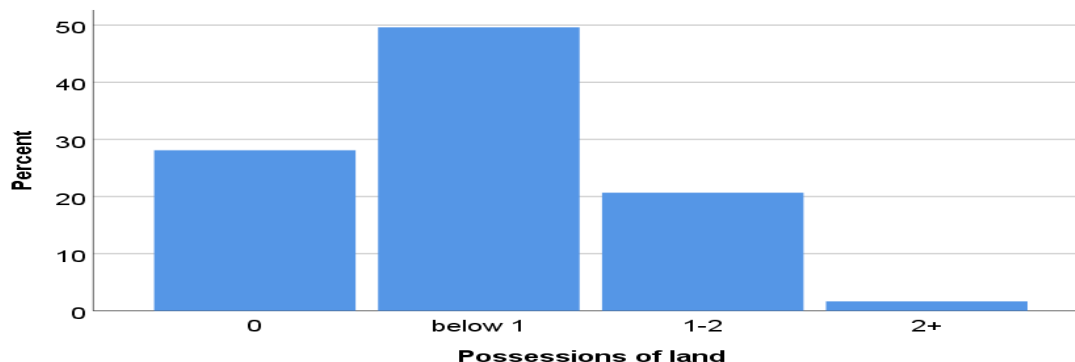


Fig.4.13. Possessions of land in sample respondents

4.5.2.3. Livestock Holdings

In the study area, farm animals serve several purposes. They are a means of cash income, draft power, transportation, and animal dung. Sample respondents have livestock such as oxen, cow, sheep, goats, donkeys, chickens. According to Stock, et, al (1991), the livestock population number was changed into Tropical Livestock Unit (TLU).

Table 15: Respondents livestock holdings

TLU	Frequency	Percent
0	25	20.7
1-3 TLU	48	39.7
4-6 TLU	19	15.7
7-9 TLU	21	17.4
Above 10 TLU	8	6.6
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

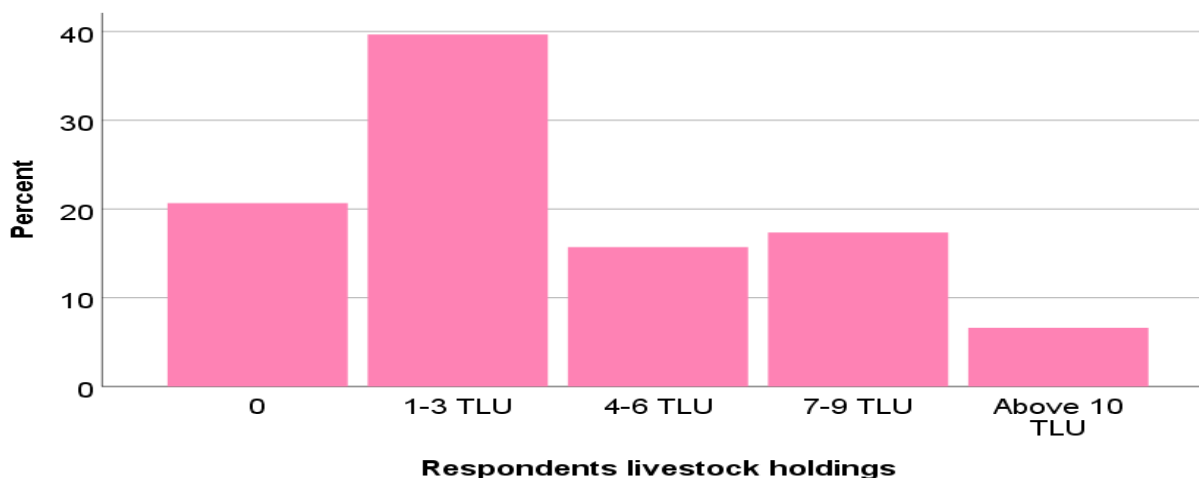


Fig.4.14. Respondents livestock holdings

In the study area, the number of animals holding by sample nonmember female-headed household in MPFCs is small, i.e.20.7% of them have no animal, 39.7% of them have1-3 TLU, 15.7% of them have 4-6 TLU,17.3% of them have 7-9 TLU and the rest 6.6% of them have above 10 TLU. This shows nonmember female-headed households in the study area their animal holdings are low. Therefore, they can't earn enough income from their animals.

4.5.2.4. Crop production

The major crops grown by sample respondents were wheat, teff, and barley. Table 18 below shows that 31.4% of the respondents replied that they grow wheat, 11.6% of the respondents replied that they grow teff and 57.0% of the respondents replied that they grow wheat, teff, and barley. The respondents argue that they are not produce more than their consumption and they are not surplus product for sale. So they are not get more income from crop production.

Table 16: Crop production by nonmember female-headed household respondents.

Crop growing	Frequency	Percent
Wheat	38	31.4
Teff	14	11.6
Wheat, Teff, and barely	69	57.0
Total	121	100.0

Source: Owen Field data, May /2020 G.C

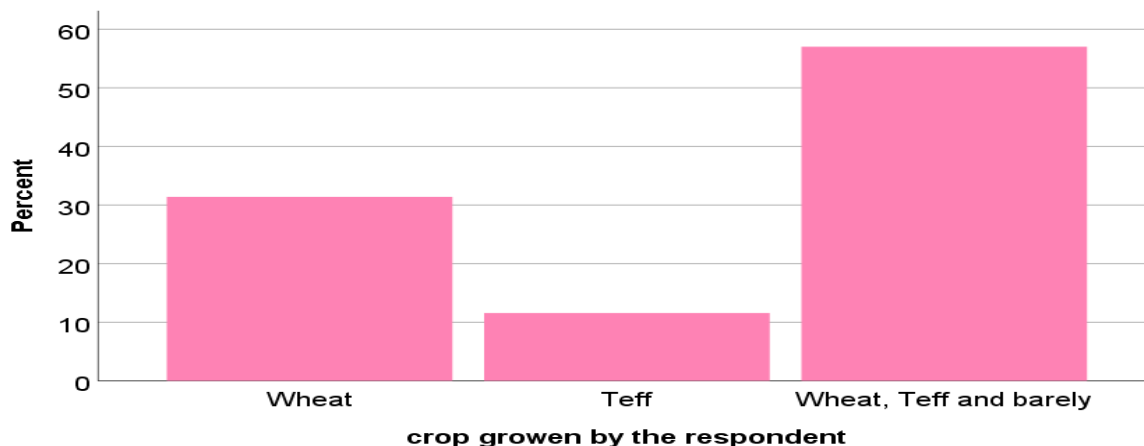


Fig.4.15. Crop production by nonmember female -headed household respondents

From the above

4.9.3. Cultural situations

As we saw in the literature review, attitude is the basic cultural obstacle of women's in participating cooperatives. In most countries, there are formal prejudices that women can do and cannot do some activities. These sometimes avert women from full participation in multipurpose farmers' cooperative activities. They may not be employed for certain tasks to attend and speak at meetings when men are present. The prevalent misconceptions on women's triple role, that is their reproductive and domestic responsibilities restrict their participation in multipurpose farmers' cooperatives activities and place them at the margin of the cooperative business world,(ILO, 2009).

In the study area, all respondents responded that the main cultural obstacle is that the attitude of the community towards to nonmember female-headed households. Nonmember female-headed households are considered as reproductive and domestic responsibilities in the community. This makes nonmember female-headed households live under a heavy workload.This condition excluded them from social and economic activities in the community. The FGD and KI also confirm that nonmember female-headed households have the triple role i.e. reproductive and domestic work responsibility. To change the existing attitudinal situation the government and the non-government organizations should work on awareness creation and training to the communities, especially to nonmember female-headed households is essential.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. Summary and conclusion

The study was conducted at Machakil worda multipurpose farmer's cooperative society in the East Gojjam zone of ANRS. It focuses on assessment of socio-economic situations of nonmember female-headed households in MPFCs. Primary data was collected using individual interviews, Focus group discussion, and key informant interviews.

Machakil worda was selected purposively due to a couple of reasons. On one hand, the worda was well known for its multipurpose farmers' cooperative activity. The other reason for selecting the worda was due to its assessability factors that are road, strong organizational structure, and the existence of employee manpower in MPFCs.

In machakil worda there are 15 MPFCs and from 15 multipurpose farmers cooperatives, three multipurpose farmers cooperatives were selected using the purposive sampling method because the selected sample multipurpose farmers cooperatives were good in their infrastructure and also their data documentation was good as compared with other MPFCs. All the nonmembers of female-headed households in the sample kebele were listed and 121 sample respondents were selected using the systemic sampling method.

In addition to this, 28 non-member female-headed households were selected randomly for focus group discussion and 12 respondents from the cooperative employee, cooperative promoters, development agents, and committee members were selected purposively for key informant interview. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistical tools to achieve the stated objectives: That is, assessment of socio-economic situation of nonmember female-headed households in MPFCs of Machakil worda of the selected kebele.

The findings from the descriptive analysis show that social situation like heavy workload, lack of time, lack of education and training, economic situation like lack of finance to pay the registration fee and equitable share, and cultural situation like attitude of the community towards to nonmember female headed household were the major situations identified. On the other hand, the descriptive result shows all nonmember female-headed households did not know the by-laws, rights, duties, obligations, and cooperative values and principles.

To solve the above situations observed by nonmember female headed households in MPFCs, continuous awareness and training programs concerning MPFCs are important and the education program should give special attention to nonmember female-headed households. In addition to this, changing the attitude of the community towards to female-headed households should be changed through continuous training program to the community. On the other hand, the multipurpose farmer's cooperatives should give attention on awareness creation on the benefits, values, principles and regulation of multipurpose farmer's cooperatives to nonmember female headed households. However, the need for strong attitudinal change and continuous awareness creation is well recognized in this study.

5.2. Recommendations

The recommendations are based on the findings of the study. The suggested recommendations are:

1. Provide awareness creation program to the rural community

The major cultural situation identified by the study is the multiple roles of nonmember female headed households i.e. productive and reproductive roles. This put nonmember female headed household under heavy workload and time constraints. So, MPFCs should consider implementing community awareness creation programs that bring attitudinal changes in the community, so that the community could share female's household activities. On the other hand, the government should provide time-saving technologies to rural communities with affordable prices to minimize the work burden on female-headed households.

2. Changing the attitude of nonmember female headed households towards to multipurpose farmer's cooperatives

Changing the attitude of nonmember female-headed households towards MPFCs is a very important issue in improving observed socio-economic situations of nonmembers female headed households in MPFCs. Most nonmember female-headed households need the MPFCs for their immediate economic advantages i.e. the distribution of fertilizers, improved seeds, agrochemicals, grain marketing, selling consumable and non-consumable goods, etc. They don't

give attention to the long term benefit they could get from MPFCs. Consequently, attitudinal change of nonmember female-headed household towards MPFCs needs attention.

3. Education and Training

As it has been seen, nonmember female-headed household's education and training were very low. This shows that uneducated nonmember female-headed household's in MPFCs lack information about the benefits of MPFCs. So, MPFCs need to give attention towards training nonmember female-headed households on cooperative values and principles, by-laws, rights and obligations, rules and regulations should be the focused areas of education and training. MPFCs should organize suitable training programs on cooperatives affairs to the rural community, especially for nonmember female-headed households.

4. Further suggestion

It is recommended that other similar studies should be conducted in the other parts of the Amhara National Regional State and other regions of Ethiopia. So, that we can gain additional information towards nonmember female-headed households in MPFCs.

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Appendixes

APPENDIX I: - Conversion Factor of Tropical Livestock Unit

Livestock Type	TLU (Tropical Livestock	Livestock Type	TLU (Tropical Livestock Unit)
Farm oxen	1	Donkey	0.35
Cows	1	Horse	1.10
Sheep	0.13	Chickens	0.013
Goat	0.13	Sheep/Goat young	0.06
Calf	0.20	Donkey young	0.35

Source: Stock .et al (1991)

APPENDIX II: - Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interview (KII)

1. What are the services rendered to farmers by MPFCs in your kebele?
2. What are the social situations of nonmember female headed a household in MPFCs in your kebele?
3. What are the economic situations of nonmember female headed a household in MPFCs in your kebele?
4. What are the cultural situations of nonmember female headed a household in MPFCs in your kebele?
5. In your opinion what is the role of government and NGOs for supporting nonmember female headed household in MPFCs?

APPENDIX III: - Interview Schedule on nonmember female-headed households

I. General Information

1. Region _____ Zone _____ Woreda _____ Kebele _____

II. Household information

2.1. Name of the respondent _____ Sex 1. Male 2. Female

2.2. Age: 1. 20-25 2. 26-40 3. 41-60

2.3. Educational level

1. Illiterate 2. Read & write 3. Primary education 4. Secondary education
E. above Secondary education

2.4. Marital status: A. Unmarried B. Married C. Widowed D. Divorced

2.5. Family size: 1. 1-3 2. 4-6 3. 7-10 4. > 10

2.6. Religion: 1. Orthodox 2. Muslim 3. protestant 4. Catholics

III. Occupation of the respondent

3.1. What is your main occupation?

1. Farming 2. Non-farm activity 3. Child care and domestic work 4. Daily laborer

3.2. Source of income

1. Crop production 2. Animal Husbandry 3. both 4. labor work

5. Small scale trade 6. Civil Work 7. Other specify _____

3.3. How many years live in the village

1. 1-4 years 2. 4-7 years 3. 7-10 years 4. Above 10 years

3.4. How many KM far your residence ton MPFCs station

1. 1-2 KM 2. 3-4 KM 3. 5-7KM 4. Above 8KM

3.5. Do you have contact to DA's and cooperative officials?

1. No contact 2. Low contact 3. Medium contact 4. High contact

3.6. Is there any institute that support you to change your socio-economic conditions?

1. Yes 2. No

IV. Institutional access

4.1. Is there any MPFCs near to your residence? 1. Yes 2. No

If yes how far it is? (KM) _____

2. Are you have access to all-around rural roads? 1. Yes 2. No

3. Do you get health post services in your kebele? 1. Yes 2. No

4. In your kebele is there an adult education program? 1. Yes 2. No

V. Knowledge about MPFCs condition

5.1. Do you know anything about MPFCs? 1. Yes 2. No

5.2. If your answer is yes, how did you come to know it?

1. Own interest and choice 2. Due to the influence of my neighbors'
3. Encouragement from cooperative society 4. Due to the cooperative promotion office
5. With the help of the district administrators

5.3. What are the social situations of nonmember female headed households inMPFCs in your kebele?

1. less educated 2. Head of the household 3. less acknolegment
4. lack of time 5. Heavy work load 6. Gender based work

5.5. Discuss the economic situations of nonmembers female headed households in MPFCs?

Farm land size situation

1. No land 2. below 1 ha 3. 1-2 ha 4. Above 2 ha

Livestock holding situation

1. No TLU 2. 1-3 TLU 3. 4-6 TLU 4. 7-9 TLU 5. 10+TLU

3. Crop production situation

1. wheat 2. Teff 3, wheat, teff and barley

5.6. Describe cultural situations of nonmember female headed households in MPFCs?

.....

VI. Cooperative education and training

6.1. Did you get cooperative training? 1. Yes 2. No

6.2. Do you know the by-laws, rules, and regulations of the cooperative? 1. Yes 2. No

6.3. Do you know about cooperative values and principles? 1. Yes 2. No

6.4. Do you know about the rights and obligations of members? 1. Yes 2. No

6.5. How much do you know about cooperative movement? 1. High 2. Medium 3. Low

6.6. Do you believe that cooperative extension is adequately provided to the community?

1. Yes 2. No

6.7. Are there sufficient trained female professionals in cooperative extension in each Kebeles?

1. Yes 2. No

6.8. In your opinion what is the role of government in facilitating nonmember female headed household situations in MPFCs? _____

6.9. In your opinion what is the role of NGO's in facilitating nonmember female headed household situations in MPFCs?

6.10. What is your suggestion for improving nonmember female headed household's socio-economic situation in MPFCs activity? _____