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WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN ACCESS TO LAND IN GUBRE SUB CITY IN CASE OF
BUCHACH 01 KEBELE**

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Acronym

CBO - Community Based Organization

CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

CSO - Civil Society Organization

FAO- Food and Agriculture Organization

FHH - Female Headed Household

GC - Gregorian Calendar

GDP-Gross Domestic Product

LAC- Land Administration Committee

NGO - Nongovernmental organization

OAU - Organization of Africa Unity

UNDAW - United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme

WLSA -Women and Law in Southern Africa

Abstract

The study is designed to explore the status of rural women in access to land in Gubre sub city Buchach 01 Kebele. The research applied both quantitative and qualitative methods in view of feminist research methodology to properly address issues from a gender perspective. Survey of 318 households was conducted administering questionnaires in the quantitative method. The qualitative method applied was interviews with relevant Buchach office and Kebele LACs, focus group discussions with rural women. Triangulation method is applied in data collection, data presentation and in analysis of findings. Study findings reveal that women access rights to land is less equal than legally provided. This study evidences gaps between policy and implementation. Customary laws and traditional practices generally have impacts on land access rights of single/unmarried, divorced, widowed women and on access rights of women in polygamous marriages. Women access to land is not efficiently addressed by the regional rural land policy. This is a significant policy drawback as women equal rights on land could not be achieved without gaining control over land. The land administration system in general and the land registration process in particular has not considered women participation in community activities and decision-making.

Study findings indicate absence of autonomous institution as gap in addressing women issues in the land administration system. This study also revealed loose linkages between the rural land policy and other organizational legislation like the family law which provides women equal rights on land in marriage and on its abandonment. This study forwards recommendation to address gender gaps identified to ensure women equal access to and control over land in the study area. The land administration system should consider women participation in the process, their contribution to the system as well as their equal benefits from policy outcomes and needs revision from a gender perspective to address women specific issues.

CHAPTER ONE

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Women make up 43 percent of the agricultural labor force worldwide although many work without pay (World Bank 2012b).

Unfortunately, gender disparities in land access remain very high around the world, regardless of a region's level of development (FAO 2010a).” Some women, individually or in groups, own land on which they produce food and goods for their families, products to sell, or rental income, although their ownership is not legally recognized. In these cases, they may or may not control the decisions made about the use of the land depending on how important their production and income is to their spouses, households, or other legal owners. “Others may own property through a joint title with a husband or another family member and again may or may not control land use decisions. “If the tally of female land ownership in Africa, for example, is based on jointly or individually titled land, the percentage would be very low because levels of titled land ownership are very low, even for men (Carpano, F. 2010).

In many developing countries, where most rural poor rely on subsistence agriculture for their survival, land remains a critical asset (FAO 2010b).” “Small-scale food production and the women involved in it are the backbone of rural livelihoods: women farmers produce more than half of all the food grown in the world and 60 to 80 percent of the food grown in most developing countries (FAO 2010b, 2011; Oxfam 2013).

A study by the World Bank (2008) indicates in Sub-Saharan Africa, where national economies are mostly agriculture-based, farming on their own land was found to be the most common form of employment for both sexes (about 56 percent and 54 percent of male and female adults, respectively). This is followed by non-agricultural wage work for men (9 percent) and non-agricultural self-employment for women (7 percent).

The study also found that African women are more likely than African men to be self-employed in the agricultural sector. If rural women had the same access to productive inputs as men, they could increase yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent, raising total agricultural output in developing countries by 2.5 to 4 percent and, in turn, reducing the number of hungry people in the world by 12 to 17 percent (FAO 2011).

Access to land (control of property) whether customary, statutory, or religious, provide economic entry for women to key markets as well as social access to non-market institutions such as household- and community-level governance structures, where they can contribute to decision making (COHRE 2004).

International women conferences held in Mexico City in 1975, in Nairobi in 1985 and in Beijing in 1995 were measures towards realizing women political, social and economic equality with men (United Nation Action for Women, 2003).

Many gender issues which are very important to well-being of millions of women and girls around the world got public attention after these conferences. Despite this progress women have remained disadvantaged in many ways. Gender equality has not been achieved and women do not enjoy equal rights with men in accessing and having land. Access to land and its benefits is determined by sociocultural norms which have significant impacts on gender relations. Farming systems, customary laws on marital and inheritance rights, gender roles at households and on farms, household assets ownership and control, control over household income and expenditures, access to social resources, etc. have influences on women access to land. These factors should be seriously considered to enhance formulation of land policies and provision of implementation regulations that could effectively address gender inequalities. Significance of land reform policies depend on ensuring women rights in practice not only in principle. Policy makers and implements should be gender sensitive so that women could benefit from land reform policies. Policy implements capacity and commitment to translate policy to reality have significant impact at level of implementation. Women may not benefit even from gender sensitive rural land policies, if policy implements lack commitment (CSA, 2007).

The 1995 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution gives importance to improve socioeconomic situation of women and there are provisions on equal rights of

women to property ownership. Women access land is very critical as land is a major resource in women livelihood. However, women are discriminated against in terms of realizing their rights to land (FDRE, 1995:40).

This study is carried out in one of the regions in the southern, nation, nationalities and people region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia, Gurage zone, Gubre sub city which is located about 165 km far from Addis Ababa and 15 km far from wolkite town. Its total population is 8600 (Gubre municipality, 2010).

1.2. Statement of the problem

Women equality in land rights is a global issue. Women access to land issues has become more critical in developing countries like in Africa as land is a major resource for survival to the majority of the people. Access to land and its products are critical to women because, women are responsible to ensure household food security by their community assigned gender roles (Deininger,2007).

Governments have entered commitments through ratifying various women rights conventions and have issued national policies supporting women access to land in many countries like in Ethiopia. In spite of these commitments, problems exist in ensuring women equal landholding rights with that of men mainly due to deep rooted patriarchal gender power relations in societies (FRE, 1995 and FDRE, 2005).

Studies carried out on women land rights revealed that women access to their husband's land entitle them to secondary rights (Nizioki, 2002).

Land rights acquired through marriage expose women to crisis especially when marital conflicts lead to divorce or separation or upon death of husbands. Polygamy and Women Land Rights' Polygamy also has an impact on women rural land holding and use rights. After husbands die, it is not uncommon for disputes to arise between multiple wives over their husband's land and other property (Fafchamps and Quisumbing 2005; Namubiru-Mwaura et al. 2012).

In southern Ethiopia where polygamy is common although not legally allowed, the polygamous wives may live separately and have their own land. While the land laws first introduced stated that the husband could have his name on only one certificate,

resistance caused a change such that certificates could be issued jointly to the husband and his wives, or the husband's name could also be included below the name of his second and later wives, while his name appears first on the certificate with his first wife (Bekure, 2006).

The women names on the land certificates are to ensure that women are able to keep the land after a divorce or the death of their husband. However, polygamous wives still have a weaker position in comparison to those in monogamous marriages (Fafchamps and Quisumbing 2005).

Besides, women marital statuses and their status under different family structures affect women access to land. Women in male headed household and female headed household (single, widowed and divorced women) access to land and the control power they have over land, particularly decision-making on land use and control of income earned from farm products is affected by their status in their households. Community customs and traditions become major challenges in implementing policies that favor women in land acquisition. Traditionally rights to property pass through the male line in Ethiopia. This implies that women status is generally inferior to that of men (Askale, 2005).

The research gaps as follows; the former research done on assessment of women access to land in Oromia region especially in Ada's Woreda by Almaz Woldetensaye. The former research applied triangulation method in data collection, in data presentation and in analysis of findings and also uses observation and case studies as method of data collection. But this study was examine underlying sociocultural issues that hamper effective implementation of the regional rural land policy on women access to land in the case of Gubre sub city. This study looks at problems that retarded women access in the land the case of Gubre sub city. This study therefore, intends to find out the extent to which rural land policy and its implementation process had effect on the stated problems on women equal access to land.

1.3 Objective of the study

1.3.1 General objective of the study

The general objective of this study was to assess women access to land in Gubre sub city in case of Buchach 01 kebele.

1.3.2 Specific objectives of the study

The Specific objectives of this study were:

- ✓ To identify gender roles in rural land access of women in the study area.
- ✓ To explore factors affecting women equal access to land in the study area.
- ✓ To assess the impact of land access on women life in the study area.

1.4. Research question

The study was attempted to address the following questions;

- ✓ What are gender roles in rural land access of women in the study area?
- ✓ What are the impacts of land access on women life in the study area?
- ✓ What are factors affecting women equal access to land in the study area?

1.5 Significance of the study

This study had contribution to show significance of equal access to land results in socioeconomic well being of women as well as the rural livelihood in the study area. This study would give better insight on gender issues related to land access and significance of addressing these issues in Gubre sub city in case of Buchach 01 kebele land administration system to ensure women equal access to land. It would come up with important recommendations on how women access to land in Gubre sub city in case of Buchach 01 kebele. The study was also serve as reference for further research undertakings in the study area on issue of women access to land .For the study area; it helps to provide insight about the impacts on their life and factors that affects women equal land access to land in the study area.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study would be limited to investigate on the issue of the women access to land in Gubre sub city in case of Buchach 01 kebele.

1.7 Limitation of the study

This study was limited to Gubre sub city specifically in Buchach 01 kebele. The study were encounter many obstacles or constraints such as lack of written materials related to topic of this study, lack of organized data on the study area, shortage of time and financial problems and the kebele administration were had no enough information about the area under the study.

1.8 Definition of key terms

Patriarchy: From a gender perspective patriarchy is defined as a set of social relationships which cause domination of men over women. Patriarchy is a social system and societal structure that institutionalize male physical, social and economic power over women. Men are regarded as the authority within the family and the community and power and possessions are passed on from father to son.

Feminists define patriarchy as: A set of social relations between men which have a material base and which, though hierarchical establish or create interdependence and solidarity among men that enable them to dominate women (Heidi, 2003: 211).

Gender mainstreaming: is defined as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action including legislation, policies or programs in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women as well as men concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (ECOSOC, 1997:3).

Power in gender relation: Feminists' understand power as power-over which is unjust and oppressive to those over whom it is exercised (Joan, 1979).” In women land rights issues power in gender relation implies men higher access to and control over land and women less access and low control over land.

Access to land: Access to land is a means to gain control over land.

Women access to land has terms of use rights that imply getting opportunity to use and benefit from land.

Decision-making: Decision-making related to land includes, land use and improvements, control of products harvested from land including incomes earned from sales of products and decisions on land transfer through bequeath, inheritance, sale or rent.

Land rights: Land rights are legally recognized claims on land enforced by legally established institutions.

Land rights registration: “It is a recording procedure describing a parcel of land and identifying its current owner/holder and the form of ownership she/he or they had. It is a process of recording rights on land which provides safe and certain foundation of acquisition and disposal of rights on land (ELTAP, 2006:165).”

Tenure system: “Is the way in which ownership of land or rights to land is organized. Tenure system may be determined by statute, agreed precedent or by customary practices. Tenure systems represent relations of people as individual and as group in society with respect to their access to and control over land (Moyo, 2002).” It is culture-specific and dynamic, changing as social, economic and political situations change. In Ethiopia for example, different regimes followed different tenure systems

CHAPTER TWO

2. Review of related literature

2.1 Women Land right

Land is recognized as primary source of wealth, social status and power throughout history to those who have access to land. Arguments raised on women land rights in the course of the 1990s that influenced international discourses on gender equality is well established as basic component of policy now a days. Gender equality was included and promoted as a major goal in the Millennium Development Goals (World Bank, 2001) and in country Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (MOFED, 2006). “However, there is a persistent gender gap in landholding rights because, women access to and control over land are affected by various factors in communities (FAO, 2002).” Socioeconomic, legal and institutional factors affect women access to and control over land.

2.2. Why is gender an issue in access to land?

Gender inequalities are pervasive across many dimensions of societal life including households, social, economic and political institutions. The United Nation recognized that gender inequality resulting from women low status persist in all societies although the extent of the gap varies across countries, cultures and time. The United Nation presented the burden of this inequality as follows: Women, who comprise half the world's population, do two thirds of the world's work, earn one tenth of the world's income and own one hundredth of the world's property (United Nation, 1980). “A World Bank study on regional patterns of gender inequalities in basic rights and in access to and control of resources reflect that disparities exist all over the world and no woman in the developing regions has equal rights with man (World Bank, 2001).” Gender inequality is difference in rights and privileges between women and men reflected in legal statutes, customary laws and community practices. These differences are reflected in marriage, inheritance, property ownership and management, in household and community activities and decision-making. Deprivation of women land right through customary practices regarding land inheritance and property distribution after divorce is challenge in patriarchal societies.

Men remain central heirs and holders of land rights in patrilineal communities. Women direct access to land is often limited in traditional societies. “Women have indirect access to land in

terms of use rights acquired through kinship relationships and their status as wives, mothers, sisters or daughters (Davison, 1988).” However, these use rights may not grant enough security for women when family structures break due to various reasons. Breach in marriage is a serious issue in women access to and control over land because, it results in vulnerable group of women, Female headed households as single parents, widows or divorcees. “The gender face of poverty makes gender an issue in women access to land. The outcome of a study carried out by UNDP in developing countries reflected that poverty has a gender face and that women are poorer than men (UNDP, 2000).” This UNDP study carried out on selected countries of Sub-Saharan Africa showed the GDP per capital figures for women were less than that of men. Comparative figures in 1998 were US\$1,142, per woman and US\$2,079, per man (UNDP, 2000: 162). International human rights instruments related to women property ownership and inheritance revealed that denial of these rights makes women land rights a human rights issue. “Gap exists between international human rights provisions and national legal provisions because national laws of property rights are influenced by customs, attitudes and perceptions (Benschop, 2002).” The interaction of statutory laws and community customs and traditions will determine how women legal rights on land are actually realized in practice. Gap between legal systems and customary practices is obvious and nature of the gap defines the extent to which women rights are neglected or promoted in access to and control over land in communities. Therefore, women equal right on land is a human rights issue.

Women equal access to and control over land is an issue of equity, poverty reduction, food security, sustainable development and even human rights. Therefore, these issues as discussed above make gender a critical issue in access to and control over land.

2.3. International policy frameworks and institution about women access to land

International law has framed gender equality as part of global concern on human rights and basic freedoms for social, economic and political rights. These include claims on access to and control over productive resources like land. Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948 (UDHR, 1948) and international laws and conventions developed afterwards have a number of provisions to address gender equality. “The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) prohibits any distinction, exclusion or restriction on

the basis of gender that harms or nullifies women human rights and fundamental freedoms (UNCEDAW, 1979:3).” It establishes women rights on participation with those of men to political, economic and social participation and benefit.

The Beijing Declaration on its Article 35 states that governments should ensure women equal access to economic resources including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, etc. as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women (UN DES DAW, 1995: 35). Governments are required to incorporate gender perspective in all policies and programs to bring about political, economic and social development through women empowerment and gender equality. “Women and the economy and women and poverty are critical areas of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action (UN DES DAW, 1995: 41).” These were considered critical areas of concern because finalization of poverty had become a significant problem in developing countries. Women limited access to productive resources and inequitable decision-making power was put as major reason for finalization of poverty.

Governments are required to re-formulate macro-economic policies that address gender disparities in economic power sharing to alleviate poverty and advance economic growth. Gender mainstreaming was considered a major strategy to be followed by states to alleviate poverty especially among women living in rural households.

The United Nations Higher Commission on Human Rights passed resolution on women equal access to land (UNHCR 2003/ 22).

International conventions ratified by governments including international human rights instruments and women equal rights conventions were bases for considering women access to land as human rights issue in the resolution. African Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa adopted by the then OAU called upon all African states to eliminate discrimination against women and to ensure women rights as set in international declarations and conventions (OAU, 2003). It demanded African governments to combat all forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislative and institutional measures. The protocol includes a number of articles on women social, economic and political equality and gives particular emphasis to the rights of widows and divorcees.

United Nation agencies and international organizations play significant roles in supporting women equal rights on access to land. Food and Agriculture Organization is the responsible

United Nation agency to lead international efforts to overcome hunger. Food and Agriculture Organization draws special attention to rural development and facilitates debate forums on land policy issues. Food and Agriculture Organization established International Land Coalition that focuses on women access to land and gender relations in land tenure

2.4. National legal frameworks about women access to land

International laws had significant influence on national laws. Most countries around the world affirm principles of basic human rights and most national constitutions give explicit reference to equality between women and men. A country legal system often incorporates national statutory law, international commitments entered and conventions ratified. Statutory law affects all parts of the formal legal system from legislation issued by central governments to regulations and directives issued at different levels of administrations in government structures. Nevertheless, barriers exist to effective implementation of national commitments to gender equality because customary laws mostly deny women equal rights to land to that of men.

2.5. Land policies and legislation

Ascertaining gender equality in rights and using regulatory policies to address specific areas of gender inequalities are critical roles of the state since gender equality has been formally acknowledged as a goal by most governments (Lastarria-Cornhiel, 1995).

Addressing women particular disadvantages in relation to land ownership, access and control should be major focus in drafting new land policies. However, creating gender equality is a principal challenge for land policies and land administration systems. This is mainly because of lack of understanding on complex nature of property rights in existing gender relations in society. Policy makers should take gender equality as major component in land policy formulation. Progress achieved on issuing gender-equitable land policy became deficient at level of implementation in most African countries. Patriarchal norms prevail even where land legislation specifically recognizes women equal rights on land. Constitutional and legislative provisions on women equal access rights to land become quite worthless unless effectively enforced. Land policy implementation basically needs efficient land administration system and strategy to address gender inequality and to ensure gender equality. (Jacobs, 2001).

Bina Agarwal provided explanation on why gender equality should be major component of land reform policies in her book *A Field of One's Own* (Agarwal, 1994). Agrarwal emphasized on the need for land policy focus on women access to land. She particularly stressed on the need for policy to address women access to land and identified four main reasons on the need for women access to land. Agarwal identified welfare, efficiency, equity and empowerment as major reasons for women need in gaining access to land. With respects to welfare she stated that women control over land improve their household's livelihood and thus, improves household food security. In terms of efficiency, women control over land increases agricultural productivity. Equity is gaining justice for women so it is recognizing women equal access to land. With regards to empowerment, she emphasized that gaining control over land strengthens women ability to struggle for equality, dignity and additional economic rights. Agarwal justified and stressed on significance of women access to and control over land to achieve economic, social and political equality with men.

In recent years land administration reforms have been projected in the notion of good governance focusing on decentralization and democratization of land administration institutions (Quan, 2000; Adams, 2001). This is practiced through initiating community participation at local levels and restructuring local land administration within the framework of statutory laws.

Land administration system includes land ownership or holding rights registration and entitlements. In such documentation whose name(s) is/are registered on certificates or records will be an issue. Land titling is an area where most gender issues prevail in access to and control over land. Land titling tend to be vested on men either by legal condition or by sociocultural norms (World Bank, 2001).

Even where formal title is given jointly to husband and wife, women might lose decision-making power in management of household land (Rocheleau and E. David, 1997). In this regard unregistered marriages, divorces and polygamy have major impacts on women rights to land. Polygamy is a significant complicating factor in issuing land titles. Land administration institutions have got problems with respect to registering full information, documentation and updating. Land registers could not be reliable sources of information on all rights related to land because registers record limited set of rights in most cases (ELTAP, 2006). Such limitations could result in significant impacts on women land rights. The situation becomes more complex

when documents or registers are not kept safely and in cases where registers are not updated. Updating is very important since changes in landholdings and entitlements could occur in course of time.

Moreover linkage of land tenure legislation's with other relevant legislation's is very important. Land tenure legislation's may not cover whole issues that affect gender equality unless the remaining part is addressed by other relevant legislation's. A major step is to establish basic equal rights in family laws for protection of equal rights on marital property within marriage or at divorce. Such targeted laws and regulations can address critical gender inequalities on rights to land if implemented effectively. Effective implementation of these laws depends on the degree of access to law enforcing institutions; ability to finance litigation's and level of support provided by the family and the community (Ogendo, 2005).

This is critical to rural women because they lack family and community support due to gender biases and their low economic status affect their capacity to finance litigation's. Land policies should also explicitly address gender inequalities in inheritance to ensure equal landholding rights of women.

2.6. Tenure systems and gender relation

Land tenure refers to terms and conditions under which land and other related resources are held and used. A tenure system reflects who holds what land under what conditions. Land tenure systems vary from community to community and are influenced by historical development of each community. Terms and conditions under which rights to land are acquired, retained, used, disposed or transferred are influenced by gender relations (Shiviji, I.G, Moyo, S., Gunby, D. and Ncube.W., 1998).

Gender disparities in rights constrain women choices in many aspects of life and limit their opportunities to participate in economic activities of society. Access to land and land tenure relations are critical as most communities depend on land to ensure food security (FAO, 1997).

Access to land is a means to access membership in agricultural associations, to access agricultural inputs, credit, etc. Lack of access to rural land is an obstacle to agricultural productivity and to increase rural women's income as they cannot access these resources without holding land and securing tenure. "Gender power relation has serious influence on land

tenure systems because it determines roles and statuses of women and men in society. Householder gender relations reveal gender power imbalances (Parpart Jane, 1989; Young, 1992; Peters, 1995). These relations are reflections of inequalities in access to resources, householder distribution of income and decision-making power. These inequalities are directly related to level of household poverty and food insecurity. Ensuring property rights is considered as one mechanism to enhance women bargaining power at household and community levels (Agarwal, 1994a). In Africa predominance of the patriarchal system induces gender power relations which down grade women to inferior position. The patriarchal system influences socioeconomic and political structures, government policies and strategies and this has impact on accessing, managing and controlling resources.

2.7 Women land rights and customary systems

In many communities access to land is governed by both statutory and customary laws. Customary laws emerge from unwritten social rules derived from shared community values and traditions. Customary laws limit women rights on land to secondary rights mainly derived from their membership in patriarchal households. This law underpins patriarchal system of traditional authority to reinforce patriarchal values which disadvantage women and place them to subordinate position in society (WLSA, 2001; Walker, 2001a).

Marriage has been primary means of getting access to land under customary system of tenure. In Sub-Saharan Africa, unmarried women have little access to land because, they are not allowed to inherit property in most patrilineal societies while wives have better access to their husbands land through marriage. Security of marriage thus becomes major requirement for security of tenure (Davison, 1988; Nizioki, 2002).

2.8 Land tenure reforms and women right to land

Adams M, Sibanda defines land reform as: Generally accepted to mean the redistribution and/or confirmation of rights in land for the benefit of the poor; and as one major type of intervention by the state. A planned change in the terms and conditions on which land is held, used and transacted, e.g. through converting informal rights to formal rights, establishing mechanisms for managing common land rights, recognizing customary rights of occupation, etc. (Adams, 2000:1-2).

Land tenure reforms have different purposes in African countries. Objectives of tenure reforms vary from an intention to address land question in view of equity and bringing change in rural livelihoods like in Ethiopia to stimulating land markets in countries such as Kenya and Uganda (Moyo, 2002; Nizioki, 2006).

In African cases most land tenure reforms are male dominated and patriarchal in focus (Moyo, 2002). The predominant male scholarship on land questions neglected gender issues and there were cases where land tenure reform programs promoted gender inequalities (Boserup, 1970; Rogers, 1980).

Women access to land was complicated by legal land tenure systems, traditions and social norms, and women were affected by it. It might not be possible for land reform laws to address wide diversity of traditional laws (accepted norms) within a country (Bruce J., Migot-Adholla, 1994).

Socio cultural factors act as barriers because customs and traditions often fail to recognize women enforceable rights to access to land. Reconciling statutes and contradictory customary laws continue to be persistent challenge to land tenure reforms. Gender issues are mostly overlooked or misunderstood in land tenure measures. Emerging social, economic and technological changes are requiring land administration programs and institutions to reexamine individual and group rights to land and other productive resources in order to effectively address gender issues (FAO, 2002; Moyo, 2003).

Changes occurred with commodity of land and the modern economy has resulted in change in roles and functions of households. “Land is no longer a relatively abundant non-marketable resource now days, it is bounded, finite and has price (Moyo, 2003). Women often get marginalized when the value of land increases as a result of external investments. They can even lose benefits they gained before and miss opportunities to be accommodated in such situations.

2.9 Land issue in Ethiopia

2.9.1 Historical Background land issue in Ethiopia

The issue of rural land has been primarily a political and social question in previous and in contemporary Ethiopia. Rural land has been center of focus and land tenure system has a long history in the country. There were peasant uprisings and revolts during the imperial era against

the regime starting from the 1950s. The government faced serious challenges when it increased tributes in the aim of increasing income to modernize the country. The first significant peasant uprising took place in the Tigre province in 1943 (Bahru 2002:192).

Peasants of the Bale province took up arms against the Ethiopian state between 1963 and 1970 as the imperial bureaucracy expropriated huge portion of cultivable land under the guise of tax default gradually turning peasants into landless tenants. The last rural uprising prior to the 1974 revolution took place in the province of Gojjam in 1968, where new agricultural income tax was introduced in 1967. “Beginning of private land holding and introduction of large scale farming system in the country offered opportunity to the nobility residing in towns and cities to hold large areas of farm land in the southern and western parts of the country. Thus, a class of absentee land lords emerged (Haldon, 1993). This resulted in complex land tenure system with significant differences between the northern and the southern parts of the country. In the northern part the major form of land ownership was a type of communal system known as rist. “Rist was hereditary, inalienable and inviolable and all descendants (both male and female) of an individual founder were entitled to share land (Bahru, 2002).” There were also other forms of tenures by which land was granted to the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in perpetuity and land granted to government officials, war veterans and other patriots in substitute of pension or salary. “Land to the Tiller’ was the leading slogan of the popular Ethiopian Student Movement in the 1960s. The land question of the 1960s or early 1970s was primarily a political question aimed to bring to an end the feudal form of exploitation of peasants by few landlords especially in the southern part of the country (Helland, 1999; Bahru, 2002).” Eventually opportunity was created to mobilize peasants, workers and the middle class against the imperial regime. And finally the Emperor was overthrown by the Derg in 1974, and this ended the imperial land tenure system. The land tenure system before the 1974 land reform was blamed for causing inequity, inefficiency and for being a major obstacle for development of the agricultural sector and the country as a whole. The government proclaimed public ownership of rural land, nationalized rural land and abolished tenancy and private ownership of land. The proclamation granted each peasant family right to hold land up to ten hectares and outlawed any transfer of interest by sale, lease, mortgages or similar means on land.

“The objective of the Derg’s land reform was addressing issues of inequity which was inherent in the feudal system by providing access to land to the farming population through distributing rural land to peasant farmers (Desalegn, 2005).”

In 1991 the Derg government was overthrown by the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF). Land policy is framed in the constitution in the current government. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia rural land policy granted free access to land to every rural resident who wants to live on farming. The rural land policy grants women equal rights on land as women have constitutional right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property. Women are particularly provided equal rights with men in respect to use, transfer, administer and control of land and to inherit land. Rural land policy issues still continue to be agenda of scholarly debates in view of its impacts on rural livelihoods, the rural economy and that of the country as a whole. Moreover, women land rights issue is becoming an aspect of rural land policy.

2.9.2 Rural land policy linkage with other sectors

Land issue has strong touch on a wide range of issues in different thematic areas. Besides, gender issue is not a standalone issue by its nature, it is a cross cutting issue and touches all aspects of social, economic and political activities. Rural land policy linkage with other sectors is basically the land tenure system in relation to other socioeconomic sectors. These sectors include agriculture, environment and natural resources, gender, population, etc. Policies relating to these sectors have linkages with the land tenure system in one way or another. Thus, land policy should consider interlink with other sectors and sector policies should consider land policy to contribute to the overall socioeconomic development of the country. The following parts were focus on most relevant sector policies and legislation's for the purpose of this study. Eighty five percent of the Ethiopian population is rural and agricultural based. Major agricultural development issues underlie on the existing land tenure system. Women are affected by many issues related to land and agriculture. Women right to land is affected by land scarcity. Women are marginalized from accessing land whenever land is scarce (Hadera, 2002; Tesfaye, 2003).

Rural women do not have equitable access to land and agricultural resources. They have low involvement in development activities and have low decision-making power. Their labor

contribution to the agricultural sector is invisible because of the gender division of labor in communities.

2.10 Theoretical framework

Gender role is the sex role identity used to emphasize distinctions between males and females. It refers to behaviors associated with members of a given sex. There are set of attitudes and behaviors developed and perpetuated in society towards people that judge or are little them on the basis of their gender (Parpart, 1989).

A. Feminism

Women struggle emerged to remove these inequalities and to bring change in women lives hence, feminism was born. Feminism is an organized movement which aims to promote equality between men and women in political, economic and social spheres. Feminism is defined in a number of ways. I prefer this definition of feminism for it covers most of the underlying facts. Feminism is a belief that women universally face some form of oppression or exploitation; a commitment to uncover and understand what causes and sustains oppression in all its forms and a commitment to work individually and collectively in everyday life to end all forms of oppression (Maguire, 1987: 79 sited on Brayton, 1997).

In the 1970's women started developing theories to explain their oppression and feminism as an ideology emerged. Feminists started to raise different issues and feminism branched out into many theories by the 1980's (Brayton, 1997: 1). Feminist economic theory will be analyzed with respect to women access to land for the purpose of this study.

CHAPTER THREE

3. Methodology

3.1. Description of the study area

Gubre sub city was located in the Gurage zone, southern, nation, nationalities and people region (SNNPR) of Ethiopia. Gubre sub city was 15 km far from Wolkite town and was about 165 km far from Addis Ababa. The total population of the sub city was 8600, out of this 4386 were females and 4214 were males. Gubre sub city was bordered by to North direction Wolkite town, to the South Hemdebre, to East direction Agena and to West direction Karcha kebele. Gubre sub city was situated in the North West apex of the region and was located 6 degree 57' N to 7 degree 02'N latitude and 35 degree 40'E longitude. Various socioeconomic activities like chat, inset, teff, corn and vegetable production had been undertaken. In addition to this the people engage in trade (Gubre municipality, 2010).

3.2. Research design

The research design chosen for this study were cross sectional research design. Because such a research design helps to describe the sample respondents at one point in time for the purpose of the research. The study also employs both quantitative and qualitative research techniques.

3.3 Research approach

This study were use mixed type of research approach (qualitative and quantitative research approaches). It helps to undertake in depth study through exploring attitude, behaviors and experiences by using data collection instruments.

3.4 Target population

The target population of the study were be women age eighteen to sixty five who live in Gubre sub city in Buchach 01 kebele and it includes both owners and no owners of land. The age was being select for the purposive of this study.

3.5 Sample size determination

Population for quantitative data collection for this study was women from rural households of the Gubre sub city. The total number of women from rural households was 1548 women representing 318 households from Gubre sub city in case of Buchach 01 kebele using random

sampling method. It is necessary to take samples for this study to ensure equal representation of households.

The sample size for collecting quantitative data for this study was determined using Cochran's (1977) formula as indicated on Bartlett Kotrlik and Higgins (Bartlett and Higgins, 2001). This study uses the following formula to calculate sample size:

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

Where:

n designates the sample size the research uses;

N designates total number of households in both Kebeles assuming that women in all households are affected by the issue;

e designates maximum variability or margin of error 5% (0.5);

l designates the probability of the event occurring.

The following step was used to determine sample size derived from the above formula to collect quantitative data using questionnaire:

$$\text{Therefore: } n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{1548}{1 + 1548(0.5)^2} = 318$$

The required sample size was 318 women (respondents). Sample size for Gubre sub city was calculated using proportion of number of households in were 807 to the total number of households of the Kebele (1548). Therefore;

$$\text{Sample size for Gubre sub city is: } \frac{807 \times 318}{1548} = 166$$

1548

3.6. Sampling techniques

In social research there were two types of sampling techniques .These were probability and non-probability sampling. For this study I was employee systematic random sampling. This method requires the complete information about the population. It is best method actual choose the appropriate samples or to select a unit of sample from sampling frame and then calculations were drawn.

3.7 Source of data

The researcher was using both primary and secondary source of data.

3.7.1 Primary source of data

The major primary sources data were questionnaires, focus group discussions, in depth interviewing and interview to the key informants.

3.7.2. Secondary source of data

The secondary source of data also collect from articles, magazines, books, journal, newspaper and internet.

3.8 Method of data collection

In order to collect reliable data regarding the issue in the study area the questionnaire were prepare to get more and organize information about the issue by key informant interviewing and questionnaires to gather important information from the selected respondents.

3.8.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaire survey was employ to collect the primary data. Questionnaires were distributing in order to collect data simultaneously from target respondent and require relatively short time to collect data. Both closed and open ended questions were use for this purpose. Standardized (closed) questions are coded set of questions and only a fixed range of responses are possible. It did not allow for opinion or verbal expression. While open-ended questions were more flexible and provide richer information than standardized ones. It also allows opportunities for respondents to express their views in their own words. Questionnaire formatting was useful to gather clear and inexhaustibly information from respondents. I was prepared open and closed questions.

3.8.2 Key informant Interview

Interview was preparing for police officers, women, community policing leaders and kebele administrators in order to obtain detail information. Key informants would be selected purposively.

3.8.3 In-depth interviewing

In-depth interviewing was a qualitative research technique. It involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspectives on a particular topic (women access to land in the case of Gubre sub city). In depth interviews were useful to gather detailed information about a person's thoughts and behaviors or want to explore new issues in depth. In depth interview conducted with those Buchach 01 kebele women's.

3.9. Data collection procedures

For this study, first identifies the study area and quantitative survey respondents were being drawn from households of selected numbers. Qualitative survey participants were drawn from Gubre sub city rural households. Training was being arranged separately for those respondents. It focuses on purpose and significance of the study, contents of the questionnaire, how to administer the questionnaire and on clarity and appropriateness of questions. The questions were prepared by English language and translate to Amharic language in order to be simple for respondents to understand and to collect reliable and valid information. In order to collect data, key informant Interviews with Gubre sub city municipality members and focus group discussions with rural women were arranged on respective participants' convenience and are conduct on places, dates and time of their choices as well as prepare questionnaires both close and open for respondents. In order to keep the respondents confidentiality respondents are coded instead of naming their names.

3.10 Data processing and analysis

In the study, the data were analyzed by use both quantitative and qualitative data analysis method. The quantitative data were analyzed by use tables, frequency, and percentage with its interpretation. Quantitative raw data were collected using questionnaires and re-processing test was carried out right after the field data collection complete. Method of data entry was arranged categorically. Questionnaires were coded to facilitate analysis of questions on which respondents

are required to specify their opinions and to facilitate analysis of the open-ended question on the questionnaire. Responses on these questions were carefully collected and summarized. Outputs were being categorized into different components relating relevant variables for convenient use in analysis of findings. Qualitative data collected through interviews, focus group discussions and observations were put into different categorical variables. Major themes were identified and analyzed thematically in line with research questions and are summarize for use in descriptive analysis. Identified themes of the qualitative survey were related to categorical arrangements of the quantitative survey outputs. Issues intend to be addressed by this study are analyze using findings from both quantitative and qualitative surveys. Survey findings were used to draw arguments on relevant issues with data collected from secondary sources and to draw conclusions and recommendations. Data were analyzed using statistical techniques frequency distributions, tables, and pie chart.

3.11 Research Ethics

In the study, the following ethical issues were considering.

- Explanation of the objective and significance of the study were given to the participants of the study and different concerned bodies in order to get more accurate information.
- Participants were only participating voluntary.
- The culture and tradition of the study population would be respected finally at the time of the research respondent were take into account throughout the process of study

After collect the data, the researcher had insure the respondents answer in privacy

CHAPTER FOUR

4. Data presentation and analysis of findings

4.1. Characteristics of survey respondents

Quantitative data is collected and analyzed on demographic and social characteristics of survey respondents. Respondents are asked about their age, marital status and type of marriage they are in (monogamous or polygamous), religious affiliations and educational background.

4.1.1 Demographic characteristics of survey respondents

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
Age group		
18-30	79	24.8
31-42	98	30.8
43-55	83	26.1
Above55	58	18.2
Total	318	100.0
Marital status		
Married	235	73.9
Single	4	1.3
Divorced	10	3.1
Widowed	69	21.7
Total	318	100.0

Types of marriage women are in		
Monogamous	208	65.4
Polygamous	27	8.5
Single, widow, divorces	79	24.8
Non- respondents	4	1.3
Total	318	100.0

Data collected on age of respondents showed that, 30.8% of the respondents are in 31-42 age groups, 26.1% are in 43-55 age group, 24.8% are in 18-30 age group and 18.2% are above 55 years of age. With regards to marital status, 73.9% of the respondents are married, 21.7% are widowed, 3.1 % are divorced and 1.3% is single/unmarried. As to the type of marriage married respondents are in, 65.4% are in monogamous marriage (are the only spouses in their marriage) and 8.5% are in polygamous marriage.

Regarding qualitative survey participants, women comprise 67% of Kebele Office interviewees and there are no women from the Kebele LACs. All focus group discussion participants are women out of which, 19 are married and 13 are FHHs. Hence, the study covers women from different age groups and marital statuses. Survey respondents are in 18-55 and above age groups. Almost three fourth of the respondents are married and most of them are in 18-42 age groups. There are widows across all age groups although most are in the 43-55 and above age groups.

4.1.2 Religious affiliation of survey respondents

The local religions are Orthodox, Muslim and Catholic. According to a sample survey in Buchach Kebele in the early 1980s 67.1% were Christians and 32.9% were Muslims. For Orthodox Christians the Meskel (the finding of the True Cross) festival at the end of the rainy season is probably the most important ceremony. Every family has a confessor who expects food, and money in return for blessings, anointing the sick, hearing confessions, removing evil curses etc. Most followers, particularly the elders - do not work on St Michael's, St Mary's, and St Gabriel's day. Most Catholics work every day except Sundays. However, due to the nature of the

work people work in groups (Debo - Geze) and if a man is in an agreement with an Orthodox believer he cannot work on Orthodox holidays because he cannot work alone. On Wednesdays and Fridays the Orthodox and Catholics do not eat meat, eggs or cattle products. They also fast for 2 months in March and April. However, this is only strictly followed by elders. Muslims fast for a month during Ramadan. Since they stay awake during the nights they do not work effectively on most of the days. Muslims brew coffee in their ancestors' names and pray for them but they do not believe that they have any power.

4.2. Socioeconomic characteristics of survey respondents

Socioeconomic characteristics of survey respondents are measured on educational background, annual household asset ownership, household gender division of labor and access to infrastructures and social services. These issues are also considered in the qualitative survey questions check list.

4.3 Educational level of respondents

Table 4.3 educational level of respondents

Educational level	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	249	78.3
Non formal education	39	12.3
1-4 grade	17	5.3
5-8 grade	13	4.1
Total	318	100.0

Responses obtained on educational background of survey respondents, Out of the total 318 respondents 249(78.3%) are illiterate, 39 (12.3%) have non-formal basic education, 17 (5.3%) have formal first cycle academic education (grade 1-4) and 13 (4.1%) have second cycle (grade 5-8) level academic education. Survey findings on educational status of respondents reflects high illiteracy rate among women in the study area.

4.4 The concept land in Gurage culture

Qualitatively as data collected about concept of land in Gurage, Land is a scarce resource among the Gurage. For the majority of peasant's enset fields, together with a small amount of grazing land, is the only homestead land available. A very small group of households owning more land

may cultivate tef, barley and wheat. Because of the small size of land holdings, farmers do not have separate plots for particular crops. Consequently, each farming activity is performed for all the crops on the same field. Most of the crops grown are perennial. However, in the small rainy season farmers practice intercropping of maize, tomato, cabbage, green pepper and tobacco with immature enset and coffee.

4.5 Beliefs and Values about land

4.5.1 Beliefs

According to the respondents land is not ceremonially blessed to increase yield and there is no association of land with ancestor worship. Men used to be buried in the enset field but that is no longer the case. Land is the personal responsibility of the Gurage and success depends on rational decision-making.

4.5.2 Community Values

As respondents responded that self-sufficiency is prized and people are not afraid of hard work. Land is their most cherished possession and they will fight amongst themselves and against outsiders to retain their land and their independence. Gurage men are unwilling to discuss their household expenditures, family budget, earned income, or any matter concerning finance that they assume might be used for the purpose of levying taxes.

4.6. Women access to land

4.6.1. Land Ownership

According to respondents, in Gurage society land is under the control and the name of men. Even though women can own land in towns of Gurage zone, the land is permanently given to men and owned by men. If someone has five children and four of them are girls, his land passed to the only one boy. In contrast, if a father has five children and four of them are boys, at the end of his life the land would be distributed to his four sons. Women leave their parents' houses to join the family of their husbands, who have the rights to share the land of their fathers. Due to the traditional and cultural law that allows land to be owned by men, some people who fail to have a baby boy from their wives may marry a second wife. In case of this the first wife who failed to have a baby boy usually does not make any effort to stop her husband from marrying another

wife. If the man succeeds in having a baby boy from his second wife and the husband himself passed earlier, the first wife who is mother of only girls has the right to stay at her land. If the same woman has also passed earlier her daughters stay at the place until they get married. These girls cannot bring their husbands to this land, rather they go to their husband's land and the land ownership passes to the son of the man who is born from the second wife. Women face very hard time when they are divorced due to different reasons. If her parents are still alive a divorced woman will return to her parent's house and stay there until she gets a second husband. If her parents are not alive the divorced woman faces the hardest time in her life, because mostly her brothers who owned the land of her parents and their wives do not give her the care she needs. There are also cases that show as there are young men who left their birth place to big towns and abroad and girls who left the same house due to marriage. In this condition, if the parents passed away, the land will be registered by the name of the boys who are living in big towns or abroad. Even though the women are living in nearer village to the house of their parents, the priority of land ownership right will not come to them. Due to such rules men will own the house and will bring landless peasants to farm the land and live for free. They come whenever they want and will take the fruit of the land. A Guragie woman owns land only when her husband proposes divorce after she stayed long with him and has children. The article on the customary law says: If husband and wife have stayed long establishing family and capital, and if the husband proposed divorce to which the wife responded negatively, the wife have the right to stay at her place owning the land and the husband can leave the house and establish a new house in another place (GPSDO, 1991: 28).

4.7. The Position of Guragie woman in the society

4.7.1. Challenges on Economic freedom

As respondents given information on positions of women they said that in the Guragie society the major financial issues are controlled by men. Unless the man is morally good person, he does not discuss with his wife about financial issues. There are very limited conditions in which Guragie society grants financial freedom to women. Since the life of Guragie society is based on agriculture. When this sector is affected by the environmental crisis, women become highly vulnerable to the impact. "Agriculture has shifted into two sectors: the cash mediated masculine sector and the subsistence-oriented feminine sector."

(Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy. 2009)The capital of the family, (the grains, trees, cattle and other domestic animals) is financially under the control of the man (husband). Whenever he wants to repair the house, he cuts down some of the trees in his compound. He uses some of the trees and graces construction of house and the rest are used for the laborers and his leisure time spending. The husband also has the right to sell some of the domestic animals for the purpose he planned and use some of the money for his leisure.

A Guragie woman also has some ways through which she makes money. The usual way of making money for Guragie women is making traditional household materials and filtering local alcohol drink (Arekie). They sell the materials in market places and the Arekie in their houses. The money that they get from this transaction is under their own control. Women spend their money to buy coffee and kitchen material. While Guragie men use some of their income for their personal leisure time, women have no even experience of spending leisure time. They spend all their income for the purpose of their house needs. Even in some modern Guragie family life women neither know the budget of their home nor decide on important financial issues. Some husbands give some amount of money to their wife every month for the spending of the household. In some Guragie families women get only the daily expense from their husbands. This kind of spending is a challenge to the life of many modern Guragie families.

Now days there are constructions in different Guragie towns. Men work as workers and gain additional income. But they spend it without the consent of their wives. On the other hand women find it hard to take part in the construction work and earn some additional money, because they have a lot of responsibilities at home.

4.7.2. Social acceptance and participation on social issues

According respondents the social acceptance of women in Guragie society they are less accepted than men. The society gives more respect to men than to women. Important societal issues such as social legislations, land dispute cases, and conflict resolutions are taken by masculine elders of the society. Criticizing such culture Charlotte Witt writes:“Being a man and being a woman are social positions with bifurcated social norms that cluster around the engendering function. To be a woman is to be recognized as having a body that plays one role in the engendering function; women conceive and bear. To be a man is to be recognized as having a body that plays another role in the engendering function; men beget.” (Charlotte, 2011: 40)

Women are allowed to establish a kind of self-help organizations among themselves. Usually they have a coffee ceremony every day, rotating in the neighborhood houses. During the coffee ceremony they discuss their own issues. Some of the issues are about the behavior of their children, their plan for market, if there is someone who needs their visit and help and their duty to be done at farmlands. This activity reminds us of what De Beauvoir said, “In some circumstances women help one another, discuss their social problems, each creating for the others a kind of protecting nest; and what they do and say is genuine. (De Beauvoir, 1956: 519)

Guragie women also make saving during their coffee ceremony. The saving is not only in cash, but also some times in kind (Butter). This kind of saving is done usually before the celebration of Meskel festival. Whenever there is special concern in the house of one of the women, the Guragie women help each other when someone passes away, when there is spiritual festivity and wedding ceremony. Guragie women help each other by sharing work duty, money and material resources. The material contribution includes bringing coffee for the guests and donating and borrowing kitchen items.

During the time of condolence, Guragie women are very active in taking care of the guests. Responsibilities are entrusted to women who are the neighbors of the woman who has lost a family member or a relative that has lost member of relative. They take their meal to the family and eat together. They also make the rotating coffee ceremony permanent in the house of that family for a couple of some weeks.

If a conflict appears between neighboring women, the first mediation to resolve the conflict is done by the elderly women among the fellow neighbors. The respect and title of being senior is given to the women who early joined that village and to the wives of the most respected men of the village. The above women are always respected in the society. In coffee ceremony they are respected by having the first cup of coffee. When there is an issue to be discussed by the women of the village mostly the discussion is held at the place of these senior women and they are the leaders of the meeting. A Guragie woman is honored by a title *Ajyet*⁷, *Etet*⁸ ... that gives her more respect in the society. If a woman is honored with such respectful title, she is considered to be the figure of the village and when she dies; her burial ceremony takes place in special way.

4.8 Benefits of men and women from land

4.8.1 Women access to key economic resources

As respondents information given women access to key economic resources in particular, the accessibility of women to key economic resources such as land and other economic and income generating activities remain far behind. Even though, the government tried to empower women by promoting the right of women on owning properties and the right to make decision on the economic and income generating activities equal to men, at local level, social courts and community elders had not been aware to bring the necessary change in attitude towards the reality. Similarly, the local level political leaders and other officials do not have enough information and have less knowledge to implement and interpret laws that have been promulgated by the government. But women were not utilizing these opportunities because of their illiteracy and each of exposure to information to resist men's dominance, social bias and traditional norms

4.8.2 Access to agricultural inputs

Qualitative information obtained on access to other agricultural inputs such as labor, fertilizer, selected seeds, credit facilities etc. from rural women on focus group discussions reflected that FHHs have less access to agricultural inputs. Rural women asserted that FHHs do not get information on when inputs are distributed to farmers in their Kebeles. FHHs mentioned that they usually buy fertilizer from markets which is a disadvantage to them because Kebeles sell fertilizer at subsidized price and on credit basis. FHHs mentioned that they do not use fertilizer when they can't afford and they explained that they get fewer yields when they farm without fertilizer because, their land produces fewer yields without fertilizer. Women disclosed that agricultural inputs such as selected seeds are distributed to male farmers only. Provision of such inputs is based on good track records on high yield per hectare.

Findings reflect that FHHs has limited access to agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, this is constraint as they couldn't make proper use of the input. Women's access to credit services is also limited in the study area. Literatures reflect that availability of credit services is essential to rural women as it could be used to fulfill agricultural input needs. In short of these inputs FHHs, particularly gain less benefits from their farm lands and this make them vulnerable to poverty.

Literatures reflect women's access to land doesn't make certain that they gain benefit out of it. Women have to get access to agricultural inputs to make proper use of their lands. Lack of access to agricultural inputs, the farming system and women's economic status affect their benefits from agricultural land.

4.9. The existing view or perspective about women access to land

4.9.1 Home management

According respondents there are views or perspectives which affects women access to land. In Guragie society the manager of the house is woman. But her house management is always dependent on the budget she gets from her husband. The House of Guragie society has five separate parts. These are a place for fire, place for domestic animals, place for meal, place to sleep and stair to collect fire woods and other materials. All the above mentioned places need the management of the woman. The woman decorates the wall of the house using colored mud and different handmade decorations. She also hangs beautiful cultural souvenirs and dining materials. The fire place must always be clean and filled with under ash fire. Whenever the husband brings fire wood the woman is responsible to store the fire wood in proper place. The other major responsibility that Gurgie woman carries is to milk the cows every morning and keep the place of the domestic animals clean. While doing her cleaning job, a Guragie woman does not use modern materials that can protect her from hygienic problems. In addition to cleaning, the woman is also responsible for fetching water, washing clothes of the family members and cooking meals for all family members. In some cases a Guragie woman would fall under psychological stress, because the budget she gets from her husband and the materials she gets from their garden are not enough for the demand of their family members. Due to this budget gap women work very hard to make kitchen and other household materials for sale in order to fill the budget gap with the money she gets from this. Young Guragie girls are also active to help their mothers in running house management. They usually fetch water, clean the house and kitchen. They also do cooking based on their age and maturity. For the annual Meskel festival the effort of the Guragie women is even more serious than it has been over the rest of the months. The house must be cleaned better than it was in the past. The traditional table materials should be cleaned and set as ready for use. She is supposed to have more cooking materials in

her kitchen box. In Guragie society the cleanness or the uncleanness of a house is the major point to judge whether the woman is wise, hard working or careless.

4.10 Gender Roles

Qualitatively as respondents informed both men and women have been playing a significant role in the development of agricultural production. The role and the contribution of both male and female, in the agricultural activities, is not necessarily the same. Women are engaged in a wide variety of economic activities including the construction of houses, land cultivating, harvesting, and food storage and marketing. Women do not plough agricultural land. Rather, they assist their husbands in supportive tasks except harvesting. They feed their husbands, fetch water to men and livestock during agricultural field work, help men during threshing and make grain seeds ready for sowing.

4.11 Factors Affecting Women Access to Land

There are a number of factors that affect women access to land. Demographic factors (like age of women and number and characteristics of children in the family), economic factors (such as the size of the farm land and access to key factors of production), and the sociocultural factors (such as attitudes toward women access to land and culturally ascribed roles of women). These factors are briefly discussed subsequently;

4.11.1 Demographic factors

According to respondents qualitatively gathered data indicate there are demographic factors include a multitude of interrelated issues that affect women access to land. Since women productive roles are undertaken side by side with household maintenance tasks and reproductive roles, their farm participation is constrained by the time requirement for such tasks and roles. It is documented in many literature that most of women time is spent in strenuous and tiresome domestic chores and other reproductive roles like child bearing and rearing (Yaekob, 2011). The women work in their houses is fundamental to the survival of their families although remains unremunerated. Some household jobs must be done every day, for example cooking, fetching water, collecting firewood or cleaning; some are done occasionally like washing, preparing local drinks or grinding just to mention a few. These family responsibilities as factor affecting women access to land.

4.11.2 Economic factors

As informed the other determinant factor affecting women access to land was related to their access to and control over key factors of production. It is revealed in many studies that most women are active actors in agricultural production. And hence their relation to factors of production such as land, agricultural inputs, labor and services like agricultural extension and credit is a critical factor in their inability to access land and generate income for themselves and their families (Boserup, 1970). However, their access to these resources is limited. The recognition of the household through males (husbands) is one major factor usually cited for such limited access to resources.

4.11.3 Sociocultural factors

Qualitatively as respondents responded the cultural factors are the most proximate determinants factor that affects women access to land. Women have a subordinate status while men feel that women work is marginal/subsidiary to what men do and consider it as wifely duty rather than work. Similarly, women as well as men consider that men are responsible to perform heavy and important tasks and they therefore are in charge of every privilege in the household. On the other hand, women are believed to engage in less important works as a result they enjoy less privilege. This is so believed in spite the lack of a parameter that measures a given work to level it as either heavy or important.

4.11.4 Political factor

According respondents above all factors there are political factors as headmen and elders often meet to make economic and political decisions. Economic assemblies are often called to discuss the formation of work parties, the distribution of market goods, and sale of cash crops. Political assemblies are less frequent; they may be called by any adult male in the village or the headman. The village men participate in the discussions and make decisions which are executed by elders. A favorite past-time is debating actual and unreal situations for the sake of discussion. Women meet rarely as group apart from when working and attending kin/religious ceremonies restricted to women.

CHAPTER FIVE

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

Women land rights issue has gained focus in the gender discourse and is considered as mechanism for enhancing women empowerment at household and community levels. However, land tenure discourse is lagging behind in ensuring women access to and control over land. Land tenure systems have not yet challenged gender power relations which have major impacts on land tenure relations. This study indicates clear gender differences in access to and control over rural land in Buchach Kebele. Literature reviewed in this study reflected women access to and control over land has positive impacts on household food supply, household income and family welfare. Above all women equal access to land enable them to gain higher status in households and in communities. In spite of substantial global advancements and policy considerations in women equal rights, their equal right to land is not ensured in most settings. Achievement is even less in ensuring women's access to land.

Rural land administration system should pay attention to gender power relations in households and communities. Because it affects women's involvement in community activities including decision-making and their access to and control over agricultural resources. Therefore gender aspect of rural land policy as well as its implementation should consider gender power relations, particularly interred-household gender power relations to ensure women equal access to land.

5.2 Recommendations

This study clearly points out existence of gender disparity in access to land in Buchach 01 Kebele. Contributing factors to women inequalities need to be addressed effectively to ensure women's access to and control over land in the study area. This can be achieved by reviewing the regional rural land policy, establishing autonomous land administration institution, mainstreaming gender in the land administration system, carrying out advocacy and awareness creation activities on women land rights, establishing strong women organizations, initiating women involvement in community activities and decision-making, introducing female friendly plough technology and by carrying out further research in the subject area. Recommendations are

to be implemented by the regional government, development organizations, research institutes, donors, NGOs, CSOs, CBOs and local communities.

Reviewing regional rural land policy: Gaps within the policy and between policy and implementation made evident in this study should be addressed by issuing rural land policy that explicitly focuses on region specific socioeconomic issues. This will avoid ambiguities and enhance better understanding and interpretation of the law. Therefore, the current rural land policy should be revised in a gender sensitive manner to address existing gaps and factors that retarded women equal access to and control over land.

Establishing autonomous land administration institution: Existence of governance structures and local institutions is necessary to carry out women land related activities.

Therefore land administration institutions should be established at kebele levels to translate policy commitments on women equal land rights to reality.

Mainstreaming gender in the land administration system: Gender mainstreaming strategy should be applied in the land administration system in order to address women specific needs, to initiate their equal participation in the process and to ensure women equal benefit from the system.

Carrying out advocacy and awareness creation programmers: Promoting women equal access to land requires addressing socioeconomic issues particularly customs and traditions that affect realization of women equal rights to land. Therefore, land administration system should design strategies to address these issues through advocacy and awareness creation programmer to change community attitudes and practices. Thus rural women should be initiated to organize and struggle for their equal landholding and administering rights.

Further research: Researches on region specific rural land issue will help to point out problems on women land rights. Therefore, in depth research on women access to and control over land should be carried out to come up with sound implications on the regional rural land policy and its implementation.

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APPENDIX
WOLKITEUNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Questionnaire

Dear respondents first of all I would like to thank for your willingness to give valuable information to the following question. The main objective of this questionnaire is to assess the impact of gender based division of labor on the socioeconomic status of women in Wolkite Town.

Notice: - information given here kept confidential

Direction 1:- for your answer you should tick (x) sign on the space provided.

Writing name and address is not necessary.

Section1:- Demographic related questionnaires

1. Age.....

2. Marital status: A. Single B. married C. Divorced D. widowed

3. Educational level of the respondent: A. illiterate B. 1-4 grade

B. 5-8 grade C. 9-12 grade D. diploma E. degree

F. MA degree and above

Section 2:- Questions related gender roles in rural land access of women

1. In your area is there are gender roles in women access to land?

A. Yes B. No

2. If your answer is yes for question 1, what are gender roles undertaken in women access of land?

3. Is there are gender roles supports in decision making on case of women access to land?

A. Yes. B. No

4. If your answer yes to question 3, what are supports they give in decision making of women access to land?

Section 3:- Questions related to factors affecting women equal access to land.

1. Is there are economical factors affecting women equal access to land?

A. Yes B. No

2. If your answer is yes to question 1, what are the economic factors affecting women equal access to land?

3. Is there are cultural factors affecting women equal access to land?

A. Yes. B. No

4. If your answer is yes to question 3, what are the cultural factors affecting women equal access to land?

5. Is there are social factors affecting women equal access to land?

A. Yes. B. No

6. If your answer is yes to question 5, what are social factors affecting women equal access to land?

7. Is there are political factors affecting women equal access to land?

A. Yes B. No

8. If your answer is yes to question 7, what are the political factors affecting women equal access to land?

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Section 4:- Questions related to impact of land access on women life

1. Is there are views or perspective impacts of land access on women life?

A. Yes. B. No

2. If your answer is yes to question 1, what are views or perspectives impacts of land access on women life?

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3. Is there are land administration process have impacts of land access on women life?

A. Yes. B. No

4. If your answer is yes to question 3, what are the land administrative process have impacts of land access on women life?

5. Is there are customary laws and practices impacts of land access on women life?

A. Yes. B. No

6. If your answer is yes to question 5, what are customary laws and practices impacts of land access on women life? -----

Section 5:- Interviews for key informants

1. What is land in Gurage culture and how does it explain?
2. What values and views exist about land in Gurage culture?
3. Who is the owner of land in Gurage culture from genders? Why?
4. What is the women position or share of land in Gurage culture? Why?
5. What are the main benefits of men and women from land?
6. What differences are there about land use benefits between men and women? Why?
7. Does the existing land perspective or view affect women to access land? Why?
8. What possibilities exist in Gurage culture that might improve women access to land?
9. What do you suggest to improve women land access in Gurage culture?
10. What are gender roles in rural land access of women?
11. What are the impacts of land access on women life?
12. What are factors affecting women equal access to land?
13. What are your land administrative roles in women equal access to land?
14. What are socio cultural factors affecting women equal access to land?