

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES



*A SENIOR ESSAY SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES
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IN CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES.*

**TITLE; THE ROLE OF AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITES;
IN CASE OF SHASHOGO WOREDA.**

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JUNE, 2019

WOLKITE , ETHIOPIA

DECLARATION

we, undersigned, declare that this senior thesis essay is our original work that has not been presented by any institution or by any individual and that all of its sources are dually acknowledged.

Name of student _____

Signature _____

Date_____

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study was to assess the women role and their participation in political activities in case of shashogo woreda. The qualitative method was used to attain the objective of the study. There are 36 kebeles in shashogo woreda. However, the research focused on two kebeles, because of shortage of time, shortage of money and the study of the research area was far. Respondents were selected through simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. The gathered data were analyzed, summarized and presented qualitatively. The study revealed that women participation have important role in political activities.

Acronym

CEDAW.....convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women.

CSA.....Central statistical Agency.

ENE.....European Network of Expertise.

EPRDE.....Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front.

FDRE.....Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

IPU.....Inter-Parliamentary Union.

NEBE....National Electoral Board of Ethiopia

UNDESA and UNECA...united National Department of Economics and Social Affairs and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

WAO.....Women Affairs Office.

WWW.....World Wide Website

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CHAPTER ONE

1 . INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Women's participation in politics is importance not only for women's empowerment, but also it has wider impacts on developments of a given country. According to the (Moore,.2000) the barriers against women attaining high political positions was so strong in the past decades that most scholars attributed their relative absence from political spectrum to what are thought to be immutable difference between sexes. Some believed that this is women's nature that is, they are assumed to possess emotional and cognitive attributed differences from those of men; other believes that they are socialized to assume subordinates role in society. Few predicted that there would be a time when women would be leading players on the political stages of modern societies.(Ibid)

The current women's movement has built on fuller understanding of the limit of previous strategies. Being both broader and more specific in its demand for equal rights, the women's movement of the last century promoted unprecedented female participation at all level of public life. The call for equality has included specific agendas for judicial and legislative action. Women have combined new levels of participation with the responsibility of leadership even infields marked as exclusively masculine as recently fifty years ago (Free man et al ,2001).

Indeed, few scholars who analyzed women in management or in the political process turned

their activities as voters and as supporters of political parties. Although many women's are now prepared to lead, their potential constituents have not been acculturated to the nation for female leader (Moore, et al, 2000).

However, despite the wide spread movement towards democratization, in most countries, women are largely underrepresented at most level of government. Especially in ministerial and other executive bodies. Globally, women now hold only 10 percent of the members of legislative bodies and the lower percentage of ministerial position (UNDESA AND UNECA, 2007).

In Africa, in recent years women 's political participation has increased however, there still exists a gender disparity between men and women's level of political participation (Sirleaf,2010).It is noted that the share of parliamentary seats held by women increased from 7 percent in 1990 to 17 percent in 2007 and 20.4%in 2011,which is more than the global average (IPU 2012).The increased in political participation is as result of constitutional quotas written in to law and requiring that a certain percentage of political position to be occupied by women.(potter's,2009).

Ethiopian peoples, revolutionary democracy front (EPRDF) come to power by overthrowing the military rule in 1991.In 1995, a new constitution was promulgated formally established the country on a federal basis with a federal government at the center and nine regional states. Furthermore, Article 25 of FDRE constitution guaranty all persons equality before the law and prohibits any discrimination on grounds of gender (FDRE Constitution 1995).Article 35 of FDRE Constitution provides equal opportunity for women to participation in decision making process by giving to them the right to vote and be elected. The historical legacy of in equality and discrimination suffered by women in Ethiopia taken in to account women, in order to remedy this legacy, are entitled to Affirmative measures. The purposes of such measures shall be to provide special attention to women so as to enable them to compete and participate on the basis of equality with men in political, social and economic life as well as in public and private institution (FDRE Constitution, 1995 Art.35 (3)).

More specifically, FDRE Constitution states that:

. Women shall, in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by this constitution, have equal right with men. Women have the right to full consultation in the formulation of national development policies, the designing and execution of projects and particularly in the case projects affecting the interests of women (FDRE Constitution, 1995 Art, 35).

Ethiopia's constitution and national policies are consistent with international legal instruments on gender equality, including the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW); the most comprehensive treaty on women human rights, which came into force in 1981, has been ratified or acceded to by 165 States worldwide. (Shimelis, 2015).

However, women have an important role of participating in political activities. In addition to this finding on this study would have to give awareness to different women in Shashogo Woreda. It helps women to know having the role in political activities. Therefore, the researchers would have focused on women's role and their participation in political activity, in case of Shashogo Woreda, Hadiya zone, SNNPRs.

1.2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Even though gender equality is one of the normative foundations of modern democracy and a main development goal promoted by the United Nations, women are still markedly underrepresented in politics. As of June 2014, only 23.3 percent of the members in single or lower houses of 190 parliaments around the world were women (Stockemer and Tremblay, 2015).

With the intention of improving the political participation of women and their representation, the ruling Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) party introduced a voluntary party quota in 2004. The quota system reserves 30% of the candidacies in the party

list for women. Shaffo (2010), claim that after the introduction of the quote the participation of women in the national Parliament has increased. The present age of women representation in the national legislative has grown from 7.6% in the election held in 2000 to 38.8% in the election of 2025.

Crook and manor (1998) cited in mahamadu (2010) argue that local politics has been traditionally dominated by men and specially those who are wealthy and educated. Women in Ethiopia have been alienated from the economic education system consequently affecting their ability and motivation to participation in politics.

In shashogo woreda, most women's are illiterate and has different traditional, cultural and religious barriers which restrict them not to be active participant in the political issue,(Ato Lophiso M,2011). And also the researchers would have describes why women political participation is influenced by traditional, culturally, and religious barrier.

According to (AbrhamDereje,2016) on progress made in the implementation of various influences all women's has triple nonviolence challenges against women active political participation, that is lack of education, the representation participation leadership and decision making position.

There is the problem of critical assessment on the enhancement of women's role and their participation in the political activities in shashogo woreda. Thus, the researchers tried to full fill this gap by assessing women political participation in shashogo woreda. Therefore, the researchers motivated to conduct a research in women political participation in shashogo woreda.

The aim of researchers is to know about the role of women in participating in political activities in shashogo woreda. No research has been done document this issue. It is with this in mind that the study has been design to fill the gap. Therefore, this research aim to identify in what level there is a role of women's participation in political activities in shashogo woreda.

In this study the researchers would have attempt to conduct the comprehensive study by using the place disparity as a gap. The study will be focus particularly on identifying the role of women's on political participation in shashogo woreda. Accordingly, this research has been conducted to investigate and answer the following main research objective and research questions:

1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.3.1. GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this study was to assess the women's role and their participation in political activities in shashogo woreda.

1.3.2. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To assess the level of women's political participation in the shashogo woreda.
- To assess the influence of traditional, cultural and religious barriers that restricts role of women in political participation in shashogo woreda.
- To assess the benefits of women's political participation in shashogo woreda.

1.4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- In what level there is women's political participation in the shashogo woreda?
- What are a traditional, cultural and religious barrier that restricts the role of women in political participation in shashogo woreda?
- What are the benefits of women's political participation in shashogo woreda?

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study would have a numbers of benefits for different individuals and organization after its completion. Mainly this study would provide constructive information to the shashogo woreda regarding to women's role and their participation in political activities. It provides good understanding on political participation and use as a facilitating tool for conducted in equal political participation between women and men. Add new ideas in the existing knowledge of the researchers. It would have use as reference material for people who would

be interests to conduct a research in the future. Generally, the study may create public awareness about women's role and their participation in political activities having understand to provide solution.

1.6. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study would have conducted in Hadiya zone in case of shashogo woreda with focus to assess women's role and their participation in political activities but not economic activities and others. The study would have conducted from 2010 E.C up to 2011EC . Moreover, the target population of this study are women and men those who are work in different government office of shashogo woreda.

1.7. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

In doing this research the researchers faced many problems among those problems the major are as follows: Unavailability of written materials which deals with shashogo woreda administration, Involuntariness of persons whom addressed to answer the question, Lack of experience on conducting research on the side of researcher but the researcher can strength his performance, by the help of our advisor he can pass so many challenges and successfully write the study. And finally shortage of material, time and finance.

1.8. ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The research paper was organized in to different five chapters .The first chapter deal about introduction, the second chapter talks about the review of related literature, the third chapter explains the methodology of the study, the fourth chapter deals about finding and data analysis, and the chapter five deals with the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.

2.1. WHAT IS POLITICAL PARTICIPATION?

Political participation was the involvement of the individual at various levels in the political system. It was affording citizen in a democracy an opportunity to communicate information to government officials about this concern and preference and to put pressure on them to respond. It means that in any Democratic system citizens have the right to express their views and attitudes forwards almost everything happening in the public sphere or concerning their own interest in a way that government officials known this and respond (verba,1995).

According to uhlener (2001) cited in lempiranou, (2013) there was no universally accepted definition of political participation. For Huntington and Nelson (1976), for instance, political participation is an activity by private citizen designed to influence government decision making. Similarly, Nice and verb, (1972 cited in haven't et.al1999) defined it as "legal activities by individuals that where directly aimed at influencing the choice of governmental personal and the actions they take' this two definitions focused on the objectives of the political participation which was influencing the selection of government official and their decision makings.

Diemer (2012, cited in Lamprianov, 2013) referred political participation as an "engagement with traditional mechanism in the political system, such voting in elections and joining

political participations". Similarly, Riley et Al. (2010, cited in Lamprianou, 2013) approached political participation as an engagement and asserted that it has traditionally been thought of as a set of rights and duties that involve formally organized civic and political activities (e.g. Voting or joining a political party).

2.2. BACKGROUND OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Political participation of women means the involvement of the women in the community whether socially, economically, politically in active way without any obstacle. But according to the context of the research, participation emphasis on politically, i.e. in election, in policy formation, in decision making and so on. In any given state, women political participation usually defined in both on broad socially, economic and, cultural factors and on the electoral as and political system, particularly the rules governing political parties (<http://www, Answers, Com/topic/political participation>).

Women have combined new levels of participation with the responsibility of leadership even in fields marked as exclusively masculine as recently fifty years ago (Freeman, 2001). Undead, few scholars who analyzed women in management or in the political process turned their activities voters and as supports of political parties. Although many women where now prepared to lead, their potential constitutes have not been actuated to the notion for female leader (Moore et al, 2000).

At the fourth world conference on the women in Beijing in 1995, governments emphasized that, "Women equal participation in political leaders and decision making in not only a demand for justice or democracy, but can also be seen as a necessary condition for women's interests to be taken in to account." However, despite the widespread movement towards democratization, in most countries, women were largely under represented at most levels of government. Especially in ministerial and other executive bodies, they have made little progresses in attaining political power in legislative bodies. Globally, women now hold only 10% of the members of legislative positions (UNDESA and UNECA, 2007).

2.3 LEVEL OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

There where the three levels of political participation of women. Those are individual group and system levels.

2.3.1 INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

This level affects women political participation at the individual level. These are the resources motivation level of education, the level of empowerment, custom and tradition, family back ground marital status and age. Most of this level has been used by other researchers to explain the political participation of women (see, mahamed, 2010 and Thinley et al. 2014).

Kabeer's (2001) process of empowerment puts resource at the first stage of women empowerment. Verba et al, (1999) and Norris (1995, cited in Negiz, 2012) also stressed on the impact of resource on women's political participation. Women in Ethiopia have been excluded from owning resources that affects their capacity to organizing, mobilizing and transforming themselves into leadership roles that may have affected their political participation. However, having resource is not enough for women to participate in politics. They need the motivation to participate too.

Material status has also its influence on women's political participation; especially at local level family background is also essential for the participation of women. Women who come from educated and well to do families may have the motivation and the capacity to participate in politics. Marriage is also another variable. Traditionally married women have more responsibility then single women. This responsibility may put pressure on their participation. Finally, age can be a factor even though older peoples are expected to have both resource and experience to participate in politics (Quintelier, 2007), it may not be the case when it come to women in Ethiopia.

2.3.2 GROUP LEVEL

This level is related to membership to groups or organization which serves as a network recruitment through which citizens are mobilized to politics. Membership to political parties and other social organizations are paramount for political participation. They help to develop experience, network and support. Mahamdu,(2010) showed that membership to organizations (either social ,religious, cultural and political) was a very influential factors which help candidate's to secure their appointments or elections.

Both Norris and Varba et.al (1999) also considered a membership to a political party as an important step for recruitment as a candidate for political office. Similarly, kabeer (2001) argues empowerment at an immediate level occurs based on how individuals and groups perceive their interest and capacity to act. Therefore, formulation and articulation of group interests are vital for women empowerment. The adoption of multiparty system in Ethiopia resulted in a proliferation of political parties operating both at National and local levels. There are also different social organizations working in a multitude of issues.

2.3.3 SYSTEM LEVEL

This level is affects the political participation of women at the higher level. They can be rules, policies, or programs. In this level the electoral system, party system, quota system and affirmative action identified as system level. The electoral system is all about how elections are conducted. Ethiopia follows “first _past the Post” or simple majority system under which the candidates who receives more votes than any competitors with in a consistency is declared as a winner (NEBE, 2010).

Even though Shafo (2010) argue that the electoral system has less influence on the political participation of women in Ethiopia at the national level because of its nature, the researcher's believes it has strong influence at the local level. According to critical mass theory, women have a Behring on the content and quality of decision making and political deliberation only after their proportion reach 30%(Kanter, 1977 and Dahlerup, 1988, cited in Holli, 2012). If women secure the quote adopted by the party, it will enable them to become critical masses gradually and influence the decision making process in the local governments subsequently.

2.4 POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BARRIERS ON WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

The custom and tradition are also the important factors affecting women political participation. Shvedova (2005) and sabbagh(2005) demonstrated that custom and tradition had been an obstacle for women political participation for instance, sabbagh (2005) argues that " social norms and attitude's that eulogized women's role in the private sphere while creating barriers to their participation in the public one remain a substantial obstacle in the Arab World". The custom and tradition of the society in Ethiopia also do not encourage women to participate in the public sphere openly. Religious norms support this custom and tradition to put pressure on women's participation.

However, the more women are educated; they develop the capacity to stand for themselves. There is a close association between educational attainment and political participation (Berinsky and lenz, 2010).

2.5 BENEFITS OF WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN POLITICS

With a view to the role of women in politics, plenty researches have proved that "Women are critical to economic development, active civil society, and good governance, especially in developing countries". And a variety of researches suggest that accordingly the benefits to women are the greatest, when aids focused on improving their education, their control over resource and their political voice.

Rivas (2012) argues that women can be more careful for the relationship and have higher standards of ethics, implying that women are more willing to sacrifice private benefits for the public. Besides, women are more risk averse than men, leading them less corrupt since corruption can be regarded as risky activity. Women attach great importance to the quality of

contact between people and are less individualistic than men. (ENE, 1997). Focusing on Asia, Panday (2008) mentioned that women's participation in Parliament certainly has a positive impact on the character of Asian Parliaments and make public policies create a more peaceful, productive and less corrupt societies.

Another advantage which is widely proved is that the presence of more women in Parliaments brings better governance. Women's participation in politics can facilitate democracy, not only because it improves their civil rights and helps them speak out their interest, but also because powerful women tend to make different policy choices from their male counterparts, which are beneficial to the local distribution of public resources and the development. When a woman is in charge, they invest more in infrastructure which matches the need of women in order to cover the imbalance of women resulting from the past ignorance of women (Coleman, 2004).

Other interesting findings about the role of female parliamentarians are how they are able to promote female representation in Parliament. Intuitively, senior women Representatives by putting forward a lot of female supportive policies, for example, they can facilitate gender equality when the parties make a decision of the candidates submitted to voters (Kuno vich and Paxton, 2007). Moreover, active women political activities have undoubtedly succeeded in creating a more open political environment for women (Chappell, 2002). And Reingold (2000) stated that female legislators are much more likely to make laws beneficial to females interest.

The fact that women's career and promotion are facilitated with each other is widely noticed too. Mansbridge (1999) argues that social groups (including women) tend to elect individuals who have similar background to them even if the candidate may have some different perspectives and interests from them. It is believed that women in the office are supposed to create and increase opportunities for the career of other women (Cornfield, 1989). A study in law organization provides this facilitation too.

CHAPTER THREE

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. DISCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Shashogo is one of the woreda's in the southern Nation, Nationalities and peoples' region of the Ethiopia, part of the Hadiya zone. Shashogo is bordered on the south by the kambata Tembaro zone, on the west by Lemo woreda, on the North West by Analemo woreda, on the North east by the Silte zone, and on the South east by Halaba special woreda.

Based on the 2007 census conducted by the CSA, this woreda has a total population of 103,722, from whom 52,435 are male and 51,287 are women; 8,219 or 7.92% of its population are urban dwellers. The majority of the inhabitants were protestants, with 51.96% of the populations are following that belief, 42.48% were Muslims, and 4.96% practiced Ethiopian orthodox Christianity.

3.2. SAMPLE AND SAMPLING

3.2.1. TARGET POPULATION

The target population of the study would be purposively conduct on the men and women in the two selected kebele's of the shashogo woreda and other professional public servant officials , this is because the researchers believed that those people have better knowledge and information concerning the issue of the study.

3.2.2. SAMPLING SIZE

The researchers were used only interview in the study, because to collect data through face to face communication with respondents. Therefore the respondents included in the study would be select a person as sample by assuming that when the researchers were used small sampling size, because the shortage of time and cost. In order to select sample size the researchers would select the sample size from the shashogo woreda thirty six (36) kebeles) selected two (2) kebeles (suta and golicho boyo kebeles). From selected two kebeles the researchers selected ten (10) respondents equally from both kebeles, and women affair officers and kebele administrators for interview from those selected kebeles.

3.2.3. SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

In this study, the researchers were used purposive sampling techniques from non-probability sampling ; these is because , purposive sampling techniques requires the experience and knowledge of the respondents for interview in order to collect deep and reliable information with area under study . The researchers also would have used simple random sampling from probability sampling techniques; this is because in simple random sampling technique every members of the population has known and equal chance of being selected.

3.3. RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study the researchers used two types of research design. Firstly, the researchers used cross sectional or one shot study design, because they need to make only one contact with study population. Here the intention of the researchers was to assess the women's role and their participation in political activity in shashogo woreda. Secondly, the researchers would also have used case study; Because of the appropriateness of the methods to study the women's role and their participation in the political activity in the study area. It helps to collect detailed information for the specific issue and by using the study area to generalize the same issue on other area in shashogo woreda.

3.4. SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION

In this study the researchers used both primary and secondary source of data. The primary was collected from kebeles officials, women and male respondents, and women's affairs offices in selected kebele by interview. Secondary data was collected from relevant books, both published and unpublished journals, and different articles reports.

3.5. INSTRUMENTS AND METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION.

In this study the researchers would have used only one data gathering tool or only used interview.

3.5.1. INTERVIEWS

In this study, the researchers would have used the interview to collect data through face to face communication with respondents. The interviewees was conduct with kebele administration office, women's affairs office and other respondents.

3.6. DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES.

In this study researchers would have used only qualitative data analyzing method. Qualitative data was analyzed by using direct interpretation of participant's words from the interview.

CHAPTER FOUR

4. DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with data analysis presentation and interpretation of collected data on the women role and their participation in the political activities. The section comprises of the main findings that are obtained from the focus area of the study. The result and discussion were mainly based on the responses of the residents of the woreda, women affairs officials and kebele administration. As stated in methodology part from all 36 kebeles of the "woreda" 2 kebeles are selected and from this two kebeles 10 respondents taken as sample. To collect the data the researchers used only interview as data collection method. For interview; women affairs office in kebeles, kebeles administration bureaus and others two kebeles respondents selected by random sampling.

4.1. ANALYSIS OF DATA OBTAINED FROM INTERVIEW

4.1.1. THE LEVEL OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Based on the data obtained from the respondents, the level of women's political participation in different political activities expressed that, key "10" respondents express their views toward the level of women's political participation whether low, medium or high. From those all respondents, 2 respondents for our interview question replied that women's political participation is low, 3 respondents replied that women's political participation is high, and 5 respondents replied that women's political participation is medium. We try to conclude by standing from the respondents view about interview question, the women's political participation is at medium level.

According to the kebele administration office, replied that the women's political participation is increasing from time to time, but not reach high level. They participate at every level in the

kebele that includes as member of political parties, holding political office in the kebele, on meeting and public gathering, holding positions in governmental organization, in decision making process of the kebele, as a leadership of the kebele of elect and to be elected in the kebele office's

4.1.2. INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS BARRIERS THAT RESTRICTS THE ROLE OF WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

Based on the data obtained from respondents, the majority numbers of respondents said that in shashogo community's culture tend to restrict women not to be active participant in political arena. Regarding to this, the majority of the respondents explained that these cultural perceptions do not encourage women at all to actively participate in politics.

The culture determines the role of men and women differently. Women are encouraged to play subsidiary roles since their place is in the kitchen and give a chance to men to work out of home this includes in decision making process, attending meeting and taking administration position. As data collected from respondents of some religious leader of men and women said that, religion as one of the barriers which restricts them not to be active participant. The most religious power and authority is believed to divinely belong to men hence subjugating women. They showed for us the biblical words; for example:-"let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. "(1 Timothy 2:11-12). Thus, the study result show that the community of shashogo woreda already accept the above reality.

According to the kebeles women affairs office, replied that both cultural and religious barriers still now affect the roles of women participating in political activities at the shashogo woreda. Therefore, still today women not equally participate with men in political activities like decision making process, attending on meeting and taking administration position.

Based on the data obtained from the kebele administration office, the kebeles administration replied that, women have equal role with men in every political activity. Politically, women legally equal and full right with men to participate in political activities, like as expressed in FDRE constitution, article 35. Depending on the FDRE constitution, art 35, shashogo woreda gives equal chance for women like as men and encourages a woman to actively participate in political activities. Thus, the study result shows that a political barrier does not affect the roles of woman participating in political activities in shashogo woreda actively.

Therefore, generally the study result shows that, in shashogo woreda there is cultural and religious barriers that affect the roles of woman participation in political activities. But political barriers does not more affect the roles of women participation in political activities like decision making process, attending on meeting and taking administration position.

4.1.3. BENEFITS OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

Based on the data obtained from kebeles administration office and other key respondents, there are many benefits of women participation in political activities, those are:- Women's political participation in political activities leads the positive change in the social and cultural perception of woman's capacity. Increase the public trust in the political system. The presence of woman in political office, both elected and appointed, can increase the political systems legitimacy and thus public confidence in the political system. Expands the pool of women willing to run public office. Help to combat gender-based stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes. Contributes to socio-economic development. Promotes better understanding of gender equality issue in society. Changes the perception of society and political stake holders regarding women's capacities. Eliminate gender based discrimination in political activities. Advocate the gender equality in political office. Electing greater proportion of women to political position can deepen democracy and encourage civic engagement in the general population.

4.1.4. THE CHALLENGES THAT AFFECTS THE ROLE OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

According to the data collected from kebeles administration office, there are several challenges that affect women's political participation in shashogo woreda. Those are:-Low attitude of society towards women. Inequality of job access with men.Societal negative perception and low attitude towards woman. There is gender based violence and socio-cultural discrimination.The work load of women such as cooking, fetching water, collecting fair wood, carrying for children and other domestic activities.The traditional belief of the society and their view (consideration) passed from generation to generation. For example:- "SET WODE MAJET- WOND WODE CHILLOT," "SET YE WOLEDE GEHENEM WOREDE," "SET SIBEZA GOMEN TENEZA," "SET YAMENE GUM YEZEGENE," etc are among other things that deteriorate the majority of woman.

4.1.5 EXPECTED FROM THE COMMUNITY AND CONCERNED BODIES TO ENCOURAGE WOMAN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

Based on information gathered from women affairs office the community gives encouragements are the followings:- giving recognition for the equality of women and men in all spheres of politics. Giving moral supports for women's to participate in politics. Bringing women's in to all necessary political process like decision making, implementation in elections through building their political capacity by giving various training and development instruments. Improving society awareness towards women's political participation. To establish women's affairs office from federal up to low level of kebele. Encouragement to participate in different political and governmental meeting. Giving various training opportunities to make them able to decide, implement and to be elected various forms has been prepared for women to make self reliant and to be able to stand by themselves. Women's performs basic activities and under take some strategies to empower themselves in political participation and improve their life in all aspects.

4.1.6 THE CURRENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

Based on the data obtained from the women affairs office, the current status political participation of women to be increasing and changing from time to time. The respondents have given different reason such as good policy the government that initiates and encourage women's participation and giving them legitimate right to ensure the equality of men and women through increasing the rate of education.

Based on the key informant respondents women get special support through affirmative action policies implemented the woreda administration to empower them in political decision making activities. Such support encourages women to participate in administrative political activities and participate in different meetings.

4.1.7 THE RESPONSIBLE BODY TO IMPROVE WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.

The result obtained from kebeles administration office by interview show that, every citizen, public and private organizations, government and women themselves are the responsible body to enhance political participation of women. The other information obtained from women affairs office said that, government should create favorable condition for the participation of women in political decision making. In addition, government has a heavy burden in creating awareness for the community by using these different means about equality and the ability of women.

CHAPTER FIVE

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSION

It has been indicated that women's equitable participation in politics is an essential elements of democracy. Alike most of developing countries, in Ethiopia women's have almost low share in the political arena. This is because of different factor affect them. The main factors

are cultural, traditional and religious.

A woman's used to be considered as incapable to make political decision in the culture of male dominated society. As long as women are in the culture of numerous challenges because of their sex, they are not allowed to exercise their right in equality with men. The gender gaps in political participation will not just slip way unless practical measures are taken to eliminate the obstacles and to enhance women political participation.

In shashogo woreda the political participation of women is medium because of different factor they are facing. As this study indicated that the main factor which are restricted women not to have active participation in the political issue are cultural and religious factors. Such restraints make difficult looking actively participant women in different political sectors and make every decision making positions controlled by male.

To mitigate those factors and to make women actively participate in the political issue creating conducive environment for women in every circumstance is very important. Unless, it's very difficult to think fast and all inclusive development.

5.2 Recommendation

From the finding, the researcher reaches to forward the following recommendation:

The government should take measure to implement the right of women's participate in politics which has already ensured in the constitution. Taking practical measure is a necessary to improve women's political participation. In this regard the government, the community at large and women themselves should be committed. There should be awareness creation through training and education as practical step to increase women's political participation. The formal and informal education should incorporate concept like political right and responsibility of the citizen, civil and related concept by linking it with reality of the daily life. In this regard especial attention should be given for women since the marginalized in the societies. Although changing discriminatory attitude and cultural view is changing unreserved effort is needed to improve women's participation in politics. Women's capacity building programs should be strengthened and continued to enhance political participation of women's. The government and concern bodies should provide economic support subside to make women economical independent that further let women sensitive to politics. There should be full political community in order to nature political

participation of women. Generally, the government, the community and other concerned bodies' needed to exert further effort to make society and women more committed with regard to women's political participation.

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APPENDIX

WOLKITE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF OTHER SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF CIVICS AND ETHICAL STUDIES

Letter of Permission for the Interview

Dear Participants!

The main purpose of this interview is to investigate the women's role and their participation in political activities in case of Hadiya zone; shashogo woreda ,for partial fulfilment of requirements for obtaining Bachelor's in Civics and ethical Studies . The information that collects from this interview is very important to the study. The researchers sincerely request you to give important information in this interview. Since it is secretly has been protected you should have explain your idea freely and precisely.

Leading Questions for the Interview

- 1.In what level there is the women's role and their participation in the political activities in shashogo woreda?
- 2.what are political,cultural and religious barriers that restricts the women's role and their participation in political activities in shashogo woreda?
- 3.what are the benefits of women participating in political activities in shashogo woreda?
- 4.what are the challenges that affect women political participation in shashogo woreda?
- 5.what is expected from community and concerned bodies to increase women political participation in shashogo woreda?
- 6.what is the current status of women in political participation in shashogo woreda?
- 7.whom do you think the responsible body to improve women political participation in shashogo wor

