



***WOLKITE UNIVERSITY***

**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT  
OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION:  
CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS-THE CASE OF GURAGE ZONE  
ABESHIGE WOREDA.**

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## **ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYM**

CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of all form of Discrimination against Women
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic republic of Ethiopia
GZCT	Gurage zone culture and tourism
ICCPR	International Covenant on civil and political right
IDAA	International Institution and assistance
MOWA	Ministry of women's Affair
NGO	Non-Governmental organization
PR	proportional representation
SSA	Sub Sahara Africa
UDRH	Universal declaration of human right
UN	United Nation

## ABSTRACT

*Political participation is a basic democratic right that is constitutionally guaranteed for all citizens in a democratic state. In contrary, political participation of women in Abeshige Woreda is low; particularly in leadership position there number is very few in comparison to their population. The purpose of this study was to investigate the current major challenges that hindered women from active political participation especially from leadership position. To meet these objectives the necessary primary data and secondary data were collected. The primary data were obtained through questionnaires and interviews while the secondary data were collected from documents, reports, charts and graphs. The study used 63 respondents of total populations which are purposively selected from four Kebeles that were members of women league. The collected data analyzed by descriptive statistics such as tables, percentages and simple statements. The findings of the study showed that the major challenges of women's political participation were the socio-cultural factors, such as lack of help from spouses in domestic activities, lack of motivation from their colleagues and relatives and lack of recognition for women's political ability, gender norm, low attitude of women towards politics, religious influence, and weakness of women league organization. Women have had a good opportunities and legal grounds to participate in politics. Through using these prospects they gained a number of benefits. Some of the possible strategies which help to overcome and mitigate the challenges of women political participation were strengthening women organizations, making the appointment of leader for women offices based on merit, giving immediate and proper response for women problems, creating in-depth and practical awareness for the society. Moreover, introducing new technologies that reduce the heavy workloads of women at home, giving proper recognition and opportunities for women political participation, providing supports for women organizations, commitment of policy implementers are some of the solutions that speed up the political participation of women*

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## **CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In many part of the world, women are either excluded or marginalized portion of society as compared to their men counterparts. Prior empirical findings pertaining to women political participation in Ethiopia also showed this reality as elsewhere. Even it had been claimed that democracy ( in the city state version of it ) had its birth in the ancient Greek city-Athena in 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C; the Athenian women had no right to be a leader or participate in the democratic process. Moreover, they were not considered as citizen of the city state (Brouk, 2004:81).

After the establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 there is an increasing recognition among international community of women's historic exclusion from political participation. In order to enhance the political participation of women across the globe, the UN has adapted several instruments recognizing women's equal right to participation in politics. Of which, the most notables were : the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) , International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

In Africa countries women have lacked an enough space in both political participation and leadership position. Although most of the constitutions and laws in African countries and elsewhere recognize the right of women for equality in political arena, it couldn't be implemented on the ground as stipulated by legislations (Abdo, and Abegaz, 2009).

The Government of Ethiopia has indicated its commitment to the empowerment of women with the announcement of the National Policy on Women in 1993 which referred as Women's policy and promulgated new constitution in 1995 with due attention to women on article. To implement the formulated policy and to exercise the constitutional rights of women; the government currently introduced new structures at different level. These are Women Association, Women League, and Women Federation (Ogato, 2013).

The basic challenges of Ethiopian women in political participation are inadequate focus to the issue in implementation process due to lack of commitment and political will by the leader and the few women who are on influential position lack the commitment to fight for issue of gender equality. Moreover, the women affair offices not having power to challenge discriminatory policies, and proper implementation of stated law, low societal perception about leadership ability of women, and women's low economic status, which makes women to lose confidence (Preliminary Gender Profile of Ethiopia,2014 and Ministry of Women Affair,2006).

Currently the government gave high emphasis for the empowerment of women in the political arena. However, the political participation of women particularly in leadership is lower than men in the study area. For instance, in the study area, Abeshge woreda, the ratio of women leaders in top position is 2:21 and total percentage of women in leadership position is not more than 20% percent. But, numbers of women institution are there to foster the participation of women. These are women's league, women's association and women's federation including Women's Affair Office. Despite the establishment of those organizations, substantial changes have not been realized concerning women's participation in politics, thus, this situation initiated as to study this topic to explore the challenges, which constrained women from active political participation in the study area.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Even though gender equality is one of the normative foundations of modern democracy and a main developmental goal promoted by the United Nations, women are still markedly underrepresented in politics. As of June 2014, only 22.3 percent of the members in single or lower houses of 190 parliaments around the world were women. Experiences from many countries show that, in comparison with men, women are constrained by factors such as culture and tradition, religion, political turmoil, violence, money, workloads and lack of opportunities from taking part in politics. However, equal participation of women in decision making is a demand of democracy and a precondition to incorporating their interest in the decisions made for inclusive development (Stockemer and Tremblay, 2015).

Today, the Ethiopian government is struggling to build a democratic system all over the country. In particular, the country follows an all- inclusive approach in its endeavor to build the democratization process. The participation of women in the democratization process is important

not only to implement the principle of democracy but also to ensure inclusiveness of the development. To ensure the inclusiveness of the democratization process and political participation of women, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) government is taking different measures that enable women to have access to equal and active participation in political realm. The measures began from constitutionally legalizing affirmative action for women. Moreover, the government continued in establishing organizations such as Women League, Women Association and Women Federation that helps to build their capacity and foster their political participation at grassroots level.

Despite the establishment of these organizations up to Kebele levels, substantial changes have not been achieved concerning women's participation in political leadership (cabinet). The current statistics of Abeshige woreda shows that women's participation in leadership position is too low. For instance, in the Woreda, the ratio of women leader (cadre) on top positions (head of a sector) is 2:21 and the ratio of women in middle (deputy head of a sector) positions is 9:21 i.e. out of the twenty three top positions in the Woreda only two are headed by women. In addition, out of thirty middle positions nine women are assigned as deputy head of a sector. Totally, from 53 political positions, only eleven (20%) women are assigned to lead sectors in both top and middle political position. Surprisingly, those two women who are assigned as head sector are not member of the core cabinet (Astebabari), which decides on every matter of the woreda. This implies that the political pool is not that much open to include women in key issues.

There is very little evidence-based research or scholarly work on women political participation at local level which Abeshige Woreda is one. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to assess the challenges that constrained women from full political participation in the study area and the prospects they have to participate fully and actively.

### **1.3 Objective of the study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objectives the study**

The general objective of this study is to assess challenging factors for women's political participation in the public spheres; while pinpointing some possible prospects / viewpoints in the case of Abeshge woreda of Gurage zone Administrations.

### **1.3.2 The Specific Objective of the Study**

- To explore challenges (to be) faced by women in their political participation in the study area.
- To identify the role of women's organization in enhancing the political participation of women at the local level.
- To forward possible recommendations enhancing women political participation in the study area.

### **1.4 Research questions**

- What are the challenges faced by women / facing women in their political participation in the study area?
- What are the roles of women's organization in the study area in enhancing women's political participation at the gross root level?

### **1.5 Significance of the Problem**

This study will be beneficial in providing substantial contribution. To begin with, it helps by rendering relevant knowledge about those challenging factors hindering women from active political participation, which is specific to the study area. Besides, it will highlight theoretical and empirical rationales behind the participation of women in politics in general and the public sphere politics in particular. Furthermore, the findings could serve as secondary source of data for other researchers when dealing with similar and related topics. Last but not least, the study will help to increase awareness about women participation in politics, while equally encouraging them.

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

In Abeshige Woreda, there have been twenty-six kebeles and three urban administrations. However, from these, this study only delimited to four kebeles which was purposively selected by the researchers. Furthermore, the members of Women League in the selected kebeles, heads of Women League, Women Affair Office and the chairperson of Women Federation and Women Association are included in the study as they are highly concerned bodies and have responsibility to increase the political participation of women. The study conducted focusing on the challenges and prospects of women's political participation in Abeshige woreda.

### **1.7 Limitation of the study**

The study may be faced by different factors like, misunderstanding of questions by respondent, shortage of budget, unavailability of written material related to study, some interviewer may be not interested to give information about the study. Moreover, lack of internet access and other limitation to conduct this study. However, researchers by used planed properly and alleviate problem and manage them

### **1.8 Organization of the study**

The study organized into five chapters. The first chapter discussed the background of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the study. The second chapter deals with literature. The third chapter deals with methodology, research design, sample and sample techniques, source of data, and method of data collection and instrument. The fourth chapter deals about data analysis and interpretation. The lastly, chapter studied about summary of finding, conclusion and recommendation.

## CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### 2.1. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

**Participation:** - this refers to the act of taking with others in some activity. This can be in social, economic or political spheres of life.

**Political participation:** - for this research political participation refers to involvement in political activities and action. It is the involvement of women in political affairs of the country ranging from taking active part in all political activities such as attending Public meeting and conferences, party campaigns and party election, voters & leadership.

**Women's political participation:** Refers to women's ability to participate equally with men at all stage and in all aspects of political life and decision making process.

Different writers give different definition for political participation. Among these styabata (2001; 365) define by saying it is a process of taking part of in politics is an activities in the social process. Some individual are active in politics they may join in political parties; and take part in electoral canvassing band propaganda. Others may join pressure group with the aim of advancing particular demands still others may choose to make politics as their carried and stand for public office. Some others in contrast may appear to abstain completely from political activity refusing event vote (Kahdar, M., 2013)

Women are slightly more than half of the world population their contribution for social and economic development of societies also more than half of as compared to that of men by virtue of their dual roles in productive and reproductive sphere (Medhanit and Sofaint 2009:113). On the other hand women's political participation refers to the active involvement engagements by individual both women and men with political process that affect their lives. The act of active engagement includes voting stand for office joining of political party or to take part the political campaigns of the political parties and to exert influence in the decision making process through public debate and dialogue with the representatives they elected or throe their capacity to organize themselves (seyedeh N Hasnita Kand Hossein A 2010).

Political participation is understood as a request for political development hence by improving women's political participation give that they constitute over a half of the world population may help to advance of political development and improve the quality of women's lives. In fact without the active participation of women's and perspective at all

levels of decision making the goals of equality development and peace can't be achieved (Shvedova N; 2002).

Political participation is the manifestation of democracy and allow for diversity of opinion and participation of both women and men can't thrive by excluding the women folk that constitute half of the world's population without equal participation of women's to political process the hope for democracy and democratization is non sense(Damilola T;2010)

political participation is involvement of individual at various levels on the political system political activity may range from non-involving to office holding .It is also important to stress that participation may result in motivation for increased participation including holding various type of office which involves the process of political recruitment (jc,johar,2006:30)

## **2.2 Over view of gender equality and women's empowerment efforts in Ethiopia**

FAO (1997) affirms that a national policy on Ethiopian women has been formulated to address women's strategic gender needs through improving their access to resources and their decision making power. Ethiopian has developed national constitution to protect the fundamental rights of women and their interest of access and control over resource. Accordingly, Ethiopian women are entitled to remedial and affirmative measure to enable them to compete and participate based on equality with men in political, economic and social life (FDRE con).

### **2.2.1 Policy practices on economic empowerment of women in Ethiopia**

Economic empowerment has to do with access to resources and is key to women because their subordinate position is entrenchment in their level of access to and control over resources (Ogata, 2013). The basic reason why women must be economically empowered is the fact that they constitute the majority of the world's poor. The situation is more practical in SSA and Ethiopia. For instance, female headed households in SSA are poorer than those headed by males and rural women face the most challenges (Ruzvidzo, 2007).

### **2.2.2 Policy practices of legal empowerment of women in Ethiopia**

According to Ogata (2013), on macro-political level most governing bodies are dominated by men and legislative and judicial decisions often lack a gender perspective and do not represent women's interests. Ruzvidzo (2007) encourages governments to strengthen legal frameworks that promote the rights of women and domesticate all international and regional instruments on women's rights. This is to mean that after ratification, all conventions are supposed to be implemented. This means that formulating law and domesticating conventions are not enough to enhance women's legal protection, it need real implementation or exercise up to the local level.

### **2.2.3 Policy practices of political empowerment of women's in Ethiopia**

Political empowerment involves the rights and abilities of people to participate as equals in decision making processes (Ogato, 2013). One important approach to supporting women's empowerment is the promotion of the participation of women's in informal politics, alongside support to broad programs of democratization and good governance with a strong focus on developing civil society (Baden and Oxaal, 1997).

According to the situation analysis report of MOWA (2006) for the national action plan for gender equality women's status in the political and public sectors is low in Ethiopia. The political and decision making positions of women in Ethiopia is characterized as follow (MoWA, 2006): No indication that a well thought policy, program or action, to increase the number of women at decision making and leadership position exists, the constitutional commitment of the government to grant affirmative action has not be translated in to concrete action all level, the number of elected representatives is still low, women are underrepresented in middle and higher management positions, the number of women leaders and decision makers at various level of decentralized government structure is still low & the election law is not gender responsive.

## **2.3 Feminist Political Theory**

### **2.3.1 Women's Rights Theorists**

The women involved in the movement for women's rights began, for the most part, as part of the international movement to abolish slavery. They organized under many political banners and religious affiliations, and sought equal political rights with men, in particular the right to vote. They countered cultural norms of women as weak, irrational and unable to participate in politics.

Arguing forcefully against the cult of domesticity, they argued that women did not have a special nature, suited to home and hearth, but were rather entitled to the civil and political rights of all. Members of the suffrage movement worked internationally and locally for women's political rights, rights to divorce, rights to inheritance, rights to matriculate into colleges and universities, etc.(Wiley Blackwell, 2011)

### **2.3.2 Radical Feminism**

Radical feminists argue that at the heart of women's oppression is male domination, which is pervasive. Male domination is built into the conceptual and social architecture of modern patriarchal societies. Men dominate women not just through violence and exclusion but also through language. Radical feminists seek to identify and institutions based on domination and provide the tools for simultaneously critiquing and recreating relationships and cultural forms not based on domination. The strongest forms of radical feminism argue that there can be no reform, but only recreation of the notions of family, partnership, and childrearing, and that to do so in a way that preserves women's dignity requires the creation of women-only spaces (ibid)

### **2.3.3 Black Feminism**

Black feminists argued that white feminist theorists were comprehensively excluding the experience of women of color and working women from their movement and from their political analyses. Black feminists and others argued that feminist theory needed to analyze race along with class and gender to understand the different ways in which women were oppressed and exploited. (ibid)

### **2.3.4 Socialist feminism**

Socialist feminists begin with a class analysis and argue that the fundamental force of masculine domination is economic. There are as many varieties of socialist feminism as there are socialist theories, but they range from the somewhat superficial analogy between the domination of the working class by capitalists to the domination and exploitation of women by men to the highly sophisticated examination of the workings of gender in economic policy. Socialist feminists have offered powerful theoretical arguments exposing women's economic, political, and emotional exploitation as part of a broader analysis of class and of the effects of capitalism. (ibid)

## 2.4 The challenges of women's political participation

In Ethiopia, women are more underrepresented in political participation, administration, decision making and position. There are a number of factors that can impede women's participation in politics.

### 2.4.1 Socioeconomic Factor

#### 2.4.1.1 Cultural Influence

In the long history of Ethiopia only male has a legitimacy to be a king. The patriarchal order totally exclude women from any kind of political participation. Only man has the right to the throne. Traditionally, Ethiopian culture is based on the concept of patriarchy and is manifested by male rule. The patriarchy as a system of male domination shapes women's relationship in politics. It constructs the hierarchy of gender relations where men are privileged and women are subordinated.

Historically, however, women are known to exert political influence indirectly through their husbands and their kinsmen. There is a legend like Tiaytu Bitul (Ralka 2004). Similarly, in Gurage Zone there was a legend woman who bravely fought for the cultural independence of women in all aspects. The woman was known as Yeqaqe wordot, lived around Muher Akilil before 120-150 years ago. She struggled for the right and equality of women before the three waves of feminism movement began in Europe and America. Yeqaqe wordot practically exercised all of the forbidden rights of women up to establishing women's Yejoka shengo (GZCT office, 2014). Proverbs have great role to transfer one society culture norm and attitude from generation to generation. Let us see the following proverbs to observe how women in the Ethiopia society are stereotyped and all reflected low social status of women such as:-

A. The "Women force is tongue" women's power relies on their talk. It undermines women's knowledge and decision making capability by stating that women are not strong.

B. The "mirror and women is at home" women should not be exposed to the public. This implies that women are personally property and exposing women to the public is unethical.

C. "Women's are not honest" women are not honest /mean those who depend on women are totally lost. It is a sort of warning to people that women are not fit for any responsibility.

The above mention proverbs are among those proverbs which undermine women's in different aspect that results have low participation of women in leadership position.

#### ***2.4.1.2 Gender Roles***

The family is the main institution of patriarchy literally it is the “role of the father” more broadly; it refers to a society ruled & dominated by men over women Therefore, the family plays an important role in maintaining this patriarchal order across generation. Also described that stereotyped customary expectations & role norms create socialization & internalization of gender roles. Thus women become feminine by learning the female role. Agbalajobi, 2010

#### ***2.4.1.3 Women’s Conception of Politics***

According to Agbalajobi, 2010 women wrongly belief that men possess the superiority strength, competitiveness, self-reliant & are prepared to tussle in political endeavor, whereas women are considered too passive to engage in politics & governance. This consensus is also constructed by societal norms & values which through socialization has defined different gender roles according to biological difference.

#### ***2.4.1.4 Financial Factor***

Women’s historical experience of discrimination put them at disadvantage economically; political campaigns are expensive and require solid financial backing for successes. Over the years, sexual division of labor and job opportunities offered on sex basis has given main productive gender role enabling them to possess more purchasing power over female counter parts. As a result, women political aspiration has been grossly hampered by lack of financial bedrock to subsist their endeavor. Women's are highly faced great challenge related with financial because in most part in Ethiopia women's are not head of communities .In Ethiopia poverty places a heavy burden on women's who are denied to access to and control over financial resources but must proportionally shoulder house hold management .at this point most Ethiopian women's are totally depend on the income of their husband .This is directly or indirectly affect political system of country even it diminishes the willingness of women's take part in politics(Sente,2009;94).

#### ***2.4.1.5 Religious factor/Doctrine/***

Christianity portrays Eve as after through produced form Adam’s spare rib. Furthermore, it is held that the origin of gender discrimination began form their sins.

The holy Bible also command women to be subject to their husbands just as church is subject to Christ (Holly Bible, 1962).

The Islamic doctrines also strictly prohibited women from political endeavor, public speaking & standing on stage that can facilitate their political ambition. Therefore, the religious doctrine of both of the dominate religion impose a psychological influence & mental defeat to politics.

#### ***2.4.1.6 Individual Factors***

Individual factors affect the extent to which individuals characterized factor in political participation .Most women's for various reason are not as such motivate to hold public office ,lack of competitiveness, lower expansion for political office and women's themselves are less interested in political activities .

### **2.4.2 Political factors**

#### ***2.4.2.1 Political parties***

According to the final report of the expert group meeting (2005) structure & organization of political parties can be an obstacle to the participation of women. The different types of parties organizations& their internal culture affects the influence of women within the parties. Political parties are the major “gate keepers” in determining who will be candidates in elected office. Through, in the process of candidate selection women face a number of obstacles. Men are often viewed as more viable & better candidates. Additionally, the pool from which political parties search for candidates tends to be dominated by men.

#### ***2.4.2.2 Electoral system***

Electoral system had direct impact on women’s participation in decision making bodies. Research consistently shows the women’s representation is highest in countries using proportional representation (PR) system than majoritarian system (Narris, 2004;Siaroff, 2000; Moser, 2001).

The Ethiopian electoral system is simple majoritarian system. This system allows the nomination of only one candidate per districts & parties overwhelmingly choose a male candidate aiming to be a winner. Thus, this system seriously affects the participation of women.

#### ***2.4.2.3 Lack of motivation from other***

According to the final report of the expert group meeting (2005) even when women possess the characteristics that make them a good candidate, they often lack motivation and encouragement from friends of both sexes to forwards to become candidates. As a result, women refrain form to be a candidate seeing them-selves as lacking the skill necessary to perform well in politics.

#### ***2.4.2.4 The Nature of politics***

This is an important factor for the inclusion and exclusion of women's participation in political position .Ethiopian women's have tendency to perceive politics as a man’s world ,a domain exclusively constituted by and for men .In order to promote the participation of women's at politics the nature of politics should be read jested that the participation of women's as needed most of the time Ethiopian political system is not as such condensate to attract women's to over all engagement on politics .In short term Ethiopian politics is not create favorable condition for the participation of women's on political sphere (sente,2009:74)

#### ***2.4.2.5 Ethiopian women's lesser access to education***

since majority of the people is located around rural side of the country ,it is not possible to expand education easily within a short period of time .In many parts of Ethiopians educational institutions the proportion of men and women on the education needs high improvement to give emphasis for women's engagement on education (Berouk 2004:94)

### **2.5 Mechanism for increasing women’s political participation**

#### **Quotas**

Quotas defined as mandatory percentage of women’s candidates for public elections. The application of quotas is a key to increase representation of women in political participation. The real push for quotas came in the 1990s with the introduction of quotas in Argentina in 1991 & the adoption of the Beijing platform for Action at the UN’s the fourth world conference on women in 1995. It was noted that quotas have been an effective tool to increase women’s access to represent in decision making position (International IDEA).

#### **Women’s organizations**

According to UN Women's organization constitutes a nurturing for women's political participation in variety of ways. They have been key for the mobilization of women to engage in informal policy-related activities. Women's organizations are an important stepping-stone for entire in to formal politics. Working in Women's organizations, Women have been able to cultivate their political, social & personal power & have develop leadership skills, experience & confidence to venture in to formal politics. To do so the Ethiopian government introduced a number of women organization to fight against all existing discriminatory practice & problems faced by the Ethiopian women & for the achievements of good governance

Again these are women association, women league and women federation. Each of them has nine, five and seven committee respectively. The first two have their own members but federation have no member instead it uses the members of both women league and women association.

Other factors which increase women's intentions to politics include:

1. Building a coalition of NGo's and grassroots women associations that coordinates the support and advocacy for women aspirants.
2. Enabling environment that allows for women to engage in decision making presences in sustainable and effective way free form political harassment's and violence.
3. Establishing legal founds to enable women politicians challenge electoral malpractice.
4. Support network and prospective role models: through the identification of aspirants and pairing them with established women politicians, playing mentoring a role and providing capacity building training to young or aspiring female politicians.

## **2.6 Woman's rights to participate in politics as a Human Right**

With the increasing recognition among international community women's historic exclusion from structure of power, a global community has been made a number of legal frameworks and conventions to redress gender imbalance in politics (Medanitand & Sofanit, 2009). These are:

### **2.6.1. International instrument**

United nation declaration on human right under article 21 recognized that the right of every ones including both women and men to take part in the government directly or indirectly through their freely chosen representatives.

#### **CEDAW**

CEDAW elaborate the nature of women's political rights and steps required to promote greater equality between women and men in political area.

#### **Beijing plat form for Action**

This principal international action plan on women's rights, contain a section on women in power and decision making, states that women empowerment and autonomy in socioeconomic and political status through using affirmative action and quota system.

#### **ICCPR**

Article 25 of ICCPR guarantees all citizens of state parties to the convention to take part in the conduct of public affairs without discrimination on the ground of sex. The provision further assures all citizens, women as well as men to vote & to be elected at genuine public election.

### **2.6.2. National instruments**

The FDRE constitution like other democratic constitutions in the world, guarantee women's equal right with men on article 34, 35 and 38. Again the constitution legalizes all international and regional convection ratified by Ethiopia as one parts of the constitution. Not only the constitution & international convention signed by Ethiopia but also the current government introduced national policy of women, established Ministry of women Affairs form federal up to Woreda, the establishment of different women organization shows the greatest emphasis women get in the current political system of the country ( MoWA,1998).

## **CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES**

This chapter contains two major sections. The first section presents issues related with the description of the study area, such as location, population, economic activities; while the second describes the methodology, which includes the selection of the study site, research design, sample size and sampling techniques, sources of data, tools of data collection, and methods of data analysis will discussed.

### **3.1 Description of the Study Area**

#### **Location and Size**

Abeshige woreda is one of the 13 Woreda that are found in Gurage Zone. It lies between 8013'N-8028'N latitudes and 37029'E-37053' longitude. It is located 155 kilometers southwest of Addis Ababa and 419 kilometers from Hawassa, the capital city of SNNPR. The total area of the woreda is 389.99 square Kilometers. The woreda is divided into 26 kebele administrations and three town administrations, namely Darge, Walega and Nach Kulit. The Woreda is bordered in the south by the Wabe River that separates it from Cheha woreda; in the west and north by the Oromiya region, and in the east by Kebena Woreda (Abeshige Woreda Administration (AWA), 2019).

#### **Population**

According to the 2014, Population projection value (CSA, 2014) the total population of the study area is estimated 69,184. Out of this total population, 36,588 are male while 32,596 are female. The growth rate of the population is estimated 2.9% per annual and the crude population density is 177 people per square kilometers. The majority of the population worship Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity with 50.8% of the population, whereas the 31.96% are Muslims; 15.82% are protestant and 1.28% is Catholic Christian. The woreda constitute different ethnic groups namely Gurage, Kembata, Amhara, Oromo & others. The majority of the population of the Woreda speaks Guragigna as their first language; additionally the population of the Woreda speaks Amharic, Kemebatigna and Oromifa. The vast majority of the population(97%) live in rural areas and lead the livelihood by crop production and animal rearing; while the remaining (3%) is living in urban area involving in trade activities (AWA, 2019).

## **Economic activities**

Mixed farming is the major economic activity for the majority population of the Woreda. The agro-climate condition of the region is favorable for growing of diversified types of crops and rearing different species of animals. In addition to this, small proportion of the population is engaged in non-agricultural activities like trade.

Agriculture has a major role in the economy of the majority population of the Woreda. It is an activity by which most of the inhabitants depends on to make a living. Crop production mainly depends on rain fed. The common crops grown in the Woreda are Maize, Millet and Sorghum, Teff. Enset is staple crop which grown widely in eastern part of the Woreda. The main livestock population of the Woreda includes cattle, goats, chicken and pack animals (ibid.).

## **3.2. Research Design**

The research design employed in this study was descriptive. Both quantitative and qualitative data type was used. And the primary data was gathered using questionnaire while the qualitative data gathered by interview.

### **3.2.1 Qualitative Method**

Qualitative research deals with some quality or a certain occurrence which is relating with quality. Qualitative study provides relevant explanation in order to develop new concepts on the study. The main concern of qualitative study is to collect, integrate and present relevant data from several sources in order to include them in the given study area (Kothari, 2004). These data were collected from the open ended questionnaires.

### **3.2.2 Quantitative Data**

Quantitative research is concerned with phenomena which can be expressed in quantity (Kothari, 2004). Moreover, quantitative approach is used to fill the information gap on the data collection process. We collected these data by the closed- ended questionnaires.

## **3.3. Data Sources**

Data sources are sources which include primary and secondary data. Primary data are data which are gathered for the first time by the researchers him/herself. Primary data include Survey questionnaire, interview and other different firsthand information obtained from sources (Kothari, 2004).

Whereas, secondary data are data which already existed before the researchers found them. These data are created, collected or gathered by some other person. Secondary data include a range of documents, publication of governments, research studies, technical journals, books, and various publications (ibid.). Therefore, the researchers employed both primary and secondary data sources. In this study the researchers used questionnaire and interview to access primary data from the sample women in the study area. The secondary sources included different books for assessing theories and principle on the related topic, internal publications and journal, different documents of Abeshige Woreda Administration and Women League offices were analyzed.

### **3.4. Data Collection methods/ Tools**

Data is the most relevant item for any research. Hence, in order to get the relevant data for the study there must be tools which are important to gather the primary and secondary data. This study primarily used Survey questionnaire, key informant interview, and Document analysis as its data collection tools.

#### **3.4.1 Survey Questionnaire**

The questionnaire is quite popular method of data collection tool to obtain primary information from large sample within limited cost and time (Kothari, 2004). Thus, the questionnaire used in the study in order to obtain primary data from the members of Women League concerning factors that constrain women from active political participation. The researchers prepared questionnaires as the main data gathering tools because questionnaires are believed to be better to get large amount of data from large number of respondents relatively in short period of time with least expenditure. Close and open- ended type of questions were prepared; the close-ended prepared in the form of Likert-scale (1-strongly disagree; 2- disagree; 3-Fair; 4- agree &5-strongly agree) model for sample women and open-ended questionnaire were added to capture the opinion of the respondents on points that seek further clarification.

#### **3.4.2 Key informant Interview**

In this study, the researchers used semi-structured interview because semi-structured interview is flexible to make clear interview opinion at any time when there is ambiguity (Lankshear and Knobble, 2004). Interviews held with key informants who are purposively selected on the basis of their position that directly related with women issue, experience and knowledge about women

such, Women League, Women Affair Office and chairperson Women Association. The interview mainly applied to investigate other primary information to examine the efforts of women organizations to increase the political participation of women at grass root level.

### 3.4.3 Document Analysis

The different related literatures which have direct relation with our title were discussed and also the different documents, reports and journals at national and local level are analyzed to get supportive data to our study.

## 3.5. Sampling Techniques and Procedures

Sample is a sub-section of the population which represents the whole population. In other words, sample is a model which examines only some part of the population (Kumar, 2006). In order to achieve its objectives, the study employed purposive sampling techniques to select four sample kebeles from 29 kebeles of the woreda. The four kebeles were selected on the basis of their location and size, Nacha kulit from urban administration with manageable size of its members and Fenta, Gibe and Direlafito were taken from rural administration. The total numbers of the women league members in the selected four kebeles are 888. From the above total population 63 Sample women were taken by the following formula developed by Kothari, 2004.

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times p \times q \times N}{E^2 \times (N-1) + Z^2 \times p \times q}$$

Where N=Total Population size

Z= from confidence level

n = Sample size

q=Proportion of failure

p= Proportion of success

E= Margin of error

Given N= 888 P=0.5 q =0.5 E=0.1 Z = 1.64

Solution

$$n = \frac{(1.64)^2 \times 0.5(0.5) \times 888}{(0.1)^2 \times (888-1) + (1.64)^2 \times 0.5(0.5)}$$

$$n = 62.5724346 \approx 63$$

$$n = 63$$

$$n = 63$$

### **3.6. Data Analysis Method**

Data Analysis is the crucial stage where researchers begin to understand their findings in light of their research aims. The data collected from the participants were analyzed according to their nature. In this study, quantitative data are collected through close-ended questionnaire which were more manifested via the scaling. The qualitative data collected by interview and open-ended questionnaire which are summarized and discussed one by one.

The qualitative data generated from the interview was transcribed and translated into English and analyzed to answer the research questions. The quantitative data, from the semi-structured questionnaire are properly counted and coded, in order to describe results and inferences were made by tables and percentage.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter contains the presented data in the form of table and percentage. As indicated in preceding chapter, a total of 63 questionnaires were distributed to both women’s league members and leaders. Based on the collected data, data analysis and interpretation was made in brief describing the variable under consideration as follow:

#### 4.1 Background Information of Respondents

Table 4.1 Percentage distribution of background information of respondents

No	Items	Response	Frequency	Percentage
1	Sex	male	-	-
		female	63	100%
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>
2	Age	18-25years	19	30.2%
		26-35 years	21	33.3%
		36 -45 years	18	28.6%
		46 -55 years	5	8%
		Above56 years	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>
3	Educational Background	Junior grade(1-8)	29	46%
		High school(9-12)	21	33.34
		Diploma	6	9.52%
		Certificate	5	7.9%
		Degree	2	3.17%
		Masters	-	-
4	Marital status	Single	15	23.8%
		Married	48	76.2%
		Widowed	-	-
		Divorced	-	-
5	Family size	2-4	30	47.7%
		5-8	24	38%

		9-11	9	14.3%
		Above 12	-	-
Total			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>
6.	Occupation	House wife	21	33.3%
		Self-employed	18	28.6%
		Gov't employed	15	23.8%
		Jobless	9	14.3%
		Other	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Survey own, 2019 G.C

As it can be seen from table 4.1, the respondent (leaders and members of women's league) which is 100% were females, because there is no male members in women's league. Regarding the age of respondents, within the age range from 18-25 years there is respondents 19(30.2%) are within 26-35 years there respondents 21(33.33%), are within 36-45 years there respondents are 18(28.58%), were within 45-55 years there respondents are 3(4.76%) and there is no respondents more than 55 years. From this information we could understand most of women's league members were found between 26-35 age group who are largest in numbers within 21(33.33%) and next age group are 18-25 years which covers 19(30.2%) and there is no members within age group above 56 years.

Regarding educational level most of the respondents are educated between 1-8 grades which are 29(46%) and next are 9-12 which accounts 21(33.34%) and diploma holders accounts 6 (9.52%) and certificate 5(7.9%) and first degree 2(3.1%). However, there is no master holder in the respondents. In general this implies that most of respondent are educated.

Regarding marital status the majority of respondents are married 48(76.2%) and next are single within 15(23.8%) and there is no respondents which is widowed and divorced.

Regarding the family size there were respondents are most of them are 2-4 family members within 30(47.7%) and the next are 5-8 with in 24(38%) and least one is 9-11 within 9(14.3%).

In the same table, items 6, regarding the occupation of respondent's housewife were covered 21(33.3%) and self-employed respondents were 18(28.6%) and the government employed

respondents were 15(23.8%) and the remaining 9(14.3%) were government employed. This implies that the large percent of respondents were covered in housewife and next were self-employed. Therefore, based on this it is possible to conclude that many of the women's work on home at housewife and 18(28.6%) were replied self-government.

## 4.2 Challenge of women political participation

### 4.2.1 Socio-Cultural Factors

Table 4.2 Cultural influence in women's political participation

No.	Item	Response		
		Choice	Frequency	Percentage
1	Spouses help their wife at home performing domestic activities	Strongly disagree	30	47.6%
		Disagree	21	33.36%
		Fair	6	9.52%
		Agree	6	9.52%
		Strongly agree	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>
2	woman have motivation from their colleagues to participate in politics	Strongly disagree	24	38.098%
		Disagree	24	38.095%
		Fair	9	14.3%
		Agree	6	9.504%
		Strongly agree	-	
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>
3	Women have an ability to be a leader of you rKebele	Strongly disagree	3	4.76%
		Disagree	3	4.76%
		Fair	9	14.28%
		Agree	21	33.33%
		Strongly agree	27	42.87%
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Survey own 2019

As it is shown in table 4.2, in responds items 1, about 30(47.6%) were strongly disagree on spouses help their wife at home and 21(33.36%) were disagree and 6(9.52%) were fair and 6(9.52%) agree and there is no respondent said strongly disagree .This indicate that more of husband were don't help their wife at home .Due to this socio-cultural factor women are restricted inside the house in performing domestic activities at home and the village. As it was described in the open-ended questionnaire family influence, cultural influence, backward traditional attitudes for female and workload at home are the major predicaments that restricted women from political participation.

In the same table, items 2, about 24(38.1%) of responds answered strongly disagree on women's have motivation from their colleagues to participate in politics as well as 24(38.1%) of the respondents similarly replied disagree and the remaining 9(14.3%) were fair and 6(9.5%) were agree and there is no respondent said strongly agreed. The above analysis implies that higher percent of the respondents agreed that strongly disagree and disagree on the motivation that woman politicians get from their relatives and colleagues. This indicates that high member of women cannot motivate to each other to participate in politics instead one can weakness the other to restrain from the road of politics. As one respondents described in the open-ended part of the questionnaire "it is shame for women to participate in politics leaving her children in the house". From this we can understood that women themselves demoralize few women who have interest to take part in political life.

As shown in the above table, items 3, 3(4.76%) of respondents similarly responded that strong disagree and disagree on women's have ability to be a leader of your Kebele, 9(14.28%) of respondents answered fair. In contrary the overwhelming majority 48(76.2%) of respondents replied agree and strongly agree. From this data we can understood that large percent of respondent agreed that women have ability to be a leader of their Kebele. This shows that women have an ability to be a chairman/leader of Kebele .In addition, According to Abeshig woreda women's league head officer; most respondent replied that, I have a great ability to lead a Kebele and influence the women members to participate in politics.

#### 4.2.2. Gender Role in Women's Political Participation

Table 4.3 how gender affects women's political participation

No	Items	Response Respondent in		
		Choice	Frequency	Percentage
<b>1</b>	Gender norms affect the political participation of women	Strongly disagree	-	-
		Disagree	3	4.8 %
		Fair	12	19.04%
		Agree	30	47.65%
		Strongly agree	18	28.1%
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>2</b>	Gender makes women more active in the socialization process and male in political process.	Strongly disagree	-	-
		Disagree	6	9.52%
		Fair	6	9.52%
		Agree	30	47.63%
		Strongly agree	21	33.335%
<b>Total</b>			<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Quaternaries, 2019

According to the above table 4.3 items 1, out of the total respondents 30(47.65%) agree and 18(28.51%) were strongly agreed on gender norms has affected the political participation of women. Moreover, 12(19.04%) respondents replied fair. However, the remaining 3(4.8%) were disagreed on gender norms has affected the political participation of women and there is no respondents said strongly disagree .From the above analysis we can understood that there is higher percent of respondents replied agree and strongly agreed 48 (76.06%). This shows that gender norm highly affected women's political participation.

In same table items 2, the overwhelming majority 51(80.96%) of the respondents agreed on gender makes women more active in the socialization process and male in political process and 6(9.52%) were similarly responded fair and disagree. But, there is no respondents said strongly disagree. Based on this it is possible to conclude that gender norms makes women's more active

in socialization process and it enabled male to be active in politics. The responses of the participants of this study in the open-ended questionnaire show that gender norms affected women's political participation by blocking women to describe their opinion, protecting women from political knowledge and experience, and absence of women role model in the political arena.

#### 4.2.3. Women's Attitude of Politics

Table 4.4 what seem like women's political perception

No	Items	Response		
		Choice	Frequency	Percentage
1	Women have more interest to participate in politics	Strongly disagree	-	-
		Disagree	3	4.76%
		Fair	9	14.28%
		Agree	33	52.38%
		Strongly agree	18	28.5%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>63</b>
2	Politics is only men's job	Strongly disagree	24	38.098%
		Disagree	24	38.095%
		Fair	9	14.3%
		Agree	6	9.54%
		Strongly agree	-	
<b>Total</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	
3	Women have self- confidence to assign in higher political position	Strongly disagree	36	57.14%
		Disagree	21	33.34%
		Fair	6	9.54%
		Agree	-	-
		Strongly agree	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	

As it described in the above table, items 1, about 33(52.38%) were agree and 18(28.5%) of them strongly agree on women's were more interested to participate in politics and 9(14.28%) responded fair and the remaining 3(4.76%) were disagree and there is no respondent said strongly disagree .From this analysis we can understand that higher percent of responds were agree and strongly agree. This indicates many women's have interest to participate in politics.

In same table, items 2, out of 63 respondent the majority 48(76.2%) of them responded strongly agree and agree on politics is only job of men, 9(14.3%) were fair and the remaining 6(9.54%) were answered agree and there were no respondents said strongly agree. From the above analysis we can understand that most of respondents said agreed that in the society politics is perceived as the job of men only. Looking politics as the job of men is one of the major problem of women themselves and the community at large.

In item 3, the overwhelming majority 57(90.48%) respondents responded that strongly disagree & disagree and the remaining 9.52 % were responded fair for the item women's have self-confidence to be assigned in higher political position and there were no respondents who said agree and strongly agree. From above analysis we can understand that higher percent of respondents were strongly agreed on the lack of confidence in side of women to be assigned in politics. This lack of confidence is the aggregate outcome of the different factors which are listed in the above analysis. Particularly the society ha sno confidence on women politicians due to the long term gender norms. As a result women themselves developed inferiority complex which enforced them to look down themselves.

#### 4.2.4 Religious Factor

Table 4.5 How religion influence women political participation

No	Items	Response		
		Choice	Frequency	Percentage
1	Religion has influence on women's political participation	Strongly disagree	3	4.76%
		Disagree	3	4.76%
		Fair	12	19.04%
		Agree	24	38.1%
		Strongly agree	21	33.34%

Total		<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>	
2	Your religion motivates and supports you to lead and administer the household equally with your husbands	Strongly disagree	27	42.9%
		Disagree	30	47.6%
		Fair	6	9.5%
		Agree	-	-
		Strongly agree	-	-

As indicated in table 4.5 items 1, 24(38.1%) of respondents answered agree on religion has influence on women’s political participation as well as 21(33.34%) were said strongly agree and 12(19.04%) replied fair and 3(4.76%) of respondents answered strongly disagree and as well as 3(4.76%) disagree. From the above table we can understand that 24(38.1%)and 21(33.34%) percent of respondents replied agree and strongly agree respectively. This indicates the religion influences the women’s political participation. So religion has a great role in influencing women’s political participation. Therefore, the support of religious institution is necessary to increase women’s political participation equally with men.

In the same table item 2, out of 63 respondents 30(47.6%) were said disagree 27(42.9%) were said strongly disagree and the remaining 6(9.5%) replied fair on your religion motivate and support you to lead and administer the household equally with your husband and there is no respondents who replied agree and strongly agree .From the above table we can understand that most 57(90.5%) of respondents replied disagree and strongly disagree. This indicates that religion doesn’t motivate and supports woman’s to lead administer the household equally with their husband. Because the holy Bible also command women to be subject to their husbands just as church is subject to Jesus Christ and the Islamic doctrines also strictly prohibited women from political endeavor, public speaking & standing on stage that can facilitate their political ambition. Therefore, religious institution have great role in motivating and recognizing women’s political participation equally with men. So, religious institutions support women’s equal with men in political participation and leadership activities.

#### 4.2.5 Women’s League Organization

Table 4.6 Effort of Women’s League Organization

No	Items	Response		
		Choice	Frequency	Percentage

1	Women are clear about the difference between women league, association, federation, forum and Affair Office	Strongly disagree	21	33.34%
		Disagree	33	52.38%
		Fair	9	14.28%
		Agree	-	-
		Strongly agree	-	-
Total			63	100%
2	Women league conduct members meeting regularly	Strongly disagree	15	23.8%
		Disagree	21	33.33%
		Fair	18	28.5%
		Agree	9	14.28%
		Strongly agree	6	9.52%
3	Many women's were taken from women league to be a political leader	Strongly disagree	15	23.8%
		Disagree	24	38.1%
		Fair	18	28.5%
		Agree	3	4.76%
		Strongly agree	3	4.76%
4	Women's league & other women organizations have financial support from government	Strongly disagree	15	23.8%
		Disagree	33	52.38%
		Fair	15	23.8%
		Agree	-	-
		Strongly agree	-	-
Total			63	100%

As it shown in table 4.6 items 1, about 33(52.38%) respondents were replied disagree on women's have clear about the difference between women's league, women's association, women's federation, women's forum and women's affairs office and 21(33.34%) were strongly disagree and the remaining 9(14.24%) were answered fair and there were no respondents replied strongly agree and agree. From the above table observed the large percent of respondents

answered disagree and strongly disagree. This indicates most of the respondent can't clearly differentiate the function and objectives of those women organizations.

In the same table items 2, 21 (33.34%) of respondents were responded disagree and 18(28.5%) were answered fair and 15(23.8%) of the respondents strongly disagree and 9(14.28%) replied agree and 6(9.52%) were strongly agree on women's league conduct members meeting regularly. From the above analysis we can understand that high percent of respondents answered disagree. This indicates that women's league doesn't conduct meeting regularly to increase women's political participation.

In table 4.6 items 3, out of 63 respondents 24(38.1%) of respondents were answered disagree and 15(23.8%) were replied strongly disagree and 18(28.5%) of respondents were said fair and the remaining 3(4.76%) were replied strongly agree and agree on many women's were taken from women's league to be political leader. From the above table observed the large percent of respondents were replied disagree and strongly disagree. This indicates that no women can be taken from women's league to be a political leader in Abeshige woreda. According to interview with Abeshige Woreda women league office, women's organizations are established at the grass root level in each Kebele of the Woreda to enhance women's participation in politics. However, there is low level of women's political participation who taken from women's organization. This shows the weakness of women's organization. Therefore women's organization is not sufficient for taken women's political participation.

In same table item 4, 33(52.38%) of respondents were disagree on woman's league and other women's organizations have financial supports from government and 15(23.8%) were strongly disagree and the remaining 15(23.8%) were fair and there is no respondents replied strongly agree and agree. From above analysis we can understand the large percent of respondents who answered disagree and strongly disagree. This indicates the woman's league and other organization haven't financial support from government and there is insufficient of government support to women's organization to motivate the women's political participation. This leads to women's far from the political participation and it is better the governmental and non-governmental organization strongly supports women's involvements in political position.

### **4.3 Prospects of Women's Political Participation**

There are a good opportunities and prospects for women political participation in our country, Ethiopia. The legal ground shows the equal rights of women in all aspects including political

participations. The FDRE constitution on article 35 sub article 1 said “women shall in the enjoyment of rights and protections provided for by this constitution have equal right with men.” this ensures that anything that is given for men is equally given for women. In consequence, any political participation that is conduct in this country equally includes women’s. Furthermore, The FDRE constitution on article 35 sub article 6 clearly ensured “women have the right to full consultation in the formation of national development policies, the designing and execution of projects and particularly in the case of projects affecting the interest of women.” This sub article emphasized that the active involvement of women when it affects the interests of women including political affairs. In addition, the FDRE constitution on article 38 sub article 1 guaranteed the equal political participation of every Ethiopian without any discrimination based on any criteria. As a result women’s were benefited from their political participation. The different responses of respondents in the open-ended questionnaire show this reality. This include: - women gained to administer themselves, gained opportunities to show their capacities, it enabled to depart themselves from men dependency, helped them to utilize their economic and social benefits, gained opportunities to participate in politics, increased women’s capacity to express their ideas and opinions, increased women’s knowledge and experience on politics and struggle against when their right are violated, it becomes politics is the field of women and men.

#### **4.4 Strategies to Increase Women’s Political Participation**

The different mechanisms that help to increase the political participation of women have to address the concrete need of women in the way that avoid or mitigate the actual constraining factor. This is to mean that before applying any strategy it is necessary to identify the real problem. I.e. just like a medical doctor’s, diagnosis then treatment. The most important thing in increasing the political participation of women is real implementations of the identified strategies.

Among the different strategies that help to advance political participation of women, quota is the most known and accepted as a good measure for effective representation of women. The other strategy that may help to increase the political participation of women is strengthening women organizations. Women organization may serve as a stepping-stone to enter in to the formal political activities. In Women organization, women get space to develop their administrative skill and share experience each other. The women organizations in addition to the above tasks it also

increase the political participation of women through creating networks of educated and politician women to concretize and strengthen their ideas and widen scopes of its solutions. In our personal belief lack of unity among women to spread the voice of a woman as the voice of all other women is the limitation of the current women organizations. Not only creating networks of women, women organizations have to work to get the collaboration of men in the struggle to increase women's political participation. The other repeatedly forwarded solutions by respondents of the study are making the appointment leader for women offices based on merit, giving immediate and proper response for women problems, creating in-depth and practical awareness for the society. Moreover, introducing new technologies that reduce the heavy workloads of women at home, giving proper recognition and opportunities for women, providing supports for women organizations are strategies that speed up the political participation of women.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 5.1 Summary

As we can summarize the challenge and prospect in women's political participation the study focused only in women's. This is due to the fact that the target population of the study was the members of women league in Abeshige Woreda. Regarding age most of the participants were found between the age category 26-35 years with 21(33.33%). The educational background of the participants of this study shows the majority 29(46%) cannot proceed from the primary level. In terms of marital status the majority of the respondents 48(76.2%) were married and 15(23.8%) were single. Regarding family size most of the participants of this study have 2-4 family members.

The challenges of women's political participation were analyzed in terms of socio-cultural, gender norms role, women's attitude, religious factors and women's league organization. Factors such as lack of support from spouses in performing domestic activities at home, lack of motivation from their relatives and colleagues to participate in politics and lack of recognition for women ability to be a leader of Kebele are the major socio- cultural challenges for women political participation.

The other predicament of women's political participation is women's attitude towards politics. Even if women have interest to participate in politics due to the long and deep rooted gender norms they perceive politics as the only job of men. This makes them to refrain from appointment in higher political positions by eroding their confidence.

The other challenge of women's political participation is religion. Religious institutions in the country cannot give support and recognition for women's to lead men. Because the Holy Bible command women to be subject to their husbands just as the church is subject to Jesus Christ and the Islamic doctrine also strictly protected women from political endeavor , public speaking and standing on stages.

The FDRE government established different women organization Women's League, Women's Association, Women's Federation, Women's Forum, and Women's Affairs Office. All this organization work to empower women in politics and enhance the socio-economic and political status of women in the society. There are no women taken from women league to be a leader of Kebele or to be assigning in higher political position in the woreda. This is the weakness of women league. All the above women organization has no financial support from government. This makes them weak to fully execute their objectives.

## 5.2 conclusions

Based the findings of the study the major challenges of women's political participation are

- ❖ Socio –cultural factors such as lack of support from spouses in performing domestic activities at home, lack of motivation from their relatives and colleagues to participate in politics and lack of recognition for women ability to be a leader of kebele and gender role
- ❖ The other predicament of women's political participation is women's attitude towards politics. Even if women have interest to participate in politics due to the long and deep rooted gender norms they perceive politics as the only job of men. This makes them to refrain from appointment in higher political positions by eroding their confidence.
- ❖ The other challenge of women's political participation is religion. Religious institutions in the country cannot give support and recognition for women's to lead men.
- ❖ The weakness of women organization to empower women in politics

Some of the prospects include women gained to administer themselves, gained opportunities to show their capacities, it enabled to depart themselves from men dependency, helped them to utilize their economic and social benefits, gained opportunities to participate in politics, increased women's capacity to express their ideas and opinions, increased women's knowledge and experience on politics and struggle against when their right are violated, it becomes politics is the field of women and men.

Some of the different strategies that help to advance political participation of women are

- ❖ Applying quota system
- ❖ Strengthening women organizations
- ❖ making the appointment leader for women offices based on merit

- ❖ giving immediate and proper response for women problems
- ❖ creating in-depth and practical awareness for the society
- ❖ introducing new technologies that reduce the heavy workloads of women at home
- ❖ Providing supports for women organizations are strategies that speed up the political participation of women

### 5.3 Recommendation

Based on the above finding conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made for measures to be taken by the concerned bodies.

- ❖ The socio-cultural factors are the deep-rooted factors that constrained the political participation of women. Thus, community elders and *Yejoka* leaders are advised to condemn stereotyped practices of the society in ways to redefine the gender norms. Similarly, Mass Medias are recommended to stop (if possible) broadcasting films, dramas, and entertainments that exaggerates feminine role of women. Instead, Mass Medias have to use their power to change the gender norms of the society in broadcasting programs that shrink the stereotyped ideology and outdate cultural attitudes from the society.
- ❖ Government, Civil societies and human right activists have to work to change women's attitudes for politics and creating awareness for the society on problems which hinder women's political participations.
- ❖ Regional, Zonal and Woreda Government should properly apply quota and other affirmative measures to compensate the influences of discriminations against women.
- ❖ Women must join and actively participate in the existing Women's Organizations in order to raise their political awareness in curbing the social attitudes and to work as lobbying forces to promote their equal rights in both in and outside home.
- ❖ To improve the status of Women's Organizations especially Women League FDRE Government and EPRDF as party are recommended to allocate appropriate budget.
- ❖ Science and technology Minister is advised to introduce new technologies that reduce the home workload from women and make easier for spouse to prepare meal at home.

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2	Politics is only men's job					
3	Women have self- confidence to assign in higher political position.					

**4. Religious factor**

No	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Religion has influence on women's political participation					
2	Your religion motivates and supports you to lead and administer the household equally with your husbands					

**Section III: Effort of women's league organization**

Directions: indicate your view with respect to each item by putting an "X" mark in box. 1 for Strongly Disagree, 2 for Disagree, 3 for fair, 4 for Agree and 5 for Strongly Agree

No	Items	1	2	3	4	5
1	Women are clear about the difference between women league, association, federation, forum and Affair Office					
2	Women league conduct member meeting regularly					
3	Many women's were taken from women league to be a political leader					
4	Women's league & other women organizations have financial support from government					

**Open-ended Questionnaire**

1. What are the current challenges of women political participation?

.....

2. What prospects/opportunities do women have from active political participation?

.....

3. Please list down the possible solutions to increase women's political participation

.....

**THANK YOU!!!**



C. government employed

**Section two**

1. What are the current challenges of women political participation?
2. What prospects do women have from active political participation?
3. How do you think about the possible solutions that increase women's political participation?

**THANK YOU!!!**