

The Role of Gender in Livestock Production in Gurage Zone, Edga District, SNNPRS, Ethiopia

Alemu Abeza Tesfaye Hailu Netsanet Beyero*
Department of Animal and Range Science, Wolaita Sodo University, Ethiopia

Abstract

The study was conducted in Edga District of Gurage zone, Southern Nations Nationalities and People Regional State, Ethiopia with the objective of to assess the role of gender in livestock production and to identify the constraint and opportunity of gender in livestock production. Two kebeles (Kokera and Ketane) were randomly selected to collect data. The small holder livestock production system considered in the study area was mixed (crop-livestock farming). Livestock's are significance maintaining the livelihood of those keepers by providing food (50%) next to it draught power, manure, income, social and cultural identify and medium of exchange and means of saving also having a big role. There is a distinct, but not very strict gender division of work in the production of livestock. Men usually are a key player (82.5%) in the activities of herding breeding, marketing of animal. Medication, barn construction, and principal decision maker for the overall generated income also perform by men. However, women generally contributed make labor input in area of feeding, caring calves, and cleaning barns and sell of milk and its product. Children of both sex participate in the activity or herding, feeding, watering, collecting of feed and egg dominantly. The good spirit of male and female in livestock production, extension service and reward are the main opportunity which enhance the role of gender with the limited credit & over leded females or women's by household activity are the constraints which influences the gender division work in livestock production. Enabling policy should be formulated for gender empowerment, gender main streaming and ultimately for the sustainable development of livestock sector.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gender, the sexual distinct between male and female, has commonly been used interchangeably with sex within the academic fields of cultural studies, gender, studies and the social science the term gender refers to a social construction rather than a biological condition (Tulchan and Batsa, 2001). Gender issues in agriculture have become an important subject of inquiry. Gender is a socio-economic variable used to analyze roles, responsibilities, constraints, opportunities and in centivities of people involved in agriculture (Peats, 1991). The gender division of labor and responsibilities in livestock production system in developing countries' should that men, women and children participate in varying degrees in animal husbandry (Ashby, 1999).

The role of livestock in relation to its contribution to their income mainly as an investment and source of cash in time of needs but they also supply the dominant type of meat consumed in rural areas as well as manure for fuel (Ctrysels & Anderson, 1993).

Some of livestock production activities include milking, herding, processing of milk, selling products, care of calves, pregnant and injured animals, collection and transportation of animals feeds, feeding and watering animals, cleaning of barns housing, breeding, giving treatments, marking and dung cake preparation for use as a fuel (Lemlem et al., 2010).

Raising livestock requires a labor contribution from all family members the specific participation of women, men and children in animal husbandry values across regions depending on the farming system and socio economic factors such as religion, culture and developmental cadent(Katz, 1995). Gender roles are further influenced by the environmental and demographic characteristics and the type of animal kept. These variations make it impossible to generalize about gender roles in livestock production system in developing countries (Wilson, 2002).

The role of gender in livestock production is not documented in Edga district in general and the role of women specifically. On the other hand, although women constitute greater proportion of the population economically in agriculture, no information is used for gender analysis and is rarely used for development planning. Despite, there considerable involvement and contribution of women and children in livestock production has often been underestimated in the society. In the study area there is an imbalance between work leads and share in the benefits of production and there is very real risk that process of commercialization may further marginalize women. So, it's very difficult to obtain information on the role of gender in livestock production from existing research and projects report in Edga district. Therefore, this study is designed to conducts research on the role of gender in livestock production in Edga district.

2. Methodology

The study was conducted in SNNPR in Gurage Zone Edga District. It is located 205 km far from Addis Ababa to the south and 42 km far from Welkite, a capital city of Gurage Zone. Its elevation is ranger between 1501 –

3500 m.a.s.l with annual rain fall of 1001 – 1400 mm and its mean annual temperature range between 10.2 – 20^oc. Most part of study (RSA; 1998), then most dominate major crop grown in the area enset, barely, sorghum and the dominant livestock are cattle, sheep, horse, donkey and goats, enset is the major feed producing plant in this area. There are 125,000 total human populations and there are 14,500 households (WAO, 2005)

Sampling Technique Data Collection

Two kebeles (kokera and ketane) were selected purposively based on their large livestock population from each kebeles twenty households were selected randomly. The primary and secondary data were used to collect necessary information. The primary data were collected using semi structured questioner, focus group discussion and observation.

Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed by using SPSS statistical software version 16.0 for Windows (SPSS, 2007).

3. RESULTS AND DESCUSSIONS

Household Characteristics.

From the studied households (N=40) 57% were males and the remaining 43% were females headed with an average age of 47.8 years. Most of the respondents (80%) were married, 10% were single and the remaining was divorced with the religion of orthodox (42.5%), protestant (35%), Muslim (15%) and catholic (7.5%).

With respect to educational status of the household head, the majority (62.5%) of livestock owners were attended 1^o school. The overall proportions of illiterate farmers were (25%) and the rest (12.5%) completed secondary school.

Table 1: Household characteristics of the respondents

Characteristics	No. of respondent (N=40)	Percentage
Sex		
Male	23	57
Female	17	43
Marital Status		
Married	32	80
Single	4	10
Divorced	4	10
Educational level		
Illiterate	10	25
1 ^o level	25	62.5
2 ^o level	5	12.5
Religion		
Protestant	14	35
Orthodox	17	42
Muslim	6	15
Catholic	3	7.5

Table 2: Age and family size of respondents

Age of respondent	Men		Women		Total (%)
	No.	%	No.	%	
20-30	8	34.75	5	29.4	32.5
31-40	6	26.08	4	23.5	25.00
41-50	4	17.4	3	17.6	17.5
51-60	2	8.7	4	23.5	15.00
Above 60	3	13.00	1	5.88	10
Family size	Min.	Max.	Mean	SD	
	1	12	7.15	2.52	

According to table 2 in the age ranges from 20-30 years the larger proportion of the respondents were male (34.75%) , and the remaining in the same age range were female (29.4%). In this ranges of age were more productive and responsible for high work lead than other age ranges. The age ranges from 31-40 were 25%, 17.5% of the respondents were with age range of 41-50, 15% the respondents were in the range of 51-60 and the remaining 10 % were above 61 years of age. The average family size per household was 7.15 and which ranged from 1 to 12 in number.

Land holding and livestock possession

In the studied areas, the farmers owned a mean of 0.87ha pr household. The maximum and minimum landholding of the farmers in the surveyed are was 2.5ha and 0.25 ha respectively in (table 3). The overall mean livestock possession head per household) in the study area was found to be 7.6 cattle, 5.7 sheep, 4.3 goat 7.9 chicken, 1.64 horse and 1.85 donkey. None of the respondents reported the existence of Mules and camel in the study site.

This finding is inline with Yigerm, (2008) in the same agroecological zone of Gurage, who obtained that cattle population was the most dominant and the list one mule population.

Table 3: Land holding and the overall composition of livestock (head/HH)in the study area

Species	Min	Max	Mean	SD
Cattle	4	14	7.65	2.51
Sheep	2	16	5.7	3.50
Goat	0	12	4.3	2.54
Chicken	3	18	7.9	5.76
Donkey	0	4	1.85	1.33
Horse	0	4	1.65	0.93
Land holding (ha)	0.25	2.5	0.87	0.63

Purpose of livestock production

In the district livestock husbandry was being practiced for source of feed (50%), sources of income (37.5%) , manure (47.5%), draft power (37.5%), means of saving (25%) , sign of wealth (15%) and socio cultural values (7.5%). According to the respondents were explained that livestock are their source of income respectively. Livestock rearing also plays important role in maintaining the level hold of the farmer by providing means of saving, draft power, cultural and social identity and sign of wealth.

Table 4: Importance of livestock rearing in the study area

Purpose of livestock rearing	frequency	%
Source of food	20	50
Manure	19	47.5
Source of income	15	37.57
For draft power	15	37.57
Means of saving	10	25
Sing of wealth	6	15
Socio cultural value	3	7.5

N= total No. of respondent

This finding is agreed with reports of Assen (2009) in Edga district, who obtained that livestock rearing is majorly used for source of food and source of income.

Feed Resources

The major feed resources used by the farmers in Edga District are presented in table 5. Overall the major feed resources used in the study area were natural pasture, crop residues, inset, hay, browse leave. As a result showed 60%, 50%, 47.5%, 25%, 20% , 12.5% of respondents assured the uses of natural pasture, inset, hay, sugar cane, browse leave and crop residues respectively which are the major and mainly food resource in the study area.

This finding is in line with report of (Mulegeta, 2010) in Edga district, who obtained that natural pasture was the most extensively used food resource for livestock.

Table 5: The available feed resource in the study area

Feed resources	No. of respondents (N=40)	Percentages (%)
Natural pasture	24	60
Inset	20	50
Hay	19	47.5
Sugar Cane	10	25
Brews leave	8	20
Crop residues	5	12.5

Constraints of livestock production and labor division

Constraints of livestock production

Livestock production in the study area prioritized the major problems as shortage of food (52.5%) shortage of grazing land (36%), scarcity of labor (42.5%), prevalence of disease (25%), lack of capital (22.5%) to increase the number of animals. As the result should (table 5) the problem of feed, labor and land were the first, second and the third major problems respectively.

This finding is in line with Aden and Girma (2007) in the same agro ecological zone Hadiya, who obtained that livestock production and productivity, is constrained by many factors. The major one are scarcity of food, high mortality rate, inadequate water supply and accessibility.

Table 6: Major constrained of livestock production in the districts

Major problems	No. of respondents (N=40)	Prevalence of problem(%)
Shortage of feed	22	52.5
Shortage of labor	17	42.5
Limitation of land	12	36
Prevalence of disease	10	25
Lack of capital	9	22.5

No = number of respondents

Constraints of gender labor division in livestock production.

In the district, the gender based division of labor was constrained due to different problems. The major constraints of labor division was the over leaded of women (60%), the distance where the animal kept(62%) behavior of animals (72.5%) and size of heard (80%) . This findings is disagree with Tamirat (2001) in the same agro ecological zone of Wolaita who obtained that the constrained of labor division in livestock production is lack of interest of women and influence of culture and religion.

Table 7: Constraints of gender labor division in livestock production

No	Constraints	No. of respondent	Percentage
1	Size of heard	35	80
2	Behavior of animal	29	72.5
3	Distance where the animals kept	25	62.5
4	Over lead of Women	24	60

Labor division among the family for livestock husbandry practice

Livestock management activities in the traditional production system are commonly shared on the base of age and gender in the family. According to table 8 all the family member in the study area are involved in various livestock rearing activities. Gender is an important element in labor share in mixed (crop-livestock) production system in Edga District. All the family member do a large numbers of task related to animal husbandry practice with some sort of variation in their involvement as the type of activities to be engaged.

Table 8: Division of labor in livestock production among age and sex in the study area

Activities	Men		Women		Children	
	F	%	F	%	F	%
Herding	32	80	22	55	25	62.5
Milking	9	22.5	25	62.5	--	0
Cleaning barns	11	27	33	82.5	21	12.5
Watering	29	72.5	18	45	27	67.5
Feeding	34	85	28	70	34	85
Caring calves	18	45	31	77.5	16	40
Processing milk product	0	0	27	67.5	7	67.5
Marketing milk & milk product	18	45	26	65	15	37.5
Buying animal	33	82.5	8	20	3	7.5
Selling animal	28	70	8	20	3	7.5
Medication	29	72.5	7	17.5	5	12.5
Buying feed	26	65	6	15	6	--
Breeding	25	62.5	4	10	6	15
Collecting feed	30	75	25	62.5	28	45
Barn construction	32	80	0	--	7	17.5
Dung cake preparation	0	--	26	65	11	27.5
Egg collection	0	--	28	70	26	65
Selling egg	0	--	33	82.5	11	27.5
Decision makers	33	82.5	11	27.5	--	--

F= frequency of respondents

In the study area men are usually the key player in activistof herding (80%), breeding (62.5%), purchasing animal (77.5%) selling animal (70%), medication (72.5%) and barn construction (80%). In Edga district milk processing is primarily (67.5%) the task of women. According to table 8 women's are involved more in activities

like milking (62.5%), cleaning barns (82.5%), caring calves (77.5%), processing milk products (67.5%), marketing milk (65%) and dung cake preparation (65%) and selling and collecting of egg (82.5%) and 70% respectively.

However, children of both sexes have also significant role in breeding (15%), cleaning barns (12.5%), watering (67.5%), feeding (85%), processing of product (67%) marketing milk and milk product (37.5%), collecting of feed (45%) and collecting of egg (27.5%).

According to the respondent some routine activity in livestock rearing like watering, heading and feeding collection are participate all the family members. Men are the principal decision makers (83.5%) in terms of control over the income generated through the sale of animals. In contrast, women's are overloaded and busy by household chores than men. But fully authorized income generated through sell of livestock products. The overall income generated from livestock and livestock products sole is used for purchase of food grains and cloths, medication, tax, social mater, purchased of livestock feed and farm in put such as seed and fertilizer and used to cover other cost associated to family needs & personal necessity. This finding is in line with the result of (Tesfaye, 2009).

Opportunities of labor division in the livestock production

Livestock production is a multi-task enterprise which needs the involvement of all family members in different activities. In the district both women and men are good spirit in the sharing livestock rearing activity which is a great opportunities for labor division of works.

According to (table 2) the age of the respondents were 20-30 years (30.5%), in this ranges of age were more productive and high opportunity of labor division in the livestock production. Divisions of labor based on sex were good opportunity of gender in livestock production by sharing of the work load in the district.

The role of government and community in livestock production

In the study area get information and get extension services from the governments and community that enhances the role of gender in livestock production. According to the respondent indicate that, the government provides credit services(80%), reward for model farmer (67.5%), create awareness (62.5%) through promotion the role of gender in livestock production and continuous effort improving the contribution of women through training.

According to the respondent the community has their role livestock production by sharing indigenous knowledge (85%), purchasing of product (40%) and participation in limited activity.

Table 9: The role of government and community in livestock production

Characteristics	Government		Community	
	F	%	F	%
Reward for model farmer	27	67.5	9	22.5
Credit service	32	80	29	72.5
Create awareness	25	62.5	16	40
Provision of health service	29	72.5	19	47
Purchasing of products	26	65	10	25
Calling for meeting	25	57	15	37.57
Advising for farming	34	85	26	12.5
Participating in limited activity	30	75	6	15
Share indigenous knowledge	22	55	34	85

Conclusion and Recommendation

In the mixed crop-livestock production system of Edga district, livestock have divorced functions in the livelihood of farmers as a source of food, income, draft power, manure, means of saving and shortage of labor were the major problems of livestock production faced in the district. The common and predominant feed resources of livestock were natural pasture, crop residues, sugarcane and browse leaves. Livestock management activities in Edge district are shared on the bases of age and gender in the family. In the district the tasks of breeding, marketing of animals, medication and barn construction are mainly performed by men. Women are typically engaged with activities related to their household activities and the safety and well being of the livestock such as collecting dung, hygiene, caring calves, milking, processing, storing, marketing products and adding valves for livestock products which performed around homestead. The tasks of feeding, watering, herding, and collecting of feed are often shared by men, women and children. Both men and women in the district are good spirit in the sharing livestock rearing activity which is a great opportunity for labor division of work. Enabling policy should be formulated for gender empowerment, gender main streaming and ultimately for the sustainable development of livestock sector.

REFERENCES

Assen Ebrahim, 2009: livestock production in Edga, South Ethiopian. MSC thesis, Mekelle University, Gurage, Ethiopia

- Ashby H. 1999. Livestock marketing and pastoralism in proceeding of the 3rd national conference on pastoral development in Ethiopia, AddisAbaba, Ethiopia 429 pp.
- Lemlem Aregu, Bishop-Sambrook C, puskur R and Ephrem Tesema. 2010. Opportunities for promoting gender equality in rural Ethiopia through the commercialization of agriculture pp 84.
- Mulegeta Beyene, 2010. Unfed resource of livestock production. Livestock production hand book for Ethiopia. Ethiopian livestock productivity improvement program. Guraghe zone, Ethiopia.
- Sansoucy R, Jabbar M, Ehvis and Fitzhugh H. 1995. The contribution of livestock to food security and sustainable development. pp 63-65.
- Tulachang P. and Batsa A. 2001 Gender difference in livestock production management. Journal of farrowing systems research extension 4(3) : 121 -135.
- WAO (District Agricultural office) , 2005 District agricultural office report of research , Edga, Ethiopia.
- Wilson R. T. 2002. Livestock production in the central Mali long term studies on cattle and small ruminants in the agro pastoral system. Research report, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Pp 254.
- Yigermu Melaku, 2008. The potential of cattle population on agro iconological zone of Gurageh livestock production.
- Zelalem Yilma and Inger 2000. Milk production, processing, marketing and the role of milk and milk products on the small holder farms income in the central highlands of Ethiopian. pp 429-432.