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Determinants of Women Economic Empowerment in Northwestern Ethiopia

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Abstract
Women empowerment is one of the most important things that have been discussed in developing countries. Women's not economically empowered is one of the serious problems facing Ethiopia. The problem is high in Ethiopia in general, Legambo District in particular. However, the determinants of women's economic empowerment in the District are not yet assessed. In light of this problem, the objective of this study is to identify the determinants of women's economic empowerment. To realize the objective, primary and secondary data sources were used. Primary data were collected by key informants and semi-structured interviews of 278 married women randomly selected in four kebeles of Legambo district. The researchers employed both descriptive and inferential analysis such as simple frequencies, cross tabulation, and binary logistic regression model. The study found that 55.76 % of the respondents were not empowered while 44.24 of them were economically empowered at the time of the survey. And based on the binary Logit model, variables such as age in marriage, access to the media, information seeking behavior, community participation, positive husband's education level and current place of living were significant negative determinants of women's economic empowerment in Legambo district. Based on the findings of the study, it recommends that governments and concerned bodies of the country should intervene in order to improve women's economic empowerment, to improve women's access to information and participation in different development programs done in most practical or on the ground than theoretical or set only as strategic level.
Keywords: Determinants, Economic Empowerment, Ethiopia, Legambo, Women.
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1. INTRODUCTION

Women make up over half of the world's population, and the majority of the world's poor (Anne Marie Golla 2011).Women's economic empowerment is the process by which women increase their rights to access and control economic resources and increased proficiencies, decision-making power and an enabling environment,(Maynard and Parker 2013, Women 2018). Women's economic improvement has led to increased investments in children's education and health, and reduced household poverty (Bank 2011, Publications 2013). Gender differentials reflect women's disadvantage relative to access and ownership of material assets, and others economic activities compared with men (Heintz, Kabeer et al. 2018) . Across the global South, most rural women and girls are disadvantaged compared to men they receive less formal education ,some paid less and treated inferior than men (Fox, Wiggins et al. 2018).

The issue of the contribution women to the national economy has taken center stage in development discourse in most countries (Raihan and Bidisha 2018). The factors affecting women's economic empowerment is education, skills development and training, access to quality, decent paid work, unpaid care and work burdens, access to property, assets and financial services ,collective action and leadership, social protection ,labour market characteristics, fiscal policy , legal, regulatory and policy framework , gender norms and discriminatory social norms, (Hunt and Samman 2016).

Increasing female participation in the labor force has a positive impact on economic growth and rural development in Africa cannot be imagined without the active participation of women (Boakye-Achampong, Osei Mensah et al. 2012).The ranks of Ethiopia as 121 among 134 countries in terms of the magnitude and scope of

gender-based disparities(Zahidi and Ibarra 2010).

In Ethiopia factors women economic empowerment attitude and perception, paid work and education level, mobility in the public domain, participation in public life, agency with regard to income use (Kabeer, Assaad et al. 2013), workplace flexibility, labor market, skill (Mahmud, Shah et al. 2012).

Currently, ensuring women's equality and their equal participation in economic fields is a basic question that needs to be addressed with special attention. Gender gap between men and women in socio-economic indicators has negative impact on the overall development of the country in general and on demographic and health outcomes of individuals in particular. Failure to address this issue was serious consequences for the economy and society of a country. So, this study attempts to examine the determinants of women economic empowerment in Legambo district and to provide empirical information for policy makers.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Legambo district, which is found in the Amhara region, Northwest Ethiopia. It is about 501 km to north away from Addis Ababa. The district is bounded by 40 kebeles/villages. Agriculture is the backbone of the community's livelihoods in the district, which is dominated by mixed farming (both crops and livestock production). It has of approximately 100040 hectare of land size. The climatic condition of the district is approximately 2.6 % Wurchi, 48.4 % Dega and about 49 % is Weina Dega.

2.2 Methods of Sampling and Data collection

The study used a cross-sectional study design. The target population is marriaged women at the time of the survey. Quantitative and qualitative data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary data was gathered through semi-structured interview whereas secondary data were collected from published and unpublished documents

Probability and non-probability sampling techniques were used. At the first stage, Legambo district was purposely selected, and in the second stage, four kebeles were selected out of 40 kebeles/villages (i.e. Yelada, Hotie, Akesta, Segno gebeya) by simple random sampling. In the third stage, sample women's were selected from the sample kebeles using systematic random sampling technique from the total number of married women in the four villages. The total Population in four kebeles is 39455, whereas 10500 of them are married women. There are several approaches to determine the sample. This study applied the simplified formula provide by Yamane (1967) to determine the sample size.

The formula is given as:

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

Where **n** is the representative sample size, **N** is the total youth population, and **e** is the desired level of precision. For a 96% confidence level, the researchers have selected the representative

Sample of:$\boldsymbol{n = \frac{10500}{1+10500(0.06)^2} = 278}$ Moreover, sample kebeles are not similar population so the researchers applied the proportional probabilistic sampling technique for each kebeles.

2.3 Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive and econometric analyses have been employed to meet the main objective of the study. Descriptive statistics, chi-square tests, and binary logit model were used as analysis methods. The logistic regression model to identify the major determinants of women economic empowerment is explained: -

$$\text{Log}\frac{(\text{P (i)}}{1-\text{P (i)}} = \text{in (odds)} = \text{B0} + \text{B1X1} + \text{B2X2} + \text{B3X3} + \text{B4X4} + \cdots \text{BnXn} \qquad (1)$$

The corresponding multiplicative model for the odds is: -

$$\text{Log}\frac{(\text{P (i)}}{1-\text{P (i)}} = \text{expB0} + \text{B1X1} + \text{B2X2} + \text{B3X3} + \text{B4X4} + \cdots \ldots \ldots \ldots + \text{BnXn} \qquad (2)$$

Where P (i) is the probability that ith respondent is not empowered and (1-P (i)) is the probability that the ith respondent is empowered at the time of the survey, Bi's are the regression coefficients and the Xi's are the set of independent variables influencing empowerment status. From the Bi's, the odds ratio is estimated as exp

2.4 Definition of variables, measurements, and hypothesis

The dependent variable is empowerment status and it is dichotomies or dummy variable: where it represents (1) when the married women are economically not empowered and (2) when the married women are economically empowered. Based on the theoretical background and different empirical studies, the following variables are hypothesized to influence women economic empowerment status in the study area. From the Bi's, the odds ratio is estimated as exp (B). And the choice of the Logit model has certain advantages like simplicity and ease of interpretation (Fernando 2011).

figure3. 1 Summary of independent variables that potentially influence empowerment status

Variables	Description	Values/Categories	Expected sign
Age	Age of the respondent	Continuous variable	_
Age in marriage	Age of the respondent	1= 10-18 2=19-25 3= >=26	+
Place of residence	Respondents current place	1= rural 2=urban	+
Education level of the respondent	Educational category ranging from illiterate to higher education	1 = illiterate 2= primary education 3= secondary education 4= Higher education	+
Education level of the respondents husband	Educational category ranging from illiterate to higher education	1 = illiterate 2= primary education 3= secondary education 4= Higher education	+
Household income	Household income level	1=low 2=medium 3=high	+
Husbands work type	Respondents husband type of work	1=unemployed 2=agriculture or farmer 3= out of farmer	+
Access of media	Access of media in respondents place	1=no 2=yes	+
Work load	Respondents work load	1=yes 2=no	+
Employment status	Employment states of respondents	1=un employ 2=employ	+
Information seeking behavior	Information seeking behavior of the respondents	1= no 2=yes	+
Community participation	Respondents participation different community involvement	1= no participate 2=participate	+
Reproductive role	Respondents reproductive role (child birth, and nursery)	1=yes 2=no	+
Attitude towards wife beating	Husbands attitude for respondents every wear mobility	1=yes 2=no	+

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results of Descriptive Statistics

In this study, respondents were asked about their empowerment status in the survey date. The survey result shows that out of the 278 respondents, the majority of the respondents (55.76%) were economically empowered. The rest of the respondents (44.24 %) were found to be not empowering at the time of the survey.

3.1.1 Characteristics and Association between Dependent and Independent Variables

Table3. 1Characteristics and empowerment status of respondents based on demographic factor

No	Variable	Category	Not empowered		Empowered		Total		chi2
			No	%	No	%	No	%	
1	Age	20-25	31	20	27	21.95	58	20.86	3.8140
		26-30	41	26.45	43	34.96	84	30.22	**(0.282)**
		31-35	16	10.32	13	10.57	29	10.43	
		>35	67	43.23	40	32.52	107	38.49	
2	Age in marriage	10-18	133	85.81	54	43.90	187	67.27	54.6956
		19-25	18	11.61	57	46.34	75	26.98	**(0.000)**
		>25	4	2.58	12	9.76	16	5.76	
3	Reproductive role	yes	133	85.81	86	69.92	219	78.78	10.3541
		No	22	14.19	37	30.08	59	21.22	(**0.001**)
4	Current place of living	Rural	125	80.65	56	45.53	181	65.11	37.2271
		Urban	30	19.35	67	54.47	97	34.89	(**0.000**)

From the total respondents, 20%, 26.45%, 10.32%, and 43.23% age between 20-25, 26-30, 31-35,and >30 were not empower .The chi-square test indicates not statistically significant association between age category and women empowerment status (x^2 =3.8140, P >0.05). From the total respondents, 85.81% age between10-18, 11.61% age between 19-25 and 2.58%age between >25 were not economically empower. The test of association was significant (x^2 = 54.6956, P < 0.01). Out of the total not empower respondents, 85.8% of them are respondents participate in biological reproductive role and 14.19% of them are not participating in reproductive role .The test of association was significant (x2 = 10.3541, P < 0.01). Out of the total not economically empower respondents, 80.65% of them are live in rural area while only 19.35% of them are live in urban area .The difference was statistically significant (x^2 = 37.2271, P> 0.01).

Table 3. 2Characteristics and empowerment status of respondents based on socio economic factor

No	Variable	Category	Not empower		Empower		Total		chi2
			No	%	No	%	No	%	
1	Education Level	Illiterate	133	85.81	27	21.95	160	57.55	115.7616
		Primary	20	12.90	82	66.67	102	36.69	**(0.000)**
		Secondary	0	0	8	6.50	8	2.88	
		Higher educe	2	1.29	6	4.88	8	2.88	
2	Husband education level	Illiterate	86	55.48	43	34.96	129	46.40	26.3005
		Primary	63	40.65	52	42.28	115	41.37	**(0.000)**
		Secondary	3	1.94	13	10.57	16	5.76	
		Higher educe	3	1.94	15	12.20	18	6.47	
3	Access of media	No	136	87.74	19	15.45	155	55.76	145.2977
		Yes	19	12.26	104	84.55	123	44.24	**(0.000)**
4	Community participation	No	141	90.97	38	30.89	179	64.39	107.9340
		yes	14	9.03	85	69.11	99	35.61	**(0.000)**
5	Husbands work type	Unemployed	76	49.03	16	13.01	92	33.09	61.2857
		farmer	76	49.03	74	60.16	150	53.96	**(0.000)**
		Other worker	3	1.94	33	26.83	36	12.95	
6	Respondents paid work	No	147	94.84	100	81.30	247	88.85	77.7356
		Yes	8	5.16	23	18.70	31	11.15	**(0.000)**
7	Information seeking behavior	No	130	83.87	13	10.57	143	51.44	147.5169
		Yes	25	16.13	110	89.43	135	48.56	**(0.000)**
8	Household income	Low	85	54.84	47	38.21	132	47.48	8.4810
		Medium	69	44.52	73	59.35	142	51.08	**(0.014)**
		High	1	0.65	3	2.44	4	1.44	
9	Work load	High	99	63.87	45	36.59	144	51.80	20.4494
		Low	56	36.13	78	63.41	134	48.20	**(0.000)**
10	Husbands beating attitude	Yes	107	69.03	35	28.46	142	51.08	45.1870
		No	48	30.97	88	71.54	136	48.92	**(0.000)**

Out of the total respondent's 85.81%, 12.90%, 0%, and 1.29% illiterate, primary education, secondary education, and higher education respondents were not economically empowered. The chi-square test was statistically significant (x2 =115.7616, P < 0.01). Out of the total respondent's 55.48%, 40.65%, 1.94%, and 1.94% illiterate, primary education, secondary education, and higher education respondents were not economically empowered. The association was statistically significant (x2 = 26.3005, P <0.001).Out of the total not empowered respondents, 87.74% of them are not access of media while only 12.26% of them have access of media before the survey date. The association was statistically significant (x2 = 145.2977, P <0.001).

And also 90.97% of the not participate respondents were not empowered than 9.03% of participate in different community participation not empowered respondent. The test of association was significant (x2 = 107.9340, P <0.001) .Out of the total not empower respondents, 49.03%, 49.03% and 1.94% of the respondent's husband is unemployed, work in agriculture or farmer, and out of farmer. The association was significant (x2 = 61.2857, P < 0.001).From the total respondents 94.84% of no pied work and 5.16% have paid work were not economically empowered (Table 4.2). The test of association result indicates statistically significant (x2= 77.7356, P<0.001).Out

of the total not empowerment respondents, 83.87% were no information seeking behavior and 16.13%, of the respondents have information seeking behavior. The test of association was significant (x2= 147.5169, P <0.001). From the total respondents 54.84%, 44.52%, and 0.65%, in household income level of low, medium and high of the respondents was not empowered. The chi-square test exhibited a significant association (x2 =8.4810, P < 0.05). And also 63.87% of have workload respondents were not empowered than 36.13% of the not workload not empowered respondents. The test of association result indicates significant (x2=, 20.4449 P <0.001). Besides, 69.03% of, respondents husband have beating attitude were not empowerment than 30.97% of not beating attitude not empowered respondents .The bi-variety analysis revealed the existence of significant association (x2 =45.1870, P < 0.001)

3.2. Results of Descriptive Statistics

3.2.1. Determinants influencing women economic empowerment

Table 3. 3Stata output for the logistic regression model

Women empowerment	Coef.	Odds ratio	Std.err	Z	p>z	(95%conf.	Interval)
Age							
26-30	-.5341255	.5861817	.5340991	-0.59	0.558	.0982789	3.496262
331-35	-1.091602	.3356783	.4409426	-0.83	0.406	0255739	4.40606
>35	0.5039455	1.655239	1.506899	0.55	0.580	.27793448	9.857768
Age in marriage							
18-25	3.255604	25.93528	25.61046	3.30	**0.001*****	3.744121	179.652
>25	4.243109	69.62397	125.7961	2.35	**0.019****	2.017503	2402.721
Reproductive Role							
No reproductive role	2.318166	10.15703	9.547609	2.47	**0.014****	1.609302	64.10563
Current place of living							
Urban	-2.307931	.0994669	.0954989	-2.40	**0.016****	.0151507	.6530162
education level							
Primary	1.448389	4.266254	3.508503	1.76	**0.079***	.8459943	21.41349
Secondary	0	1	-	-	-	-	-
Higher education	-2.404686	.0902938	0.162211	-1.34	0.181	.00226699	3.053682
Husband education Level							
Primary	-2.819765	.0596199	.0521436	-3.22	**0.001*****	.0107382	.331019
Secondary	.7904716	2.204436	3.453257	0.50	0.614	.1023027	47.50154
Higher education	-.8946335	.4087574	.695499	-0.53	0.599	.0145596	11.147576
Access of media							
Have access	3.9242	50.61257	49.98483	3.97	**0.000*****	7.304899	350.6732
Community participation							
Participate	2.410878	11.14374	10.60092	2.53	**0.01****	1.726998	71.90677
Husbands work type							
Farmer	.9407262	2.561841	2.77008	0.87	0.384	.3077236	21.32768
Out of farmer	2.646195	14.10028	22.53156	1.66	0.098	.6152465	323.1516
Respondents work status							
Have pied work	-.6282507	.5335243	.5221712	-0.64	0.521	.0783548	3.632809
Information seeking							
Have information seeking behavior	3.381178	29.4054	28.73357	3.46	**0.001*****	4.331847	199.6094
Household income							
Medium	-.0661031	.9360343	.6915336	-0.09	0.929	.2200046	3.982463
High	2.842491	17.15846	29.5883	1.65	0.099	.5843244	503.8516
Husband beating attitude							
No beating attitude	.34482	1.411736	1.008729	0.48	0.629	.3479715	5.727475

Number of observation = 278 Wald chi2 (14) =258.25
Prob > chi2 =0.0000
Pseudo R2 = 0.7744 Likelihood = -41.551504
Source: own survey (2020) ***, **,* significant levels at 1%, 5%, and 10%, respectively

Age in marriage

As was hypothesized, the age in marriage of individuals affects their women economic empowerment status. The result in (Table 4.3) also the odds of being empowered increase by 25.9 (at 1% significant level) and by 69.6 (at 5% significant level), if individuals age "between" 19-25 and >25 who helped them equally make a decision every resources and responsibility compared to those who found age in marriage between' 10-18. This implies that women's marriaged at lower ages are not economically empowered than women marriaged at highest age. This result is similar with (Abshoko, Terye et al. 2016) , (Miedema, Haardörfer et al. 2018), (Spierings, Smits et al. 2010, de Groot, Kuunyem et al. 2018, Sen and Nilima 2018).

Reproductive Role

In line with the priori expectation of the researchers women's participate in labour reproductive role affects women economic empowerment status. In (Table 4.3) result indicates the odds of being empowered increase by 10.15 if

the individual have not participate in labour reproductive role compared to women's participate. It means that women's have less level of responsibilities in reproductive role increases the chance of economic empower.

Current place of living

In line with the hypothesis Respondent's current place of living has a significant effect on the chance of women economic empowerment status. In (Table 4.3) implies the chance of being empowered for those who had respondents live in urban area was 0.09 times lower than those who had live in rural area. This implies that rural women's have high chance of economic empowerment than women's live in urban area.

Respondent's education level

The findings of this study, in illiterate respondents increases the odds of not empowered. The chance of being empowered was 4.26 times higher for those respondents who had primary level education as compared with illiterate respondents, and the association was positively significant at 10 % significant level (table 4.3). This implies that, women's not attend minimum primary education difficult to motivate the district and local level economic participation and extension programs. This result is similar with(Habib, Shafiq et al. 2019),(RS, Dinachandra et al. 2019),

Husband's education level

In contrary to the researcher's expectation, it is found that respondents husband who attend primary education were more likely to be not empowered. This study also shows that the odds of Bing empowered were 0.05 times lower for those respondents who had primary level education as compared with illiterate respondents, (table 4.3). It implies that respondent husbands has attained in primary education think as own superior to our wife's so women's not responsible in economic aspect.

Access of media

This study found that access of media affects individual's empowerment status positively and significantly. The likelihoods of being empowered increase by 50.61 if respondents have access of media respectively compared to those who have no access. These implies that majority of the respondents with not access of media that rural women lacks clear and updated information to aware about their rights and responsibilities to exercise in accordance with the present policies and strategies. This result consistent with (Dadi 2017).

Community participation

This study shows that the chances of Bing empowered 11.14 times higher for those respondents participate different legal and community organization as compared with not participate respondents, (table 4.3). Women's participation in different social organization includes their active participation at local kebele and district administration council and other institution like women's league as well as farmer's cooperative association was very crucial to women's economically empower. This result is consistent with, (Dadi 2017).

Information seeking behavior

This study found that information seeking behavior and empowerment status are positively related at 1 % significance level. The odds of being empowered were increase by 29.40 if the individuals have information seeking behavior than not information seeking behavior. This implies that women's have seeking information behaviors that are relevant for empower economically or equally participate in control and make a decision in different resources.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The problem of women not being economically empowered is the effect of diverse socio-economic and demographic factors. The result indicates that the factors determining women's economic empowerment in the Legambo District are, age in marriage , reproductive role, current place of living, education level of women, respondents' husband's education level , access to the media, community participation and information-seeking behavior. Generally, in the study area, socio-economic factors in addition to demographic factors reduce the chance of married women's economic empowerment opportunities.

Based on the findings of the study, the following points are recommended to improve the economic empowerment of married women. The government and concerned bodies should intervene:-Given the heavy workload imposed on girls at an early age, early marriage without choice, and a subservient role to both husband and mother-in-law, girls and women are left with few opportunities to make and act on their own decisions, so the government and concerned bodies should intervene in order to minimize those problems in real-world or practical than theoretically. In order to accelerate the process of women's economic empowerment, more work has to be done to provide women with access to education and information.

Developing widespread communications and harnessing innovative media techniques, when linked to scaling up these interventions, will enable us to reach even more women and girls across the country. On the other hand, collecting clear statistical data and studying the different types of women's home-based work and their empowerment and/or disempowerment effect might be areas of research that further have policy implications.

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