

# The Role of Women Participation in Income Generating Activities (in Case of Demba Gofa Woreda)

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## To cite this article:

Gashahun Bogale, Million Lemma. The Role of Women Participation in Income Generating Activities (in Case of Demba Gofa Woreda). *Social Sciences*. Vol. 12, No. 3, 2023, pp. 94-106. doi: 10.11648/j.ss.20231203.14

**Received:** October 8, 2022; **Accepted:** May 24, 2023; **Published:** June 5, 2023

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**Abstract:** This paper aims to examine the major Role of women's participation in income-generating activities Demba Gofa werda. To carry out this study both primary and secondary data was collected and analyzed. Randomly selected 80 households were the source of primary data for this study. Secondary data was collected from the review of related works of literature. A binary logistic regression econometric model was implemented to identify major Role of women's participation in income-generating activities. The result of the logit model reveals that, Women in the study area are not allowed by their husbands to participate in high income earning activities. They are considered as a housewife and the only husband is expected to participate in high income-generating activities due to the local customs. As a result, some women participate in small business activities like livestock product sales, vegetable and fruit sell, poultry, petty trade, hairdressing, and wage labor. The output of the model indicates that women's education and access to credit were positively and significantly affecting the women participation in income generating activities whereas family size, market distance, livestock holding, and age are significantly and negatively affecting the dependent variable. Based on the finding of the study, the researchers have conclusion and recommendations.

**Keywords:** Income Generating Activities, Role, Women, Logistic Regression Model

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Traditionally the experience of marriage and motherhood dominates the life and identity of women in the world. Women were left behind to mind the home and children. And also it is believed that the life of a woman is distinct, pure and counted to be unstained. She will economically dependent, as she only fulfills her role as a wife, another and a builder of home, consequently over 4.5 billion of the world population are engaged in different economic activities, among those women are estimated as 1.5 billion. In addition to these women make up 43% of the world work force in agriculture, 37% in trade and industry, and third in service. This participation contributed to increase the productivity 20% in Africa and 50% in developed nations, (2). In developing nation, women are likely to be poor a malnourished and less

likely to receive medical services, clean water, sanitation or other benefits. In addition, women have less access to education, formal sector employment, and social security and government employment programs [3].

One can mention a number of women who have reached the highest level of success. For instance, Nobel laureate proof Wangari Maathai of Kenya, U.S secretary Hilary Clinton, mother Teresa of India can be mentioned as best example who have managed to reach the highest field of achievement in their fields of engagement [4].

It is generally true that, women in economically developed countries are in a better condition than those in less developed one. Through the third world, the position of women relative to men is lower on all of the main of schooling and level of income. The typical woman in the third world has a triple burden of work in child rearing, in maintaining the home and in food production. Relative to men, women work much longer hours for smaller payment

[5].

According to central statistical authority, the total population of Ethiopia is around 110 million (2021), 49.9% are female. When we see their age character, age greater than 15 and less than 15 are 63.19% and 39.81% respectively. Women constitute proportionally a large group as the labor force in various economic activities. Therefore, economic development is unthinkable without the participation of women. However, today, Ethiopian women have been able to equally benefit from the nation's wealth and their labor as well as participation in economic activity has been duly valued, but not enough or sufficient (office of prime minister, 2021).

Women poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities, lack of access to economic resources including: credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and to support services (Beijing PFA, 2004).

Women are invisible in the development process. Because, much of their work was not paid and undervalued compared to men and when it was women contribution it was reflected in process at national levels, in donor agencies, in NGOS, at the community level and often inside family. In any society and time period, what women and men do and what are seen as male female characteristics vary enormously. Yet women work usually is valued as less than men's. If women are traders, trading will be seen as menial and simple. If men are traders, it was viewed as difficult and important. This lower valuation of perceived female characteristics and activities results in women being viewed as subordinate to men economically, and in terms of power and status (Almaz, 2013).

Demba Gofa woreda is one of the woreda that found in Gofa zone and have densely populated women population and consequently have large number of women not engaged in different types of income generating activities in order to ensure food security, in addition women are not economically free, especially in rural areas. Through Demba Gofa woreda women's have the main role in principal generation of nutrition, food safety and quality at household and community level, they are not yet participated in different income generating activities to improve their living standards, and the societies in which they are residing. they are the one who often produce, handle, purchase, prepare and serve food to family and community institution [6]. Hence it is important to realize the critical role that women play and to include them in all development process towards the achievement of food security. Therefore, this study is intended to identify the determining factors that hinder women in order not to participate in income generating activities. Enhancing women's economic productivity is an important strategy for improving the welfare of people living below the poverty line.

### **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Women in Ethiopia were engaged in various Economic sectors. Their participation was divided into three main

sectors, from the total labor force of women 40% were engaged in agriculture, 25% in service sector and 20% in trade and industry and the last 15% are participated in different formal and informal sectors [7].

According to FAO report (2016) and Fontana and Paciello (2017), most of women's economic activities including caring for children, elderly and ill, collecting fuel wood and water, household maintaining and cooking, were not valued because they don't have a market price, hence were not recorded in the national account system. In line with the above statement, women were engaged in socio economic activities such as: household crop production such as seed sowing, weeding, fertilizer, herbicide and pesticide application, harvesting and post harvesting, and logistical (transporting, handling and storage) activities.

Ethiopian women were involved in all aspects of society life. Women were both producer and procreators and they were also active participated in social, political and economic activities of their communities. However the varied and important roles they play have not always been recognized. The discriminatory political, economic and social rules and regulations prevailing in some part of country have hindered married women from enjoying the fruits of their labor without equal opportunities; they have lagged behind in all fields of self-advancement.

Some of studies have been already conducted on the roles of women participation in income generating activity in different parts of Ethiopia. For example S. B. Misango and O. K. Ongiti [8] conducted the study on the role of women participation in income generating activities, the finding of his study show that women participation in income generating activities plays significant roles in household wealth and countries economy. To collect data, he used simple random sampling technique which does not gauge all women are either participant or not. K. O. Ahmed [9] has conducted on the assessment of women participation in economic development using simple descriptive tools of analysis. he concluded that, the role of women participation in income generating activity can be improved through gender empowerment measures and as the role of women rises, economic development was increased.

These researchers failed to show the factors contributing to women's low participation in income generating activities. Hence this study will try to fill gaps in the previous research work on the role of women participation in income generating activities by modifying and updating previous research works and in addition to this study is try to view the constraints that limit active women participation in income generating activities as an important gap.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

The study was attempted to find the answer for the following basic questions.

- 1) what is the status of women's participation in income generating activities in the study area.
- 2) What are the constraints that limit active women participation in income generating activities.

- 3) What is the role of women participation in income generating activity at the household level?

#### **1.4. Objectives of the Study**

##### **1.4.1. General Objective**

The general objective of the study was to examine the role of women participation in income generating activities in case of Demba Gofa woreda.

##### **1.4.2. Specific Objectives**

- 1) To assess the status of women participation in income generating activity at the household level.
- 2) To identify the constraints limiting women participation in the overall income generating activity.
- 3) To explore the role of women participation in income generating activities in the study area.

#### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The study was conducted and designed to give an overall view about the role of women participation in income generating activities. Furthermore, it can be relevant to planners and policy makers in identifying the overall condition of women participation in the income generating activities in Demba woreda. The findings of this study will also have immense benefit to social workers in quantifying the magnitude of Women contribution towards growth and development of the countries. The study will also serve as a base for other researchers who are interested to conduct detail study on the same topic of the research and it will be helpful.

#### **1.6. The Scope of the Study**

The study was limited to women participation in the income generating activities in Demba woreda and the main focus was on agriculture, industry and trade and service sector. It is difficult to assess the woreda's women participation in the income generating activities a completely do emphasis given to urban Kebeles.

#### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

While the work of this research works were attached only three sectors. But the other unattached groups of income generating activities were more. And faced by a lot of problems such as shortage of money and sufficient reference to make my research work complete and efficient hence, this research is not 100% efficient even through it is from my greatest effort.

#### **1.8. Organization of the Study**

The study was organized in five chapters. The first chapter was the introduction part which gives highlight about the background of the study, statement of the problem and objectives of the study. The second chapter was the literature review part. The third chapter was methodology of the study. Fourth chapter was the discussion and finding part of the study and last chapter about conclusion and recommendation

respectively.

## **2. Literature Reviews**

### **2.1. Theoretical Literature**

#### **2.1.1. Economic Empowerment of Women**

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, women enjoy more freedom and power than ever before. However, they are still disadvantaged when compared to men in virtually all aspects of life. Women are deprived of equal access to education, health care, capital, and decision making powers in the political, social, and business sectors. Whereas men are credited with performing three quarters of all economic activities in developing countries, women actually perform 53 percent of the work, according to the United Nations. The 1995 UN Human Development Report, states that "an estimated \$16 trillion in global output is currently 'invisible,' of which \$11 trillion is estimated to be produced by women [10].

The world has recognized the vital importance of education as a main aspect of human security and as a means to empower women. According to the UNDP Human Development Report, women in Africa represent 52 per cent of the total population, contribute approximately 75 percent of the agricultural work, and produce 60 to 80 percent of the food. Yet they earn only 10 percent of African incomes and own just 1 per cent of the continent's assets. These numbers indicate the tremendous challenges women face on their road to gender equality. Despite repeated efforts made by governments, NGOs, and multilateral development agencies, the majority of women in the developing world are still relegated to micro enterprises and informal tasks. In addition, women still make-up the majority of part-time and temporary workers in developed countries. Consequently, these women working in informal economies are likely to have less access to basic health care services, education, financial capital, political appointments, employee rights, and land ownership. For example, in Southeast Asian countries, Khadija Haq states that women are still underrepresented in the government and civil services, and face a persistent gap in education and job opportunities. However, there is wide consensus that investment in the economic empowerment of women can and will help reverse these trends [11].

#### **2.1.2. Women Education as Global Trend**

Although women constitute half of the world's population and produce 70% of the labor, they earn education only one tenth of the world's income and less than one hundredth of the world's property. In terms of - education, women comprise two third of all the illiterate people. At present, it is estimated that, about one third of all the households in the world are headed by women. The vast majority of this woman suffers from all forms of structural injustices including lack of access to education and training [the world women 2010: trends and statistics].

The ample evidence available suggests that, educating women has much more social return. In view of this, increasing equal access education has been major policy and

goal for most developing countries. Despite all this, women participation in education and development still lags behind in many countries. The World Bank report also indicates that, low literacy rate still prevails more among women than men. Out of the 51 developing countries, 14 are considered by bank as countries whose female literacy rate is less than 20% and even less than 10% for 5 countries including Nepal, Afghanistan, Burkinafaso, Somalia and Sudan. On the other hand, men's literacy rate is 3 to 4 times higher [12] Women Rights to Housing and Land.

The right to adequate housing has been widely re owned as an important human right in the universal declaration of human rights and the covenant on economic, social and cultural rights. The UN commission of human rights adopted a resolution (200/49) entitled, women's equal ownership of access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing. Yet, women are still to glossary deny the right to adequate and related rights such as access to sanitation facilities and potable water [13].

Poverty is a decisive overlying factor that traverses with the other factors to rebuff women right to adequate housing. From the range of women in India, Malaysia, Sirlankaa, Thailand and Indonesia who faced victim from slums and squatter settlements when they lose their husbands, widowed women are unalterable to being deprived of their rights to adequate housing because of insufficient protections on their inheritance, property and housing rights. Poor urban women are still disgustingly denied the right to adequate housing, who as a consequence are most directly, affected by unhealthy and unacceptable living standards [14].

### **2.1.3. Gender and Agriculture**

Women are key participants in Ethiopian agricultural production. According to the electronic health records data, the percentage of female households in the rural area will about 27.7%. From the same data, the average household size will have estimated to be 5.9% individual under a single roof. Interestingly, female headed household had smaller family size than male headed household this shows that the dominance of men over women on key intra households decisions including number of births, the use of contraceptive and other family planning issues. The call for effective family planning programs should also give weight for creating awareness and other means of family planning which are not only targeting women but also oriented towards men.

Land and livestock (particularly, oxen) are a key assets in the livelihood of rural Ethiopians. Land is the primary source of livelihood while oxen are the major source of traction and store of wealth. It is essential that to examine the ownership pattern of these assets by gender in Ethiopian economy. Land holding arrangements in rural Ethiopia is persistently against women, where the per-capita land holding for female headed house hold is less than that of male headed households. In 2004, the per-capita land holding of female headed households will just 0.31 hectare. The per-capita oxen holding of female headed households declined from 0.69 in 1994 to 0.62 in 2004, while per-capita oxen holding of male

headed households increased from 0.72 to 1.72 between the two periods (Ibid).

### **2.1.4. Activity and Time Allocation**

Women are burdened with their triple role in society; child bearing, households charrs and farm activities. Usually women in rural areas have access, should have to rent or share coped out their land or hire in men labor for plowing. In rural Ethiopia, women spent an estimated 14-18 hours per day during peak season and 12-16 hours during the peak agricultural season on productive and reproductive work. Since labor time is finite, longer work hours in field as well as at home implies that women have limited or no time for leisure and other social activities [15].

### **2.1.5. Women in Governance and Decision Making**

The apparent gender disparity is high in government positions, which are vital for important decisions. Becoming the head of state or head of government remain elusive for women, with 14 women in the world currently holding either position. In the world wide on average only one in six cabinet ministers is a woman. Women are highly underrepresented in decision making position at local government levels. In the private sector, women continue to be severely underrepresented in the top decision making positions. Only 13 of the 500 largest corporations in the world have a female chief executive officer [16].

According to UN women Ethiopia, after Ethiopian's transition to a federal democratic republic in 1991, the share of seats held by women parliament has climbed from under three percent in 1991 to 38 percent today. The gender gap in the cabinet has also been upped to 50 percent since prime minister came to office. However the figures are not a match when it comes to women in leadership and strong presence in politics. "Ethiopian women constitute 51 percent of the country's population and there represent more numbers than the proportion of all nations and religions.

### **2.1.6. Women Role in Economic Development**

In most low income developing countries household, women have a triple role. Women's roles include reproductive work is required to guarantee, to maintains and reproduction of the labor force, productive work and community managing work. In rural areas, their productive role usually takes informal sector and small enterprises located either in the home or neighbor hoods. Women's community managing work involves the provision of items for collective consumption under taken in the local community in both urban and rural contexts [17].

Throughout history, the central role of women in society has ensured the stability, progress and long-term development of nations. Globally, women comprise 43 percent of the world's agricultural labor force – rising to 70 percent in some countries. For instance, across Africa, 80 percent of the agricultural production comes from small farmers, most of whom are rural women. It's widely accepted that agriculture can be the engine of growth and poverty reduction in developing nations. Women, notably mothers, play the largest

role in decision-making about family meal planning and diet. And, women self-report more often their initiative in preserving child health and nutrition. Today, the median female share of the global workforce is 45.4 percent. Women's formal and informal labor can transform a community from a relatively autonomous society to a participant in the national economy. Despite significant obstacles, women's small businesses in rural developing communities not only can be an extended family's lifeline, but can form a networked economic foundation for future generations. The role of women in the urban and rural workforce has expanded exponentially in recent decades [18].

A development planning whether national or international has traditionally been gender neutral or even gender blind. This will partly and that aid organization where followed with very little in sight in to gender because until recently lacked information about women and their contribution to their regions. As a result, there will a tendency to marginalize women by development planners who have often seen them only as passive beneficiary of social and health services. Development must be a human centered process, because people are both the means and end of development. Planners must also realize that development. Goals will only be reached by securing the active involvement of women's as well as men and by bringing women's in to the main stream of economic development so that each gender plays it respective role in the processes. [19].

Ten years ago, policy making for Africa women actives and concerns will necessary "planning without fact" access to education, independence and sophistication of women organizations. For policy and aid purpose there has been a major improvement in the documentation of women's economic and family's role and in understanding the obstacle in the path of policy implementation for women from the international to the local level [20].

This increased knowledge, experience and an organizational expert suggests that development policy must build on women's potential and improve the condition and under which they work or suffer losses and forgone opportunities. The fact that, women's work is crucial resource in Africa rural economies particularly in food production has been known for the decades. What has been almost completely lacking, however, has been a long term, sustained attempt to develop and improvement in agricultural and social policy with this fact in mind ([21]).

#### **2.1.7. Women, Household Activities and Contribution to Domestic Economy**

The emphasis in the study of in society has shifted in the post fourteen years. Early writing revolved around women's traditional roles and centered on their position in the family. In primitive societies men's and women's roles were considered essentially complementary.

During the 1970's, the academic literature moved away from studying women in the family, towards examining their activities outside the domestic setting and investigating their pace ion economic relations. Moreover, scholars have deal

with the issue of women at different times on the different matters. Some of them highlighted the equality and other in equality or men and women contribution to the economy of the nation. Although societies believe in the equality of men and women we are in the decade of women in which their role in many aspects is the issue.

As important contribution of domestic economy Ethiopian women have played a traditional role of mother and house wife in both rural and urban areas of Ethiopia. However, their works have never been limited to the households and the family. Women's productivity is predominant on the processing and marketing of food and related cottage industries [22].

#### **2.1.8. Women in Ethiopia**

Ethiopia remains one of the world's poorest countries of population exceeding 110 million people, 62.2% live on less than two dollar per day. Ethiopia is struggle with poverty and slow development degradation. This situation is further complicated by deep traditional social and economic patterns that place powerful constraints on the right of women and their opportunities ties to direct their own lives or participate in and contribute to community and national development. Women in Ethiopia like many other developing countries have access to economic resources and education for them is very low therefore women participation in economic activities generally and in self-employment specifically is limited the major problem of women to be self-employed will the lack of capital. Many women in Ethiopia dependent on their husband's salary coupled with low income levels do not even satisfy their monthly expenses which force them to be engage in work. The second obstacles for women entrepreneurs is lack skill of awareness about institution like WISE, which helps women participation of in economic activity. The other obstacle for women participation in economic activities is access to working and shortage of raw materials [9].

As in other traditional societies women's worthies measured in terms of her or role of mother and wife, over 85% of women in Ethiopia reside in rural areas where peasant family are engaged primarily in subsistence agriculture. Rural women's are integrated into rural economy, which is basically labor intensive and which exacts a heavy physical toll on all including children. The revolution had little impact on the lives of rural women. Land reform did not change their subordinate status, which based on traditional deep rooted traditional values and beliefs. An improvement in economic condition would improve the standard of women, but real change would require transformation of the attitude of government and men regarding women [23] There have been some changes of women in urban areas where education, health care and employment outside the home have become more available. Although a few women with higher education have found professional employment, most hold low paying about 40% of employed in women in urban areas as worked in the service sector, mainly hotels, restaurant and bars, according to 1976 government serve. Employment in

production and related areas (such as textile and food processing) are accounted for about 25% of the women work force, followed by sales, which accounted for about 11%. The survey also shows that women factory works in Addis Ababa earned about quarter of the wage earned for the same type of work this different existed despite 1975 proclamation step waiting equal pay for equal work for men and women [24].

Following the revolution women made some gains in economic and political areas. The revolutionary Ethiopian women's association (REWA) which claimed member ship over 5 million took an active part in educating women. It encourages the creation of women's organizations, in factors, local association, and in civil services. Some women participated in local organization and in peasant association and kebeles. However, the role of women limited at national level. This is because a little bit understanding of Ethiopian government about the role of women in each and every development agencies, NGOs engaged in relief and rehabilitation work had attempted to incorporate women issues in to their work programs. They did not show the expected results. This will because the previous government had not given women the development the priority it deserved and therefore, had not created a conducive to atmosphere for development initiatives for women. Until recently, government in Ethiopia has not had any policy on women's affairs. Hence they have not been seen as important potential beneficiaries of government development programs. Although women have made substantial contribution to the straggle in Ethiopia people have waged to ensure their rights and freedom, their struggle up to now has not been sufficiently institutionalized gender issues do not only concern women, women's problems cannot be solved by women alone, but by the coordinated efforts of the society as a whole, including government, careful planning in full consolation with women is essential drawing lessons from pass failure and experiences fruits is now receiving support in government and local communities. One effect has been the creation of modus operandi which is increasingly free from partiality and sexual discrimination of curse there is still a long way to go (NPEW, 2002).

Currently, different governmental and non-governmental organizations are integrating Women into development by empowering and providing them with available resource in order to increase women efficiency and effectively in their existing roles. However, their participation level in development and income generating activities is very low especially; with in rural women due to illiteracy, work burden, low provision of information for income generating activities.

## 2.2. Empirical Review

Women are capable of achieving economic independence individually or as part of large society. However, in parts of the world they have been denied their rightful position in the society and rather were made dependent on their male counterparts. Various factors are responsible for this inequality. The lesson drawn from the western countries like

USA, Europe and UK shows that the more women are getting equal opportunity in the society the better their contribution to economic development will be. Most notably women in the past were confined to 3k's (kitchen, kids, knitting). Under present circumstances women not only participate in the 4E's [25].

Women in low decision making power, particularly in developing countries, are more pronounced at household level. In the study conducted by M. R. Ansari etc. [26] in Gujarat, western India, about 50% of the women do not feel free to take a sick child to a doctor without approval of their husband and 70% of women do not make decision regarding the purchase of their own or their children clothes. Similarly the data of, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Malawi analyzed by E. Haimanot etc. [27] show low decision making power of women, women in Zimbabwe have better autonomy than women in Zambia and Malawi. In Zambia men have likely to have the sole final say over women's own health care, large households' purchase, visiting relative and number of children to have and when to have them. In Malawi men are more likely to have the sole final say over large household and own health care. In Zimbabwe, however have the sole final say than their partners, over their own health care, household purchase and what food to cook, and the decisions concerning large purchases and visiting relative are primary made jointly.

The aforementioned facts clearly show the lower status in the society compared to that of women, which has adverse impact on the overall health status and conditions of women in developing countries. Maternal mortality ratio (MMR), indicator of women's health is one of the highest in most of these countries. Forinstance based on study of DHS data from 22 Sub-Saharan African countries showed that MMR is greater than 500 per 100000 live births in 16 of them and even greater than 1000 in the Central African Republic, Eretria, and Rwanda [28].

### 2.2.1. The Working Condition of Ethiopian Women

In 1993, the country Ethiopia developed a new Labor Proclamation that has opposed gender discrimination in employment and the dismissal of pregnant workers. In 2000, Ethiopia ratified a new family law that significantly strengthened women's economic rights by allowing women to be head of household and choose where to live in the same way as men. It also eliminated the legal requirement for married women to obey their husbands. The reform also granted spouses equal rights to immovable property and equal administrative authority over assets during. [8].

### 2.2.2. In Rural Area

About 80% of Ethiopians live in the rural because of random distribution method of production used in the rural area, nearly 85% of women labor is wasted on such arduous activities on farming and animal husbandry activities in which traditional technique of production as applied. Even though the division of labor differs from place to place depending on the climate condition men participate in all types of service rural work, including and used ranking, harvesting and preparing

trashing field and grain bins. For instance, women in nomadic society are with the responsibility of erecting mobile huts, dismantling them and caring the grails of next place stay, in addition to cattle raising and herding with respect to house work rural women have to grind grain, fetch water, fetch fire wood, prepare colluding effort use, either as a substitute for or supplementary to fire wood, prepare and raise children and sweet out for 13 to 17 hour a day. Although rural women share of the division of labor is for more tire some and more time consuming them that of men, it is referred to as women's work and it is not valued rural women have also been barred from access to productive since their contribution continued be under values (office of primeminster. 2004).

### **2.2.3. In the Urban Areas**

Majority of the low wage earner in the urban area are women. In the factories, for instance, women make up 30 percent of the labor paid is only 21 percent. Although, every small number of women hold high position job that require college training and technological know-how, but Ethiopian women are engage in all types of old jobs. These include low income job, such as selling integral the pancake like traditional food and tells the traditional bravery, working as a house Medias is, of course, the first occupation youngest women who move to cities from rural areas in search of a better life embark on the Formal Sector [29].

According to study done by the ministry of labor and social Service 2006 the number of male employed both in public and private sectors. Were employment opportunity are limited, will about 82.1% of the total labor force, were as women constitute 17.9%. Related source information indicated that among those workers who have been employed though then minister of labor and social affairs the civil commission, the number of women is much lower. Of course that is a good indicator of urgency and the seriousness of the situation of Ethiopian women. The number of business women is relatively low. Actually, most women are engaged in the Service sector as bar, procreates and restaurants owners, because they lack the appropriate skill and capital. All these facts portend a dire situation (minister of labor and social affairs 2004).

### **2.2.4. The Informal Sector**

A very large number of women, especially youth women, on literate females headed house hold, are living engaged in such activity of the informal as collecting and selling fire wood, hawking cheap good and selling Tella (araq) and working as maid servant or prostitute. Even though, these activities falling under the informal sector are undocumented then bear witness to the miserable condition [30].

The new labour markets are more and more feminized. "The past three decades have seen increasing involvement of women in the global economy, but there has also been a steady erosion of labour rights". As stated in many studies, informal economy is where the majority of women and the poor are to be found, but it is also here where official efforts for social protection are limited. The Ethiopian Ministry of Women's Affairs identified women's economic empowerment as its

first priority, while all other international agencies in the country (from the World Bank to Unicef to international NGOs and individual countries (Sweden, Canada and Italy among others)) support programmers that address individual women offering saving and credit schemes. The Government of Ethiopia developed a very articulated program to support formalization of informal work. Door to door campaigns, registration of informal, illegal workers as "job seekers", creation of groups of five members, mandatory group saving, access to credit and, where necessary, free business venue for five years till "graduation" of the business. Women are at the center of this program which will examine in detail, by the research, in three districts: in Addis Ababa (the Sub-city of Kolfe Keranio), in Jimma and in Hawassa [27].

## **3. Research Methodology**

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

The study was conducted in Southern Nations Nationalities and Peoples regional state of Gofa zone on Demba woreda. Demba Gofa Woreda is located in southern part of Ethiopia at the distance of 514kms from the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa. Demba woreda has 34 kebeles and it is bordered on the south by Uba Debretehay and Oyda woreda, on the north by Dawro Zone woreda, on the east by Kucha and northwest by Melokoza. on the west by Geze Gofa woreda and on the southeast by Zala. Demographically, Demba woreda has total population 109,263 of whom 53,539 are men and 55,724 are women based on figures published by the CSA in 2021 E. C. This woreda has tropical climate and has a total area of land 76,784 hectare. The average annual rainfall of this woreda is 1850mm and this woreda lies on an elevation of 1,395 meters above sea level. The average annual temperature is 16°C-22°C. the major economic activity of the residents in Demba Gofa Woreda is Agriculture. The main agriculture activity currently practiced includes irrigation (modern and traditional) and mixed farming. The major agricultural products of this woreda are maize, sorghum and the main cash are coffee [31].

#### **3.1.1. Research Design**

Cross-section Survey design was used as research design for this particular study mixed methods of data, both quantitative and qualitative data was collected and analyzed in the study.

#### **3.1.2. Source of Data and Method of Data Collection**

The data for the study was obtained from both primary and secondary source of data. Primary data was collected from the sample populations through structured questionnaires and interview. The sample respondents were the women who are participants in income generating activities and who are not the participants. The questioners were containing closed ended questions and the interview with official of women and child's affairs office, and also contain unstructured form of interview. The reason for the selection of unstructured interview is because of the greatest value lies in the deep and vitals of information that the researcher gets from personal interview.

And also the researcher was used closed end types of questioners because the closed ended question are favored over open ended questions for their efficiency and specificity they are easier to measure recorded coded and analyzed. Secondary data was collected from different sources of readable materials.

### 3.2. Sampling Technique and Sample Size Determination

Two stage sampling methods was employed to achieve the objectives intended of the study. Firstly, purposive sampling technique was used to select a sample of three kebeles from which data gathered; namely: Turga, Borda, and Bola. These kebeles are select from 34 total kebeles of woreda based on the consideration of time available for data collection, analysis and parallel running the class, and because of financial resources required to cover large number of kebeles. The total number of households in these three kebeles are 14,117 (Sawal Town Social office association 2019). Secondly, stratified random sampling method was used to collect data from the identified kebeles. To do so the researcher was classified the households in to two main strata as those women participating in income generating activities and non-participants. Then the last respondents will be selected randomly from each category. The sample females those found in productive age group (>18 age). Based on this sampling technique the required sample size of the respondents will be determined by using [32] formula as follows:

$$n = Z^2 P(1-p) / e^2$$

where:

$n$  = designates the sample size the research uses;

$p$  = designates the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population.

$e$  = designate the desire level of precision (taking the level of precision 5%).

$1$  = designates the probability of the event occurring.

$Z$  = the abscissa of the normal curve that cuts of an area  $\alpha$  at the tails ( $1-\alpha$ ) equal the desired confidence of level (taking 95% confidence level).

Thus, where the three kebeles have a total households of 782 of which is a target population; from this calculating “P”,

$$P = Ni / N$$

Where,  $p$  = designates the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in population.

$N$  = Total number of households in the woreda.

$Ni$  = Total number of households of selected kebeles [26] sampling techniques (3rd ed), John Wiley & sons.

$P = 782 / 14,117 = 0.055$ , and  $z = 1.96$ ,  $e = 5\%$

$n = (1.96)^2 (0.055) (0.0945) / (0.05)^2 = 79.8668$

Approximately  $n = 80$  sample size.

Remark; this data stands only for those who were greater than 18 age group and above.

Simple size for each kebeles such as Turga = 35, Borda = 20, Bola 25.

On these bases, from each kebeles respondents was selected on random that are in the age group of 18 years and above.

### 3.3. Method of Data Analysis

Data collected from both primary and secondary data sources are first edited, classified, and organized into homogenous classes based on their common characteristics. The data obtained will be analyzed using both descriptive and Econometric model. descriptive statistics include: tabulation, frequencies percentage,  $X^2$  Chi Square, T-tests and graphs. In econometric analysis, Binary Logit model will be employed because the dependent variable has two attributes whether the woman is a participant in income generating activities or not.

*Dependent variable:*

Dependent variable of this study is Dummy (participation in income generating) which takes value of 1 for participation and 0 otherwise.

*Independent Variable*

Age: Age is a continuous explanatory variable. As age of a household increases, it is assumed that women are getting old and their probability of participating in income generating activities. Hence age of women is expected to affect women participation negatively. Thus it is hypothesized that age and women participation in income generating activities are negatively correlated with each other.

Family size the analysis of t-test shows that there was statistically significant difference between two groups in their family size at 1% significance level. This implies that women in households with larger family size less involved in income generating activities compared to women in households with smaller family size.

Educational level of the husbands: In the study area the minimum schooling years of the respondent's husband was 0 and the maximum schooling year was 13. The maximum schooling year of husband of women who are engaged in income generating activities and not engaged in income generating activities was 13 and 12 years respectively.

Education level of the respondent: education of the respondent is a continuous variable indicating the years of schooling achieved by the women. It is measured in number of years the women attended in formal school. Education is expected to affect the participation in income generating activities positively. Because as years of schooling increase, the probability of participation will increase. Hence the variable education is hypothesized that it will have positive effect on the dependent variable.

Land holding of the respondents: In the study area it was found that the mean land holding of the respondents was 0.514 hectare with standard deviation of 0.244 hectare. The minimum and maximum land holding of the total households was 0.12 hectare and 1.65 hectares respectively. The mean land holding of respondents engaged in income generating activities and those who are not engaged in income generating activities was 0.48 and 0.53 hectare respectively.

Livestock holding of the respondents: is among the important assets in livelihood of rural people. They are source of income, power, organic fertilizer and food for people. it is measured continuously by converting the number of livestock into Tropical Livestock Unit (TLU). With increasing number of livestock for



the respondents, it requires the responsibilities of protecting the and this is expected to have negative impact on participating in income generating activities. So that TLU is hypothesized that it will negatively affect the dependent variable.

Market distance in the study area, women are expected to travel average 3.05 Km to the nearest market to sell some agricultural products and buy different commodities for their households. The average market distance from residence to the participant's women in income generating activities was 1.78 km and it was 3.73 km for non-participant group. The maximum distance from the respondent's residence to the nearest market for participants and non-participants was 4 and 6 Km respectively.

Access to credit: access to credit is the dummy variable taking values of 1 if the women has access to credit utilization and 0 other wise. Households who has access to credit has a great probability of being income generating participant. Thus the variable access to credit is highly expected to affect the dependent variable positively.

### 3.4. Model Specification

The logit model mathematically formulated as follows:

$$P(Z_i=1) = \frac{e^{Z_i}}{1+e^{Z_i}} \quad (1)$$

Where,  $P_i$  is the probability of women involvement in income generating activities.

$Z_i$  is a function of n-explanatory variable ( $x_i$ ) and expressed as:

$$Z_i = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_i X_i + u_i \quad (2)$$

Where,  $\beta_0$  = Intercept.

$\beta_i$  = Regression coefficients to be estimated.

$X_i$  = is explanatory (independent) variable.

$u_i$  = Disturbance term.

$P_i$  is the probability of women participation in income generating activities, and then the probability of respondents' unemployment in income generating activities ( $1-p_i$ ) can be

written as:

$$1-p_i \text{ or } P(Z_i=0) = \frac{1}{1+e^{Z_i}} \quad (3)$$

Therefore, taking the ratio of the probability of women participation to non-participants can be written as:

$$\frac{P_i}{1-P_i} = \frac{\frac{e^{Z_i}}{1+e^{Z_i}}}{\frac{1}{1+e^{Z_i}}} = e^{Z_i} \quad (4)$$

The left side of equation 4 ( $\frac{P_i}{1-P_i}$ ) is simply the odds ratio in favor of women participation in income generating activities.

By taking the natural log of equation (4), the log of odds ratio can be written as:

$$L_i = \ln(e^{Z_i}) = Z_i = \beta_0 + \sum \beta_j x_{ij} + u_i \quad (5)$$

Where,  $L_i$  is log of the odd ratio in favor of participation in income generating activities, which is not only  $X_{ij}$  linear in but also linear in the parameters.

As indicated above in the model, the logit model for this particular study can be identified as follows with variables of the study.

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{AGE} + \beta_2 \text{HOSBEDU} + \beta_3 \text{WIFEEDU} + \beta_4 \text{FAMLYS} \\ Z + \beta_5 \text{LANDSZE} + \beta_6 \text{MKTDST} + \beta_7 \text{TLU} + \beta_8 \text{CREDITAC} + \beta_9 \\ \text{MEMBERSHP} + \beta_{10} \text{ROADACC} + u_i \quad (6)$$

## 4. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Descriptive Data Analysis

In this chapter, the researcher tries to discuss the collected data and results using both descriptive and econometric method of data analysis. Under descriptive method of data analysis using by T- test Mean, Standard deviation, frequency, percentages and qualitative data analysis method such as statement.

#### 4.1.1. Descriptive Analysis for Continuous Variables

Table 1. Summary of descriptive statistics (continuous Variable).

Variable	Participants		Non-Participants		Mean deff	T-test
	Mean	S/dev	Mean	S/dev		
Tlu	2.89	1.52	8.43	2.85	5.53482	10.53***
Mktdis	4.10	2.33	10.43	3.17	6.320462	9.95***
Eduwife	6.673	3.27	1.095	1.44	-5.58	-9.99***
Eduhosd	6.945	3.12	2.14	2.35	-4.80	-7.76***
Familysize	3.78	1.600	7.23	2.15	3.45	8.007***
Age	34.54	6.07	41.09	8.32	6.55	3.94***

Source: own survey 2021

Livestock holding: Livestock are among important assets in livelihood of rural people. They are source of income, power, organic fertilizer and food for people. The mean tropical livestock unit of income generating activities' participants was 2.89 while it was 8.43 for non-participants. The t- test value was significant at 1% level of significance indicates that there was statistically significant mean difference between

IGA participants and non-participants in terms of number of livestock owned measured in tropical livestock unit.

Market distance: In the study area the Mean market distance from residence to the participant's women in income generating activities was 4.10 km and it was 10.43 km for non-participant group. The result of t-test analysis shows that the mean difference between two groups was found to be

statistically at 1% level significant.

Education Wife: from above the Table 1 the Mean participants Women in income generating activities was 6.673 and it was 1.095 for non participant group the result of t-test analysis shows that the mean difference two group was found to be statistically significant at 1% level of significance implying positive association between the two groups in terms of women education measured continuously in number of years of schooling.

Education husband from the Table 1 the Mean participants was 6.945 and it was 2.14 for non participants group. This indicates that the husbands of participant women were more educated as compared to those who are not participants. The T-value shows that the mean difference of the two group was found to be statistically significant at 1% level of significance.

Family size: from the above Table 1 the Mean participants was 3.78 and it was 7.23 non participants group the result of t-test analysis shows that the mean difference two group was found to be statistically at 1% level significant.

Age from the above Table 1 the Mean age of the participants was 34.54 and it was 41.09 for non participants group. the result of t-test analysis shows that the mean difference two group was found to be statistically at 1% level significant.

#### 4.1.2. Descriptive Analysis for Dummy Variables

Table 2. Summary of data for Dummy Variable.

Participants Non-participants						X <sup>2</sup>
Variable	Sample	Freq	Per/ge	Freq	Per/ge	
Accrdi	Yes	29	65.91	15	34.09	14.51***
	No	8	22.86	27	77.14	
Maritaltatus	Yes	22	47.83	24	52.17	0.0434
	No	15	45.45	18	54.17	

#### Access credit

From the above table about 65.91% of women who engaged in income generating activities received credit. On the contrary 34.09 of respondent from non participant group received credit. This shows that majority of the participants have access to credit and use the money to use as a start up capital for engagement in income generating activities. the chi square value shows that there is significant association between receiving credit and participation in income generating activities at 1% significance level.

Maritaltatus from the above table about 47.84% who engaged in income generating activities of maritaltatus and it was the 52.17 respondent from non participant group as the result square analysis shows that is not significance level.

#### 4.1.3. Status of Participation in Income Generating Activities

Table 3. Participation distribution.

Participation		
	Frequency	Percentage
Participants	37	46.84
Non-participants	42	53.16
Total	79	100

Source: own computation 2021

The above table shows the status of women participation in income generating activities in the study area. As it is clearly depicted in the table, the proportion of non-participant women is greater than the participant women in the sampled respondents. It shows that 53.16% are not participants of activities generating income for the household, while only 46.84% are participating in additional income generating activities as the data collected from respondents is indicating. This result implies that majority of the women in Demba Gofa Woreda were not taking part in income generating activities. because of caring their children as the number of children increase and livestock for those having large number of domestic animals and poultry. In addition to this as the data collected from the respondents indicate, husbands are hindering their wives in order not to participate in IGA.

#### 4.2. Econometric Result of Regression

##### 4.2.1. Overall Level of Significant Test

The Overall significant of the variable is tested by  $F$  test. This expressed by  $R$ -square 0.7642 which state that 79 percent of variation on average participants comes from the variables with in the model.

##### 4.2.2. Diagnostic Test

The section present various test regarding by linear regression model which is used by this study such as test of multicollinearity, heteroscedasticity, other related test.

##### 1. Test of multicollinearity

Multicollinearity is the relation of explanatory variables with each other or it is the problem that arises due to the presence of perfect linear relationship among explanatory variables.

The existence of an exact linear relationship among some or all explanatory variables of a regression model was known as multicollinearity problem. It might cause the estimated coefficients to have larger variance and covariance, wider confidence intervals in significant t-ratios, higher  $R$ -squared and wrong signs that might lead to wrong conclusion. In this cause the variance inflation factor was used to see the existence of multicollinearity among the continuous independent variable stat VIF. The diagnosis test of Multicollinearity indicates that, there is no serious multicollinearity problem in the data set because VIF for continuous variable is by far less than 10 percent as shown in the appendix.

##### 2. Heteroscedasticity

This test concerned with variation of variance or each random term. The variation of each random term around its zero mean is constant variation and change as the explanatory variable change regardless of sample size. Then Breusch Pagan (Cook- Weisberg test for Heteroscedasticity are as follows:

H0: constant variance (Homoscedasticity)

H1: no constant variance (Heteroscedasticity)

Breusch-Pagan / Cook-Weisberg test for heteroskedasticity.

$\chi^2(1) = 0.46$

$\text{Prob} > \chi^2 = 0.4968$

From the data in the normal regression value (Brush Pagan Test  $P > \chi^2 = 0.4968$  this means that  $\text{prob} > \chi^2$  is not significant even at 10 percent which indicates no problem of heteroscedasticity.

### 3. Omitted Variable

From the regression result say that there is no omitted variable because of 0.0326 greater than 10 percent. in the test

of Ramsey RESET test say if P value is greater than (10%) there is no model specification problem in the model.

Ramsey RESET Test using fitted value average point.

Ho\_model has omitted variable.

$$F(3,69)=3.09$$

$$\text{Pro} > F = 0.0326$$

**Table 4.** The role of women participation in income generating activities.

Participation	Marginal effect	Coef	Std.Err	Z	P> z	95% conf
Accerd	.556962	.1596278	2.642021	0.06	0.952	-5.018639
Tlu	5.83886	-4.332471	2.41868	-1.79	0.073	-9.072997
Mktdis	7.46835	-3.347184	1.94255	-1.72	0.085	-7.154511
Eduwife	3.70886	3.938205	2.010741	1.96	0.050	-.0027753
Eduhosb	4.39241	-1.684082	1.057487	-1.59	0.111	-3756717
Familysize	5.62025	-4.35042	2.147948	-2.03	0.043	-8.560321
Marialst	.582278	-33.18405	17.15064	-1.93	0.053	-66.79869
A age	3 38.0253	-.0793379	.1623917	-0.49	0.0625	-.3976198

Source own survey, 2021 \*\*\*, \*\*and\* significant at 1%, 5% and 10% the level respectively

Role of Women Participation in Income Generating Activities. The logistic regression result in the Table 4 from above revealed that there were different variables that role women's decision to participate in income generating activities at different statistical significant levels. eight variables were hypothesized that assumed to determine woman participation in income generating activities. Among them, eight of them were found to be significant variables determine woman participation in income generating activities either positively or negatively while the rest two variables were not significant in explaining the variations in the dependent variable. Age, husband education, women education, family size, market distance, Marital status, livestock holding and access to credit were variables identified by logistic regression model that influence woman's decision to participate in different income generating activities. They are explained as follows.

Educational level of husband and women: Looking into output of logistic regression (Table 4), that educational level of women themselves play a great role in participating in income generating activities it was found to be significant at 10% level of significance and has positive effect on the dependent variable. The marginal of indicates that as the schooling year of the husbands increase by 1 year, the possibilities for women to participate in income generating activities increase by 37% keeping the other factors constant. The possible reason for this is as the educational level of the husbands increases their understanding about gender equality increases and motivates women to move freely including participation in income generating activities. This can be reasoned out as the schooling year of the women increases their confidence increases and they are able to think different things in different ways critically to change the livelihood of their households including participating in income generating activities. Moreover, as the education increases the capability to manage income generating activities like cost benefit analysis, profit calculation increases which helps them to

decide to take part in different income generating activities. This result goes in line with the finding of the research conducted by (Abera, 2018) which shows that education was positive and significantly related to income generating activities at 5% level of probability.

Market distance: The result of logistic regression further indicates that market distance affect women participation in income generating activities negatively and significantly at 10% significance level. From the odds ratio analysis result it was evidenced that as the market distance far from the residence home by one kilo meter, the possibilities to participate in income generating activities decreases by 58% keeping the other factors constant. The reason for negative relationship between market distance and women participation in income generating activities indicates, long distance takes time for the women to reach the market to sell and buy commodities focused on their income generating activities. As women have a lot of household related burden they are not much interested to go a long distance and waste their time.

Family size: It was depicted that family size positively determine women participation in income generating activities at 5% significance levels. Based on the odds ratio result, as the family size of the respondents' household increases by one individual, women's possibilities to be engaged in the income generating activities increase by 56% keeping the other factors constant (Table 4). The reason for negative relationship between family size and women participation in income generating activities shows that as the family size increases the workload for women associated with children care increases and consumes their time that could have been invested in income generating activities.

Livestock holding: Moreover, it was found that livestock holding Role women probability to participate in income generating activities positively and significantly at 10% significance level. As the livestock holding of the respondent households increases by a unit TLU, the possibilities for

women to be engaged in income generating activities increases by 58% keeping the other factors constant (Table 4). The possible reason for this could be in the study it is the responsibilities of women to sell livestock products like milk, butter, yoghurt in the market. This helps them to get the chance to collect market information about income generating activities.

Age: Lastly the result of logistic regression also shows age as one of the role women participation in income generating activities. Accordingly it was obtained that age positively role women's possibilities to be engaged in income generating activities at 10% significance level. The odds ratio shows that as the age of the women increase by one year the probabilities to be engaged in income generating activities increase by 38.02 factors keeping the other variables constant Table 4.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

### 5.1. Conclusions

This study analyzed The role of women participation in income generating activities. In addition, the study had also identified types of income generating activities women engaged in. From this it was concluded that in the study area although the participation of women in income generating activities is low, those who were engaged in it found to be participating in multiple income generating activities where selling livestock product was the most dominant means of income earning for women in the study area. Furthermore, empirically it was found that age, husband's education, women's education, family size, market distance, livestock holding and access to credit were significant variables determining women participation in income generating activities. The policy implication of this finding is that investment in credit expansion, education, expansion of market, livestock production are crucial to promote women participation in income generating activities.

### 5.2. Recommendations

- 1) The principal strategies for increasing women participation in the income generating activities including removing legal and regulatory barriers, raising women's productivity, easing the constraints on their time and improving the efficiency of the income generating participation, providing information on the job opportunities, legal reform, educating and training, improving access to information and providing affordable child care in addition to mother care the key for women participation in income generating activities.
- 2) It is essential to improve the level of income of a woman, and to facilitate their labor in the appropriate place and improve their education. It is necessary to facilitate favorable condition for the formation of association as well as strengthen the existing associations, so that women can solve their own problems.
- 3) As all, it is only when these conditions are facilitated that women can participate in the national development effort

on equal terms with the men counterpart and benefit from their participation.

- 4) The necessity of planning out what must be done, drawing lessons from past experiences, and believing that women's issues or concern not only women but also society at large and that women's problem cannot be solved by women alone but by coordinating effort of the society, the government and women is necessary.
- 5) In addition, government should: Improve access up women to credit, Avoiding legal and regulatory barriers, Help women to get recognition, as they are productive enough and have the capacity to participate in the income generating activity in both household and nation at large.

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