

**Assessment of Rural Women Knowledge on Recent Land
Administration Reform**
A Case Study in Sidama Zone Hawassa Zuria District, SNNPR Ethiopia

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Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Development,
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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Permission to use | i |
| Acknowledgement..... | ii |
| Lists of Tables..... | v |
| Lists of Figure | v |
| Abbreviations | vi |
| Abstract..... | vii |
| 1. INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 1.1. Background Information..... | 1 |
| 1.2. Statement of the Problem | 1 |
| 1.3. Research Objective | 2 |
| 1.4. Research Question..... | 2 |
| 1.5. Research Frame Work..... | 2 |
| 1.6. Working Definition | 3 |
| 1.7. Background of the Study Area | 3 |
| 2. LITERATURE REVIEW | 5 |
| 2.1. Why Land Right for Women..... | 5 |
| 2.2. Customary and Official Land Right | 5 |
| 2.2.1. Customary Land Right..... | 5 |
| 2.2.2. Official Land Right..... | 6 |
| 2.3. Campaign and Knowledge on Women’s Land Right | 6 |
| 2.4. Women Land Rights during Divorce, Marriage and Inheritance in Ethiopia..... | 7 |
| 2.4.1. Women Land Right during Divorce..... | 7 |
| 2.4.2. Women Land Right during Marriage..... | 7 |
| 2.4.3. Women Land Right and Inheritance | 8 |
| 2.5. History of Land Certification in Ethiopia | 8 |
| 2.6. Land Registration and Certification in Ethiopia..... | 8 |
| 2.7. Land Certification System and Process in SNNPR | 9 |

| | |
|---|----|
| 2.8. SNNPR Land Proclamation about Marriage Divorce and Inheritance | 9 |
| 2.8.1. SNNPR Implementation rule Marriage Divorce and Inheritance101/2007 . | 9 |
| 2.9. Women's Policy | 10 |
| 2.10. Conceptual Frame Work..... | 11 |
| 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY | 12 |
| 3.1. The Data..... | 12 |
| 3.1.1. Primary Data | 12 |
| 3.1.2. Secondary Data | 12 |
| 3.2. Sampling Technique and Sample Size | 12 |
| 3.3. Data Collection Procedure | 13 |
| 3.4. Data Analysis | 13 |
| 3.5. Limitation of the Study | 13 |
| 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION | 15 |
| 4.1. Socio Demographic Characteristic of Respondents | 15 |
| 4.2. Information about Land Proclamation | 15 |
| 4.3. Knowledge about Women's Land Right | 17 |
| 4.4. Where do Women Claim for their Land Right..... | 21 |
| 4.5. Land Right Inheritance..... | 21 |
| 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION | 27 |
| 5.1 Conclusion..... | 27 |
| 5.2. Recommendation | 30 |
| References | 32 |
| Appendixes | 34 |

Lists of Tables

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1: Socio demographic characteristics of respondents..... | 15 |
| Table 2: Women respondents participated in land proclamation campaign | 16 |
| Table 3: Men and Women campaign participants..... | 17 |
| Table 4: Women respondents on knowledge of the purpose of certification | 18 |
| Table 5: women respondents realize women land right after certification | 20 |
| Table 6: Women vs. men respondents claim for land right | 21 |

Lists of Figure

| | |
|--|----|
| Figure 1: Research Framework..... | 2 |
| Figure 2: SNNPR Map, Hawassa Zuria District | 4 |
| Figure 3: Picture of couples on the certificate..... | 19 |

Abbreviations

BoARD - Bureau of Agricultural and Rural Development

CSA - Central Statistics Agency

FDRE – Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

GO – Government Organization

HZD - Hawassa Zuria District

HZDWA- Hawassa Zuria District Women's Affairs

LAC- Land Administration Committee

NOGs- Non Government Organization

PIA - Public Information Awareness

SNNPR - Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Region

SZWAD - Sidama Zone Women Affairs Department

Glossary

Enset- Staple food of Sidama

Equib - a socially established traditional saving and credit associations for shorter period at most for one year.

Eddir – it is a society self-help informal institution where members support one another during burial and times when mutual cooperation is needed.

Kebele- A peasant association; it is also lowest administrative unit in rural Ethiopia.

Abstract

Land is the main source of wealth, power and wellbeing for rural people. Women do not have equal right, for there is no equal opportunity in access to and control over land and resources. Land administration and registration of Ethiopia are based on both the federal and regional land proclamation which aimed to increase the tenure security and strengthen women's land rights.

The objective of this research project was to make recommendation for Local Administration, Agriculture and Rural Development office, and Women's Affairs office on how they can enhance the knowledge of women over their land right by assessing the knowledge of men and women within the community with regard to the recent land administration and registration reform. The study was conducted in Dore Bafano Kebele in HZD in July and August 2010. The study employed focus group discussions and individual interview. A total of 30 respondents (15 women and 15 men) were interviewed at household level. The number of group discussion participant was 13 (7 men and 6 women). Key informants were also involved in the interview from BoARD, Women's Affairs office and local land administration committees. The content of the interview focused on the level of knowledge and the means by which people acquired knowledge about women land right in the recent land administration proclamation.

The latest SNNPR Rural Land Administration proclamation 2007, gave both male and female equal right during marriage, divorce and inheritance but women did not know their land right. According to the result from field data, trainings and campaigns were formed as means of awareness creation about the land reform. Only men participated in the campaign, as a result, men were found more knowledgeable than women for 93.3% of the interviewed women did not know about their land right. The reason for this was women were not made aware to participate in the organized campaign and trainings. Also information campaigns were not focused on land rights of women but on registration and certification of land to enhance tenure security of holders. The reason for non participation of women in the campaign seems that Women's Affairs Office did not participate in information dissemination, as BoARD alone overtook the mandate.

To improve the women knowledge on their land right, collaboration work of concerned stakeholders such as BoARD, Women Affairs office, and Local Administration is important to enable women to break cultural barriers and tradition, and consequently have the ability and courage to claim their land right.

Kay Words: Knowledge of Women's Land right, Land Reform, Land registration and certification, proclamation, campaign.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background Information

Land is main the source of wealth, power and wellbeing for rural people. However, women do not have equal land right as their counter fellow men. For the past many years there is no equal opportunity in access to and control over land and resources. Women are more vulnerable to poverty than men in the world (Woldetensaye, 2007). Women's access to and control over the land strengthens women's right and increase women's participation in development activities. Women's land property rights have impact on household decision making and overall role and position in household and community. As part of community, women access to land and securing their land rights has paramount importance in improving the household food security and living situation (Adal, 2006).

In Ethiopia land has been the major agricultural production factor for farmers. About 85 % of people living in rural areas (CSA, 2007) depend on availability of land. The ownership of land has been under the public and sole control of the state with farmers having use land right, However, men and women do not have equal power to make decision on their land according to the use land right given to them by the state., To improve the system of land administration and utilization, nowadays there is proclamation that focuses on how the rural land is administered, utilized, owned, leased and inherited. Recent year Ethiopian government rural land policy reform (proclamation No1/1995) provides equal land rights for both men and women.

The new federal and regional land proclamations, that form the basis for this reform, aims to increase tenure security and strengthen women's right to land and to ensure sustainable use of land resources (Holden and Tefera, 2008). According to national rural land administration and utilisation proclamation 456 (FDRE, 2005), land is registered by husband and wife jointly, and land certificate shall be prepared in the names of all the joint holders and land use right can be transferred through in heritage to family members. Southern Nations Nationalities and People Region (SNNPR) rural land administration and utilization proclamation 110 (SNNPR, 2007), which is derived from the national policy has supported the equal right of men and women for land. The joint land registration and certification for husband and wife strengthens women's land right that women could not culturally attain in accessing and controlling their land (Holden and Tefera, 2008). In practice, women's had faced a number of constraints in achieving their land rights before the proclamations (Nzioki, 2006). Which even now have not shown significant change after the proclamation (Adal, 2006).

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The regional land administration and utilization proclamation awareness creation campaigns and trainings were conducted before the real land certification process had been conducted in rural areas. Joint certificates for husband and wife have also been issued in rural households. However, the progress in some formal legislative recognition of women land and property right, there are still women who unable to claim and secure their land rights. Women with little knowledge about their land right, in Sidama Zone especially in Hawassa Zuria District (HZD) come to Women Affair's organization and complain about the issue of land acquisition and transfer or transmission of use right particularly during inheritance, and during divorce. Women cannot secure land right by inheritance, during divorce and on marriage (SZWAD, 2009).

1.3. Research Objective

To make recommendation for Local Administration, Agriculture and Rural Development office, and Women's Affairs Office on how they can enhance the knowledge of women over their land right by assessing the knowledge of men and women within the community in regards to recent land administration reform.

1.4. Research Question

What does SNNPR land administration and utilization proclamation say about women's land right?

- What does the proclamation say on women's land right during marriage?
- What does the proclamation say about women's land right on divorce?
- What does the proclamation say about women's land right during inheritance?
- What were the main contents of information disseminated during the campaign?
- How the campaign was organized?

What does the community know about land right?

- What knowledge do both men and women have about land right during inheritance?
- What is the knowledge of have both men and women about land right during divorce?
- What is the knowledge of men and women about land right during marriage?

What are the knowledge gaps of the community on women's land right?

- What are the differences in level of knowledge between men and women on women land right?
- What can be recommended to raise the knowledge of women about land use and administration?

1.5. Research Frame Work

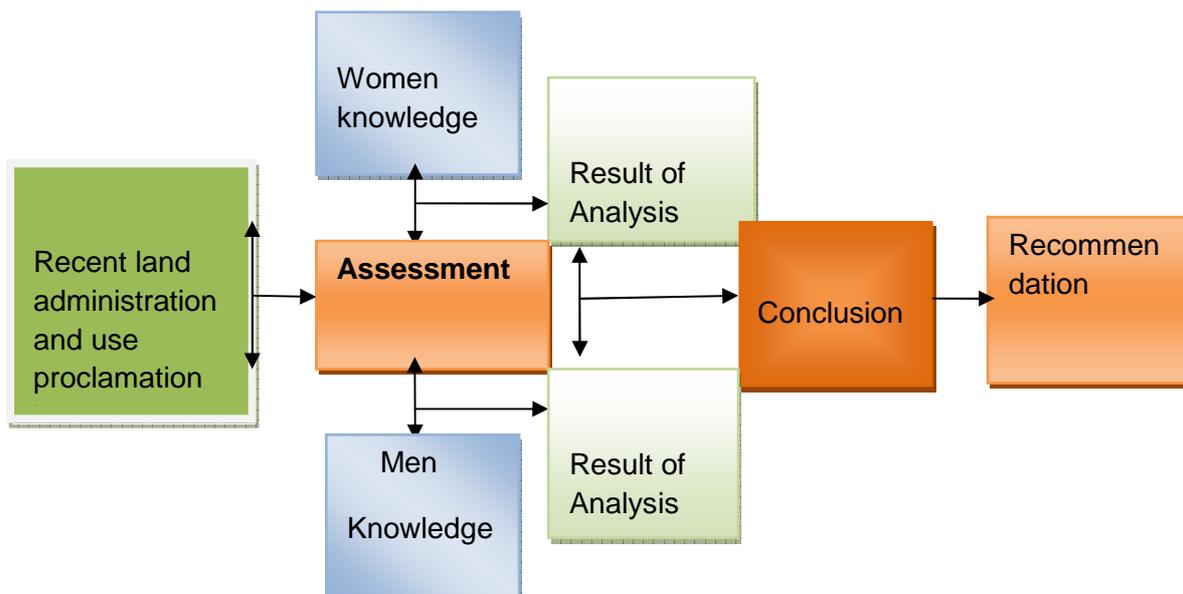


Figure 1: Research Framework

1.6. Working Definition

Knowledge of land right: understanding the land entitlement and rules about what is allowed for men and women, according to legal system and social convention.

Land administration: is the process of recording and disseminating information about the ownership, value and use (the way it is used) of land and its associated resources. Such processes include the determination of rights (ELTAP, 2006).

Land registration: is a process for recording, and guaranteeing, information about the ownership of land. The function of land registration is to provide a safe.

Land holding certificate: land registration shall be accompanied by the issuance of holding certificates that bears the name(s) of the holder(s). Land holding certificate could be issued to individual person and to spouses jointly.

Gender: can be defined as the set of characteristics, role and behaviour patterns that differentiate women from men which are constructed not biologically, but socially and culturally. These socially constructed roles are usually unequal in terms of power, decision-making, control over events, freedom of action, ownership of resources. (Ellis, 2000).

Patriarchy: Patriarchy is defined as of social relationships which cause domination of men over women. Men are regarded as the authority within the family and the community and power and possessions are passed on from father to son.

Decision-making: Decision making of land rights refers to control of products harvested from land including income from sales of products and decision on land transfer through inheritance.

Land rights registration: It is a recording procedure describing of land and identifying its owner and the form of ownership she/he or they had. Women's land rights registration and titling need to be defined explicitly in order to ensure their equal rights on land (ELTAP, 2006).

Land administration Committee (LAC): LAC is a body responsible for all the practical matters of land administration and use at kebele level and for individual farmers. The committee is elected by the kebele residents through a non-political, democratic process on both kebele and sub-kebele level (ELTAP, 2006).

Gender mainstreaming: is defined as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action including legislation, policies or programs in all areas and at all levels. According to the United Development Program (UNDP, 2001) definition Gender Mainstreaming is taking account of gender concerns in all policy, program administrative and financial activities, and in organizational procedures, thereby contributing to a profound organizational transformation. Specifically, it is bringing the outcome of socioeconomic and policy analysis in to all decision-making process of the organization and tracking the outcome. This includes both the core policy decision of the organization and the small every-day decision of implementation

1.7. Background of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Hawassa zuria district in Dorea Bafano Kebele. It is located in Sidama Administrative Zone of (SNNPR) Ethiopia. The kebele is located 316 km south of Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia. The district has 23 Kebeles. According to the Central Statistics Agency Census Survey (CSA 2007) the total population of the district is 139,891. Out of the total number of population 69,388 and 70,503 are women and men respectively. The reason for the selection of this study area is because the Women's Affair

office in the area is working to narrow gender gap by implementing different women’s rights which are stated in the constitution and women’s policy. Among women that are found in the 19 Districts of Sidama Zone, HZD women coming to get counseling service on land right from the Women’s Affairs Office are higher in number than the other District. Similarly Dore Bafano kebele as one of HZD has higher numbers of women coming to the Women’s Affairs Office to complain on their land right during divorce and inheritance.

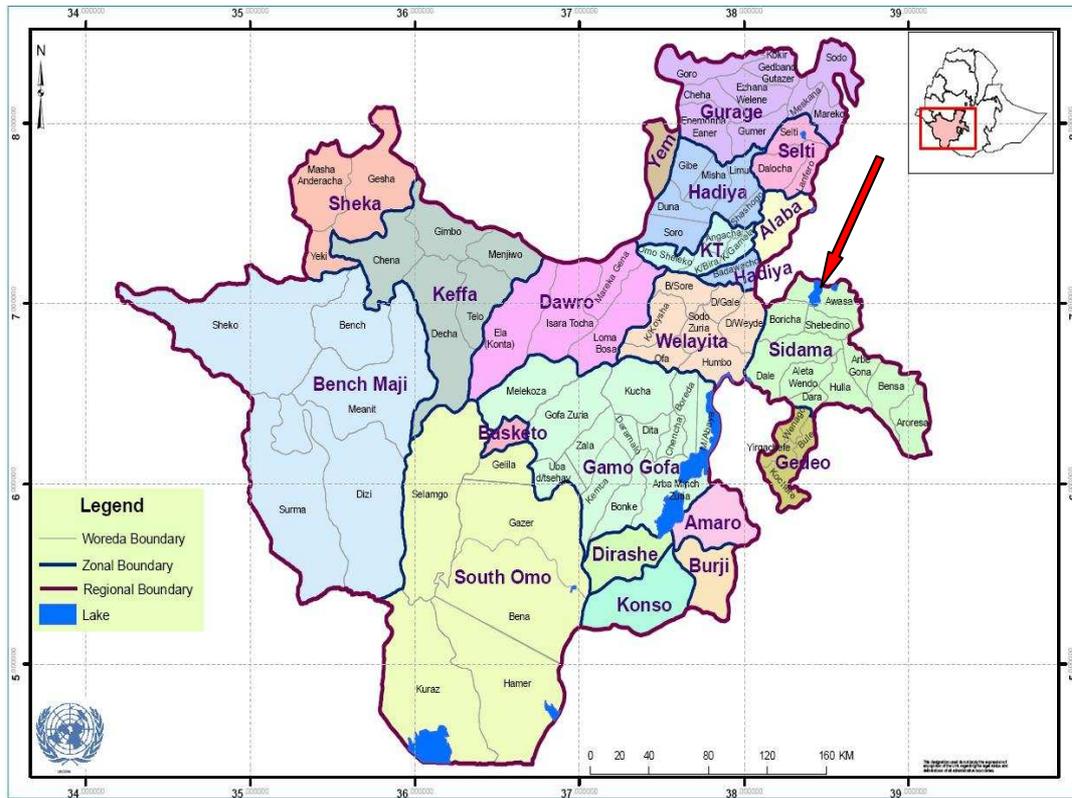


Figure 2: SNNPR Map, Hawassa Zuria District

Source: <http://www.ethiodemographyandhealth.org/SNNPR.html>

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Why Land Right for Women

To have land right for women is important in reducing the risk of poverty and enhancing food security in household, welfare improvement and women's empowerment. Land ownership right provided opportunities for women to enter decision making process and gain confidence to face heavy odds (Ikdhahl, et al 2005). Rights to use and control land is the central to the lives of rural women in countries where the main source of income and livelihood are derived from these natural resources (ELTAP,2006).

2.2. Customary and Official Land Right

This part attempts to differentiate between customary and official land right and its impact on women land rights. Land rights are determined by a number of socio-political systems that evolve over time and exist concurrently. Formulating effective land tenure policy and taking into account the prevailing customs and practices into modern land administration is a challenge.

2.2.1. Customary Land Right

The informal customary land right that can be understood as knowledge of community members is the issue of ownership of land and resources. Land is not considered as goods that can be bought or sold, but is managed according to family and lineage structures, marriage practices and religion. Generally men control land and women gain access mostly through their relationship with male relative. According to (WLSA,2001, Walker,2001a) cited in Woldetensay,(2007). Customary law limit women's rights on land and this law underpins patriarchal system of traditional authority to reinforce patriarchal values which disadvantage women and place them to subordinate position in society. Unmarried women have little access to land because they have no property right to inherit in most patriarchal societies (Nizoki, 2002). Where customary law is in force, it directly discriminates against women and provides them with few rights of control over land. Discriminatory practices do not provide daughter with equal inheritance right to those of sons (Ikdhahl et al., 2005,). The customary land right in SNNPR tends to be the unwritten social rules and structures of a community derived from shared value and based on tradition. Customary land right in SNNPR especially in Sidama is to the disadvantage to women.

Customary land right of women's in Sidama based on social relations between men and women. According to the Sidama culture's customary land right, women do not have land right and property ownership. They can't share and inherit the land. Women only eat and dress for their lifelong Period. Beyond this, they have no any say on their properties. At divorce, the woman only has to take with her the knife for processing enset (staple food) and pillow to go with (SZWAO, 1999). Male and female children are not treated equally for inheritance right. Land is given to male children. The laws had been discriminatory towards women for long time, hence they remain obstacle to women's attempt to ensure their right, enjoy the fruits of their labour and participation.

2.2.2. Official Land Right

Formal land right is given by the state law and the legislation and state programs specifically address women's land right and land titling regarding women's and men's equal land right.

Over the last few decades, many nations have reformed their constitutions and civil codes and have either incorporate gender-neutral language (favouring neither men nor women) or explicitly recognized women's rights and prohibited discrimination based on gender. Many nations have also modified land and property laws and regulations so as to guarantee women's equal property and inheritance rights (World Bank, 2009).

2.3. Campaign and Knowledge on Women's Land Right

Ethiopia developed strategy of Public Information and Awareness (PIA) which support widespread distribution of federal and regional laws and regulations in the regions, and two targeted PIA campaign one on land holder rights and responsibilities, and the second on the land certification campaign in Ethiopian Land Tenure and Administration Program (ELTAP) focus regions. According to ELTAP (2008) National and Regional PIA strategies were developed, and action plans for their implementation were prepared in collaboration with regional and national partners. Furthermore, in 2007, emphasis was focused on refinement of communication approaches, preparation and dissemination of PIA publications, website development, regional PIA training, launch of mass media campaigns, and tests of media messages using focal groups audience surveys, and knowledge, Attitudes, and practices(ELTAP,2008). Some specific activities had been considered important in the campaign are;

- Develop training manuals and procedures for transferring information.
- Conduct regional and local government land committee training to transfer knowledge about right and opportunities to end-users.

In line with this the public awareness creation activities were used by regions along with the decentralization of land administration reform. However, there was little capacity for the dissemination of information to the public about the various land administration reform program, their objectives, and ways that they will impact local resource use (ELTAP, 2006).According to SARDP (2010), the kebele land administration and registration process, in Amhara region, started with information to the District and Kebele administration followed by an awareness campaign among farmers. Land administration committee were established and members were selected and trained. The campaign of land registration and certification was designed and implemented by the districts' BoARD, specifically Department of Land Administration.

To increase the awareness of the general public in SNNPR, local mass media has been used to disseminate information to the local community. The SNNPR campaign was organized by the BoARD Environmental and Land Administration Department at regional level focusing on information about land tenure, registration and certification reform. At the time of campaign Medias such as Debub FM.100.9 radio broadcasting and different written materials were used. As stated by Holden and Tefera (2008), using radio is a cheap way of disseminating information. However, the same authors forwarded that it is a challenge for SNNP Region because of the large number of language group in the region. Consequently,

it makes the objective of creating public awareness and knowledge on women's land right difficult and costly.

Knowledge of women's land right is critical to all the community and women themselves to realize their rights on land. Knowledge and information are very important for women because they have to know rules, legal rights to raise claims and to challenge denial of opportunities and rights (Woldetensay, 2007). Awareness of women's participation on land registration and certification processes increase the women's land right. However, the knowledge and participation of women in the land registration process was lower than that of men in SNNPR (Holden and Tefera, 2008).

2.4. Women Land Rights during Divorce, Marriage and Inheritance in Ethiopia

Ethiopia remains one of Africa's most tradition-bound societies. Gender inequality is still widespread and deeply engrained in country. Lack of access and control over resources (particularly land) as well as the prevailing discriminatory traditional customs on women persist at all levels in Ethiopia. All these factors resulted on serious economic and social differences between men and women especially in use and control of the resource. It also insecure the land right of women during divorce and inheritance. One can raise a question why women land right is an issue and critical in Ethiopia, but as Agarwal, (2008) indicated that the voice of women towards the control and access to land resource is highly discriminated, while they are the back bone of the agricultural activities. Furthermore, the World Bank (2009) confirmed about the importance of land to women by explaining:

Land is a particularly critical resource for a woman in the event that she becomes a de facto household head as a result of migration by men, abandonment, divorce, or death. In both urban and rural settings, independent real property rights under these circumstances can mean the difference between having to depend on the natal or husband's family for support and forming a viable, self-reliant, women-headed household.

2.4.1. Women Land Right during Divorce

In Ethiopia, particularly in rural areas divorce arrangements are mainly made by elders or clan leaders. Even though women are entitled to claim land in the case of divorce, the patriarchal residence pattern often deprives them of their access to land. Due to the patriarchal practice in the case of divorce the husband generally keeps the land, whereas the wife often leaves the area and with other small assets, such as grain and sometimes livestock (Sorensen, 2003). Recent land proclamation allows equal land right for both husband and wife with equal right to share the land between each other during divorce (SNNPR, 2007).

2.4.2. Women Land Right during Marriage

Article 62 of the current Family Code of Ethiopia (2000) states, "all property acquired by the spouses during marriage by an onerous title shall be common property unless declared personal under Article 58(2) of this code" (Article 62, Federal Republic of Ethiopia, 2000). Hence, the family code allows for joint ownership of land and property in marriage. Even though the decree assures that the equal right of women and men in land ownership, in practice however is not true. As Tesfa (2002) indicated the reason is that the laws do not take into account the special circumstances and cultural uniqueness of the country i.e.

traditional male dominance is still persisting, even though equal rights were given to men and women(SARDP, 2010).

2.4.3. Women Land Right and Inheritance

In rural areas land is the key and main productive asset. Historically, social states and power were acquired by those who had access to and control over land. Women's land right that was influenced by international discourse on gender equality is well established as basic component of policy. As it is stated in FDRE constitution (1995) "women have the right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer of property. They have equal rights with men in respect to use transfers, administration and control of land. They shall also enjoy equal treatment in inheritance of property". Women ensuring equal land rights for men increase economic opportunities and food production. But, there is a gender persistent gap in landholding rights because; various factors are affected women's land right in communities (FAO, 2002). Cultural and institutional factors affect women's secured land right.

Inheritance is one of the ways of transferring land. The inheritance system is neither a matrilineal nor a patrilineal system, which means Federal and Regional land proclamation give equal right that both daughter and son can inherit land from the father or the mother and together from the parents. Even for the case of women who do not have land registered in their names, when it comes to inheritance her daughter has the right to share equally with her son the property of their father. But as Verma, (2007) highlighted, in most cases inheritance doesn't take place when parents are still alive, but after they are deceased. In many cases, all sons will inherit land and this means that the situation of girls is even more marginal.

2.5. History of Land Certification in Ethiopia

Land and its administration have had a core and often contentious role in the history of Ethiopia. The distribution and allocation of land to individuals was often used as a political instrument and sudden reallocations of land were common throughout Ethiopian history. Ethiopia was initiated the first land registration and cadastral survey in 1909 (Pankhurst, 1966, cited in Abebe, 2006). Similarly, before 1974 there was a Ministry of Land Reform and Administration working in collaboration with the Mapping Agency until the fall of the Imperial regime. The Derg regime also developed different proclamations which promoted the equal rights of women but in practice it did not ensure the equal right of women. The Ethiopian Federal Democratic Government also decreed different land administration proclamations and decentralized some of the land policy responsibilities to the regional level and consequently the regional land proclamations were developed, in line with the federal land proclamation (Holden, 2008). Accordingly, the Southern Nation Nationalities also implemented the land registration and certification process in to its own region.

2.6. Land Registration and Certification in Ethiopia

Land administration and registration in Ethiopia are based on both the federal and regional land proclamation aimed to increase the tenure security and strengthen women's land rights. The proclamation assumed to strengthen inheritance rights by way of use rights of land within the family, giving equal rights to inheritance for sons and daughters. The federal and regional proclamations imply that land should be shared equally between the husband and wife upon divorce and the wife and children should take over the land if the husband/father dies (Holden, 2008). In general, land registration and certification assumed to increase investment in farming equipment, increase the land right of the people, improve land management decline if possible eliminate conflict related to land increase women's land

rights and agricultural production(SARDP, 2010). This was the main justification for land registration and certification of the government of Ethiopia. In the federal and regional governments of Ethiopia the issue of women's land right is regulated by the law and different land related proclamation help to confirm the equality between men and women in the land subjects (Holden, 2008). The Southern Nations Nationalities and peoples Regional Government believes that the land registration and certification system in itself will strengthen the right of women's to land and consequently reduce their vulnerability. The land certification book has both the names of the husband and wife entered into the book holding issue.

2.7. Land Certification System and Process in SNNPR

Landholding registration and issuing certificate to holders is a recent phenomenon in Ethiopia in general and the SNNPR in particular. Women's land rights registration and titling need to be defined explicitly in order to ensure their equal rights of men and women on land. Issuing of land certificates has been planned to be carried out in two stages. The first stage is to issue certificates with names and photos of the land holder and spouse in SNNPR, list of land parcels with their size, location, names of neighbours, soil fertility status and land use. The second stage certifies that are planned and implemented in selected pilot district also include maps of the parcels, positions and are registered in cadastral maps. The land registration and certification process in Ethiopia has the following steps according to SARDP (2010):

- *“Preparation and awareness rising: Awareness campaign among farmers has been done and the kebele evaluation and registration process starts with the district and kebele administrator. Five land administration committees were established in each kebele to implement the process.*
- *Application and identification: all the community members are encouraged to apply for the established committee for registration.*
- *Registration, book holding and certification are the steps undertaken in the process of land certification system”.*

However, after these steps, the process of certification and registration of land has encountered different problems along the way. Practical problems occurred were solved as they turned up. Among the problems faced, measuring parcels, for some farmers simply to obtain photos for the book of holding proved difficulties but the land administrator committee always provide the recommendation (SARDP, 2010).

2.8. SNNPR Land Proclamation about Marriage Divorce and Inheritance

Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State issued proclamation No.101/2007, on rural land use administration (SNNPR,2007) based on the mandate provided by FDRE rural land administration and use proclamation (FDRE,1997). Women's equal right with men in rural land use administration was put as an underlying principle in the SNNPR rural land proclamation. The proclamation affirmed any resident of the region, eighteen years old or above, who wants to engage in agriculture, has the right of getting rural landholding and use.

2.8.1. SNNPR Implementation rule Marriage Divorce and Inheritance101/2007

- *“Husband and wife have equal use right on their common land holdings. They do not lose their land holding because of their marriage that they possessed individually before.*
- *The husband and wife have equal use right on their common land holdings and jointly certified to their common land holding.*

- *Women who want to engage in agriculture shall have the right to get and use rural land.*
- *Women who possessed land and whose livelihood relies on agriculture (those women, whose husband lives in another place due to governmental services or any other duties) shall be given title deeds in their name.*
- *If the women household heads have full right of use of their land holdings, she shall be given a land holding and use right certificate in her name for land holding.*
- *Without prejudice to this rule and proclamation upon divorce, if the land holding of the husband and wife could neither be divided nor could they use jointly, then they can use their landholding in common by any other means they prefer, details will be worked out by the responsible organ.*
- *If divorce occurs during cropping season, either of them shall take care of the crop in the field until harvesting time and they shall equally share the yield after harvesting.*
- *Whenever divorce occurs, farmland division to the husband and wife shall be accomplished after harvesting time.*
- *When decision are made upon divorce by legal bodies at all levels special protection shall be given to women on the basis of the law to guarantee their landholding.*
- *Men and women have equal right on inheritance of land and any other issues related to land”.*

Regional land laws have strengthened inheritance rights by way of land within the family, giving equal rights to inheritance for sons and daughters. The laws imply that land should be shared equally between the husband and wife upon divorce and the wife and children should take over the land if the husband /father dies. However, traditionally the land tenure system in Sidama culture was characterized by patriarchal inheritance .The daughters did not have anything to say in relation to marriage and had to go to the husband that their clan or family identified for them. After marriage they moved to their new husband’s home and inherited no land from their parents. Stated by Holden and Tefera (2008) recent federal and regional land laws, or proclamations have strengthened inheritance rights by way of use rights of land within the family, giving equal rights to inheritance for sons and daughters.

2.9. Women’s Policy

Ethiopia national women’s policy was formulated based on the international convention in 1993. The regional government has endorsed a proclamation No.9/1996 for the establishment of Women Affairs Office in 1996. This was followed by opening the structure decentralized to district level so as to implement the National Policy of Women.The main objective of the policy (NPEW, 2003).

- *“To facilitate conditions conducive to the speeding up of equality between men and women so that women can participate in the political, social, and economic life of their country on equal terms with men, ensuring that their right to own property as well as their other human rights are respected and that they are not excluded from the enjoyment of the fruits of their labour or from performing public functions and being decision makers.*
- *To facilitate the necessary condition whereby rural women can have access to basic social services and to ways and means of lightening their workload.*
- *To eliminate, step by step, prejudices as well as customary and other practices, that are based on the idea of male supremacy and to enable women to hold public office and to participate in the decision making process at all level”.*

2.10. Conceptual Frame work

The source of livelihood for the community living in the study area is mainly based on agriculture. As a result land is a decisive element for their existence. In the study area, the gender-based differentials are defined by deep rooted traditions and norms, and results in subordinating women and men in different issues. This in turn brings lack of knowledge on women's right on the land. The recent federal and regional land policy considered as important reform to empower women on their land rights. It aims gender participation especially women in decision making, women empowerment, and increment of gender equity and land productivity. To achieve this policy it uses campaign and education/training as its major approach. This study is conceptualized as if women participate in campaign, education and any kind of information dissemination regarding their land right, it is believed that women knowledge will be improved. Furthermore, training may influence the extent to which the introduced land reform policies and teachings have been internalized and adopted by the community. The study analyses this relationship and investigates if these variables create knowledge among women about their land right.

In this study, women's knowledge about their land right focuses on three dimensions: namely, knowledge about their land right during marriage, divorce and inheritance, which are briefly described in chapter 2 sections 2.4.1, 2.4.2 and 2.4.3. The indicators of women's knowledge on their land right are; claiming their land right with concerned body, be able to explain to other about the right which they have during marriage, divorce and inheritance, and to know how and when to use certification books.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. The Data

In this study primary and secondary data sources were used.

3.1.1. Primary Data

Primary data was collected from household, focus group and key informants interview. The household interview included basic information about the respondent level of education, experience in land inheritance and knowledge of women's land right.

Focus group discussion participants were selected from the community; men and women in different groups. Women's group were selected consisting of married, widowed and divorced women. Men group were selected from community and religion leaders who have traditional decision making power in the community. Focus group discussion was useful to explore the knowledge of the community at large about women land right. When people gather together they pool their knowledge and memory about the issue through open and free discussion. It was unstructured, thus allowing participants stimulated to open up and discuss freely. Useful information were gathered as a number of issues were raised from participants and discussed about women land right.

The key informant's were selected from Keble Land Administration Committee, HZD Agricultural and Rural Development Land Administration Department and HZD Women's Affairs. The above key informants were selected because they are the ones working in organizing campaign, and providing training in land administration and certification programme. Interview was carried out to obtain information on how the key informants disseminate information about recent land proclamation so as to enhance the knowledge of people about recent land administration proclamation with especial focus on women land right. This includes the ways used to get people know about land proclamation, the selection of participants, implementation of the land proclamation and registration and the way they monitor the knowledge of men and women about women's land right.

3.1.2. Secondary Data

Secondary data was collected by reviewing relevant books, journals, different published and unpublished documents, Federal and Regional Constitutions and administration and utilization proclamation. Books, Journals and other unpublished documents were reviewed to get information on the art fact of land reform and women land right where as the Federal and Regional Constitutions and land administration and utilization proclamation of Ethiopia were reviewed to get deep information on what the proclamation specifies about women land right during marriage, divorce and inheritance as per the land reform. The information was analysed so as to make comparison between the written information (proclamation) the knowledge of people about women land right, that was obtained from primary information, and give recommendation accordingly.

3.2. Sampling Technique and Sample Size

The study was conducted by using stratified random sampling techniques in Dore Bafano Kebele. First women and men were stratified in to different group. Following this women were further stratified as married, widowed and divorced. Random sampling was applied to the stratum. By applying random sampling on each stratum, everybody in the stratum gets equal chance to be selected so as to reduce the sampling bias. Random sampling is believed to improve the representativeness of the sample by reducing sampling error. A total of 30 respondents (15 women and 15 men) were involved in the household interview. Six persons from women group and seven persons from men group participated in focus group discussion. In general three key informant interview was made; namely with key informant

interview was made with HZD Agricultural Development Office Land Administration Department, Women's Affairs Office and from Land Administration Committee.

3.3. Data Collection Procedure

The primary data was collected using structured questionnaire for individual and semi structured questionnaire for key informants' interview. The structured questionnaire was more suitable to measure the knowledge of individual respondents as the questions were the same for every individual. Semi structured interview allows the researcher to be flexible in getting information on the knowledge of women land right from different interviewee by asking different questions that best fit the interviewees based on their position and expected knowledge about the proclamation on land reform. The structured questionnaire was pre-tested to determine the length of time required; to check their logical sequence; their clarity and simplicity of the language. For this purpose three persons were represented the respondents fill in the questionnaire for the pre-test. Finally, corrections and adjustments were made according to the feedback from the pre-test and the final questionnaire was filled.

The researcher communicated with HZD Administration and explained why the research was to be carried out in that woreda; what the researcher wanted to do; and required supporting letter for interviewing at office and community level. During the interview, the researcher introduced herself and explained the objectives of the study to the interviewee. The interview was carried out based on the willingness of the respondents. Then, the researcher led the overall process and discussion with the concerned individuals.

3.4. Data Analysis

The data was analyzed by clustering the qualitative data and describing the findings of individual interview and focus group discussion. Then clusters are compared with the knowledge of men and women based on the knowledge gained from participating in the campaign. The knowledge of land administration and registration proclamation about women's land right inheritance, in divorce and during marriage compared with literature review. The information gathered from BoARD mainly focused on the issue of how the campaigns were organized, the content of the campaign, the composition of participants screened by gender analysis. The information obtained from Women Affairs office focuses on the role of the office in information dissemination for community about women's land ownership right. Furthermore, information about gender mainstreaming of BoARD in the programme was analysed. The data obtained from all sources was presented in tables, descriptive approach based on analysis of the results.

3.5. Limitation of the Study

The limited time for the field works and limited numbers of informants were taken as the study sample. The result has been interpreted only on the basis of these informants, the sample size been more than this, it would have been better.

During field work in the district, department head, expert and all the workers moved to kebele/ community for 15 days field work to accomplish the strategic plan of farmers to raise the production as per to the plan. As a result, it was difficult for the researcher to get them on time. Until the expert returned back to the office, there was nobody who could assists the researcher to resume the study on the study area. The study was 15 days behind schedule when the department head, the expert and workers were back to office after completing their work with the farmers of the study area.

There was shortage of important documents on land administration and certification programmes and women's land right in both departments, Women's Affairs and BoARD were engaged on campaign and awareness creation program through all means which were

difficult to find them on time to start the study. BoARD and Women's Affairs Office did not provide gender disaggregated quantitative data like the number of women and men participated in campaign and awareness creation program specially the percentage of women farmers who active participated during training and meetings were lacking.

The study was developed in the language of academic discipline, English which is different from the languages of the study area Amharic and Sidamiga languages. These languages were the main media of communication in the data collection. All office documents are prepared in the local languages. It was difficult to translate some of the academic concepts and words from English to the local languages and from local languages to English it took quite a time.

All these limitations created their own problems on the outcome of the study. However, efforts have been made to overcome the limitations and tried to present the real image of the study.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Socio Demographic Characteristic of Respondents

The total response rate of the study was 100% as indicated in Table 1.

Table 1: Socio demographic characteristics of respondents

| Characteristics | N | Percent % | Remark |
|-------------------------------------|----|-----------|-----------|
| Household head | | | |
| • Male | 15 | 100 | |
| • Female | 10 | 33.3 | 5 married |
| Educational background of male (15) | | | |
| • Illiterate | 6 | 40 | |
| • Read and write only | 5 | 33.4 | |
| • Grade 2-3(elementary level) | 2 | 13.3 | |
| • Grade 4-5(elementary level) | 2 | 13.3 | |
| Education background of female(15) | | | |
| • Illiterate | 11 | 73.3 | |
| • Read and write only | 3 | 20 | |
| • Grade 2-3 | 1 | 6.7 | |
| Family size of respondent(25) | | | |
| • 1 – 3 | 6 | 24 | |
| • 3 -7 | 19 | 76 | |
| Total land holding size (25) | | | |
| • Less than 1 hectare | 18 | 72 | |
| • Maximum 1 hectare | 7 | 28 | |

Field result, July, 2010

As Table 1, shows all male respondents were household heads while 10 out of 15 female respondents were household heads and the remaining 5 women were married where their male partners were household heads. Furthermore when we look at the educational background of the respondents (Table 1) about 60% of male at least can read and write while 73% of the women cannot even write and read. This is due to the fact that men are more favoured to go to school than the women in the Sidama culture. Moreover the family size ranges from 1-7 per household with most families have more than three children per household. The reason for such a big size of family is that the family planning has not yet recognized by the majority of the population of the area. Looking at the landholding size, over 70 % of the population of the area have a total land holding with less than one hectare. The small land holding is due to the high population which has resulted from lack of family planning for centuries.

4.2. Information about Land Proclamation

The first part of the questionnaire was designed to test the knowledge of the respondents on land proclamation as follows:

- whether or not they heard about land proclamation and certification
- the way how and who organized the campaign,
- Whether or not the respondents participated on the campaign.

- If they did not participated in the campaign why they did not participate
- What they missed by not participating in the campaign.

This attempted to qualify the questions stated above as shown below in the Table 2.

Table 2: Women respondents participated in land proclamation campaign

| land proclamation and participation Campaign | Response to the call & participation | Married* | | Widowed* | | Divorced* | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|-----|----------|----|-----------|-----|
| | | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Land proclamation and certification information | Yes | 1 | 20 | 4 | 80 | 2 | 40 |
| | No | 4 | 80 | 1 | 20 | 3 | 60 |
| Participation in the campaign | Yes | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| | No | 5 | 100 | 4 | 80 | 5 | 100 |

* N = 5

Field result, July, 2010

From this stand point of view, the survey revealed that information for land proclamation was heard by 20%, 80% and 40% of the married, widowed and divorced women respectively from the societies through the second hand information. On the other hand, (15)100 % of the men respondents heard about the land proclamation and certification from the campaign, different meetings and trainings. According to the total women respondents' statement, they had no idea and information at all about how the campaign was organized. However, about (13)86.7% of the men respondents confirmed that the campaign was organized by the Bureau of Agricultural and Rural Development (BoARD).

As a consequence only a single woman (6.67 %) as shown in (Table 3) participated in the campaign with the total male respondents, 80% participated (Table3). Most of the women respondents also answered first of all that they had no information about the campaign and nobody has informed them about it earlier. This might be due to the prevailed communities culture and tradition which makes a male spouse to represent different household issues. Even though, 93.33 % of women respondents did not participate in the campaign, they believed that they have not missed anything out of the campaign made. Similar to the study area, in most parts of the country, women do not participate in such kind of campaigns. Due to the deep rooted socio-cultural aspect which only encourages men to participate in various trainings, meetings and campaigns for this is believed to be only the duty of men. This was the sole reason the respondents responded in the study area.

Married women compared to widow and divorced women, were not aware of such information that a meeting on land proclamation and registration was held on their locality. All married women simply believed that their respective husbands' were responsible of such issues (like meetings) and they also belief that all the properties solely belong to the husbands. Only one widow woman participated in the campaign and both married and divorced women did not participate the campaign as shown in Table 2. To some extent, those women that did not participate in the campaign only heard about the campaign from the information disseminated after the campaign through second-hand information such as, traditional coffee ceremony programme, Eddir, Equb, funeral and weeding ceremony.

Table 3: Men and Women campaign participants

| land proclamation and participation of Campaign | Response on the Participation | Men | | Women | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|------|-------|-------|
| | | N | % | N | % |
| Land proclamation and certification information | Yes | 15 | 100 | 7 | 46.67 |
| | No | 0 | 0 | 8 | 53.33 |
| Participation in the campaign | Yes | 12 | 80 | 1 | 6.67 |
| | No | 3 | 20 | 14 | 93.33 |
| Campaign improved women's land right | Yes | 12 | 80 | 1 | 6.67 |
| | No | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Campaign not clearly specified women's land right | Inheritance | 10 | 66.7 | 1 | 6.67 |
| | in divorce | 2 | 13.3 | 0 | 0 |

Field result, July, 2010

The researcher posed questions to the respondents as whether or not the women's land right clearly specified during the campaign as follows:

- What information were missed about women's land right.
- Did the information disseminated from the campaign improved women's land right.

The above questions were mainly answered by men because there was only one woman participated in the campaign. The male respondents say that women's land right was more specified during the campaign. Married women have equal land right and land certification that both the husband and wife together attach the couples photograph on the book and write the name of both. Prior to the campaign, women's equal land right and certification book of the land right was not clearly recognized. As (Table 3) shows about 80% of the respondents, assured that the campaign has improved the women's land right. However, 66.7% of the respondents confirmed that the campaign has not clearly specified about women's land right inheritance from their parents and 13.3 % of respondents confirmed that the campaign has not clearly specified about women's land right in divorce.

4.3. Knowledge about Women's Land Right

The second part of the questionnaire was designed to test the knowledge of the respondents about the women's land right. The study forwarded the following questions to the respondents:

- Whether they have land right certificate book or not
- What knowledge do men and women acquired about women's land right,
- What do women have on land right during marriage and where they get the source of information?
- Do women know for what purpose they use the certificate
- Do women realize their land right are really secured after certification.

Table 4: Women respondents on knowledge of the purpose of certification

| Question Asked | Married women n=5 | | Widowed women n=5 | | Divorced women n=5 | |
|--|-------------------|-----|-------------------|----|--------------------|-----|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Right to use land certificate | 1 | 20 | 3 | 60 | 1 | 20 |
| Yes | | | | | | |
| No | 4 | 80 | 2 | 40 | 4 | 80 |
| knowledge about Purpose of the certificate | | | | | | |
| Yes | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| No | 5 | 100 | 4 | 80 | 5 | 100 |
| Ownership of land certification | | | | | | |
| Yes | 5 | 100 | 3 | 60 | 1 | 20 |
| No | 0 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 4 | 80 |

Field result, July, 2010

For the questionnaire asking to know whether the male and female have land certificate book, the different groups responded differently. All of the married women responded that they have the certification book in such a manner that their photographs are attached with their husbands' photograph on the certificate. This is also true all over the country because the proclamation demands to attach the photographs of the couples in the certification book. The responsible body prepares and provides the certificate book only if both husband and wife provided their photographs according to key informants of Women's Affairs and BoARD. However, 80% of married women did not know where the certification book is placed within their homes.



Figure 3: Picture of couples on the certificate

Among the widowed respondents, 60% of them responded that they have land certification book and 40% of them have no land certification book (Table 4). The widowed women are fully responsible on their land ownership since they are in charge of children care, properties and other social affairs. About 40% of the widowed respondents who have no land certification book at hand also know that they have full rights and responsibilities in every property including the land ownership. They know that nothing will happen to their land ownership rights whether or not they have the certification book. They believe that the society they are living with knows about their status on land ownership rights and no problem will be encountered throughout their lifetime on the issue of land ownership. In the reality of sidama culture, however, this remains true if and only if the widow has a child boy. If in case she does not have one but even many girls, the brothers of her deceased husband raise a question on the land, over take the land at worst stage and finally she has to go to her family with her children.

The researcher was surprised in the certification status of the divorced women respondents that only one woman (20%) respondent out of the total divorced women had the certification book. Though the federal and regional proclamations on land right issue declare that wives have the right to share equally all the properties including land with their husbands during their divorce, in practice, the study found out that the divorced wives did not pay attention to

possess the certification book. This implies that the divorced women do not know the importance of land certification book and their right on equal share of land.

There is a common sense of understanding in the society that men and women have an equal land right and the same was true with the respondents of the study. All married women respondents that they have the common sense of understanding on property equality including the land with their husbands. Twenty percent of the divorced women responded that they have an equal right like any man but in practice due to the culture imposition in the society and lack of knowledge about legal land right of women mostly they don't claim for their land right. All the widowed women respondents highlighted that they have knowledge about their land right as they are the head of the household after their husbands are deceased. In contrast, the majority of the male respondents of the study know about women's land right more after the campaign. According to the men respondents they acquired this knowledge from different circumstances like the political meetings, trainings and mass media such as the radios.

Table 5: women respondents realize women land right after certification

| Women land right after certification | Married | | Widowed | | Divorced | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|----|---------|----|----------|----|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Secured | 0 | 0 | 3 | 60 | 3 | 60 |
| No changed | 4 | 80 | 2 | 40 | 2 | 40 |
| Don't know | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Field result, July, 2010

As shown in (Table 5) 80% of the married respondent women and 40% both widowed and divorced women replied that women's land right after certification book possession had no change at all from the previous procedure. In other words, it was the same as before. However, 60% of both widowed and divorced women responded that the land right certification book possession has achieved that women land right certification book possession has confirmed the land right certification was secured.

For questions forwarded to respondents to know whether or not women know how both husband and wife have equal right to keep and use the certification book, and the purpose of using the certificate; the women indicated that even though the couple's photos are attached to the certification book as a testimony of land right ownership, they don't know where the book is placed and at the same time they don't even know how and when to use it. It is only for the sake of having the book as part of the household membership that they attached their photos to the certification book. For what purpose they use the land right certification book was a follow up question to the respondents by the researcher. All men respondents of the study confirmed that the certification book is useful as an evidence of the land right ownership claim whenever a problem on ownership denial arises between the husband and wife. At the same time if land border claim comes into a question, this certification book could serve as an evidence to ascertain the boundary borders between the two claimers. Surprisingly enough, it was only one woman among all the women interrogated knew the purpose when to use the land certification book. However women who had their own land right certification book did not know the purpose of the land certification and registration book. This showed that men have better understanding about their land rights and the benefits associated with the registration and certification book than women not only in terms of land, but also on the overall of their resources.

4.4. Where do Women Claim for their Land Right

Table 6: Women vs. men respondents claim for land right

| Claim for land right | Women n=15 (5x 3) | | | | | | Men=15 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|----|---------|----|----------|-----|------------|------|----|-----|
| | Marred | | Widowed | | Divorced | | Total (15) | | | |
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Village elders Kebele | 3 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Administration Women's Affairs Kebele | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 5 | 100 | 6 | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Administration & District Court | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 100 |
| No problem about the claim | 0 | 0 | 4 | 80 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 26.7 | 0 | 0 |

Field result, July, 2010

Where do women go to claim their land right if they get divorced was also the focus of the study. Accordingly, the study obtained different responses from the married, widowed and divorced women. Out of the total married women, 60% of them responded that they go and claim their land rights to the village elders. The village elders handle the case accordingly. The rest 40 % of the married women respondent said they claim to the districts Women's Affairs. Exceptionally, all the divorced women respondents responded that during their divorce they apply first to the kebele chair person. However, as to their experience, the chair person cannot solve their problem. Traditional divorce practices hinder women's property and land right to secure. According to one of the divorced women, currently they are claiming for their land right by applying to the district Women's Affairs office. However, Women's Affairs office is not the exact place to claim land right. Women lack of awareness and knowledge to get justice through legal means and it is difficult for them to get justice. Eighty percent of widowed women respondents agreed that there was no as such a big problem for their category in land right claiming. Twenty percent of widowed women indicated that they have been claiming directly by applying to the local administration. The common sense of understanding the land right ownership comes from the land right proclamation. In general, women heard about their land right through second hand information. In contrast to the women, all men respondents of the study highlighted that the exact place to claim for land right is first to go to the local kebele administration and then to the woreda court.

4.5. Land Right Inheritance

Land Inheritance has been among the points explained by the study. Inheritance is one of the ways of transferring land. The study forwarded the following questions to the respondents.

- What does the land proclamation state on inheritance of land right
- Who has the right to inherit the land, and whether or not they inherited land so far or no

- Whether or not both men and women have the same right to inherit land from their parents.

The first question asked to the respondents what the land right proclamation say on inheritance of land right. All respondents replied not in relation to the land right proclamation but rather responded to their own experience within their vicinity. Men and women gave the same answer saying that only the son inherit the land from the parents, but only the daughter in the household can inherit land when there is no male offspring in the parents. The land right proclamation rather state as has been earlier reported in the literature review, both male and female or son and daughter have equal rights to inherit land from their parents. As a follow up question, the researcher asked if any of the respondents have ever inherited land so far. All men respondents claimed yes, that they inherited land from their fathers. However, the response from the women respondents claim no because the Sidama culture did not allow women to inherit land from their parents while the land right proclamation actually allowed both women and men have equal hereditary right.

“Are women inheriting land? ‘No, how could it be? Only sons inherit land and if there is no son in the house hold daughters might inherit. This is nature’s will; this is how we have been created...”

A 42 years old woman response, July, 2010

Focus group discussion

A total of six women and seven men participated in two different focus group discussion and the following issues were discussed like problems related to women land right within the community, knowledge of women on land right during divorce, marriage and inheritance, way of information transmission during the campaign, how the committee was selected and the outcome of the campaign

According to the check lists, the women group responded that the major problem related to land right in the area is due to polygamous marriage. The male marries another wife at the presence of his existing wife and share the limited land to his new wife. If the wife is divorced from her marriage, she will not be able to equal share land from her husband. Since a part of the land has already been committed to the other wife, the divorced woman will get less area of land than her husband. Women’s Affairs Office staff confirmed the above statement that polygamy marriage is the major problem in study area. Though SNNPR Land Administration proclamation stated clearly that women have equal right to share land with their respective husbands, this scenario leads divorced woman to leave behind her own house with no claim to any of her properties. According to the focus group respondents of women, the wife with child/children can only claim for her land right and go to Women’s Affairs office or kebele administration.

The male discussion group also realized that knowledge of the community towards women land right was little and accordingly agreed that the community does not have adequate knowledge on the issue. For instance, daughters and sons according to the little knowledge of the community have not equal right to inherit. In the discussion, the participants were more highlighted to know about land measurement during the campaign process rather than highlighting more towards the knowledge about women’s land right. Women group said even the highlighting on land measurement was not through physical involvement but rather through second hand information. Finally, the group concluded by saying that the information was not adequately transmitted to women land right.

'... we don't have knowledge about our equal right on land with our husbands, nobody taught us about the issue. After the certification and registration process nothing has been changed except the posting of our picture on the certificate'.

A 39 year's old married woman

Information obtained from focus group discussion with women's involvement or participation in community activities and community decision-making. No single woman involved in Land Administration Committee (LAC). LAC was elected by all community members in kebele. The men group confirmed that the need for women's participation was not mentioned at the time of their election and that they were not aware of it. On the other hand women group discussion reflects that most of them have no information about these meetings. Information obtained from both focus groups discussion women participation in community decision making activities is low.

Women's involvement in community activities and land administration process, decision making and leadership is low. Women are marginalized from community decision making practice in the study area.

The female focus group further confirmed that only men have the access to participate when new information is announced by the government and other bodies. This was also confirmed by the men participant of the focus group discussion. Therefore, this indicated that the campaign process did not give emphasis to the actual participation of women.

Discussion with key Informants

The researcher interrogated the BoARD Land Administration Department how and who organized the campaign in depth through interview. The Land Administration Department was found to be the major implementer of the campaign of the land certification and registration process in the district. According to the staff of the department the awareness on land registration and certification was delivered to all communities of the study area. Before the awareness creation programme was conducted, campaign was undertaken as the only method to inform the community to come and attend the meeting for awareness creation. Hence it was organized by the BoARD Department of Land Administration in coordination with the local administration committee. The committee constituted had only men and was given the responsibility to disseminate information about the campaign to landholder household head of the society members.

The awareness creation campaigns were mainly focused on farmers that have paid their land taxes and the campaigns were done in line with them. During the campaign, four main issues were delivered as follows:-

- Land measurement
- The purpose of land certification document of the owners
- Create sense of ownership among the participant by providing education about land certification and registration
- Solve problem related to land

The staff confirmed that, the awareness creation programme did not involve significant number of women because of triple reasons. Firstly, women in the area are always engaged in both productive and reproductive activities in their locality so that they have no time to

attend such important meetings due to work load. Secondly, the existing socio cultural tradition influence hindered women from participating in such official programmes. Thirdly, women themselves had not interest to participate in the meetings. According to the staff member of the department, there was no any type of media to disseminate information at district level. Regarding the procedure followed on the campaign the BoARD staff explained that first five individuals from each sub kebele were selected as a land administration committee (LAC) member. A total of 25 people were selected as LAC from the five sub kebele and then training was given to them. Additionally, as the kebele coordinators, five individuals were selected to coordinate each sub kebele. Surprisingly enough, in the established committee women were not represented. The reason for women not being represented in the committee according to the staff of the BoARD was that the work is tiresome for women, hence that they could not do it properly. The BoARD staff further added that nothing has been done to raise the awareness level of the community especially regarding women's land right, but generally awareness creation on land certification and administration process was given more emphasis.

"The work is tiresome for women so they cannot work it properly". BoARD Staff, July, 2010

The study forwarded the following questions to the key informants

- Was women land right included on the campaign
- How was the People's knowledge regarding women's land right change through time
- What activities has the bureau been doing so far to raise the awareness level of the community on women's land right

Awareness creation on women's land right was not properly articulated during the campaign being the major issues of land administration and certification programme. According to the explanation of the staff in the Sidama culture, men are the dominant figures over the use and control of land property right. Women don't have enough knowledge about their land right, because the culture of the community devoid women from participating in meetings and trainings to know about their land right. But widowed women are relatively in better position than the other women understanding on their land right. The above answers contradict each other because BoARD did not participate men and women equally at all levels of the campaign and consequently women lacked the information that would have allowed them to know about their land rights.

According to the informants, in the recent years, there are some improvements regarding women land right. Male counter parts relatively know the law towards women land right equality better than women. However, women still do not claim for their right mainly due to lack of knowledge aside from cultural barrier. The major problem encountered in women's land right according to the in depth interview during the campaign was the dominance of male over female and males' unwillingness to register with their female counterparts.

Furthermore, BoARD has a plan to raise the awareness level of the community on women's land right through organizing different awareness creation programmes and ensuring the participation of both male and female equally on the programme so as to improve the existing situation of community knowledge on women's land right .

Women's Affairs Office

The Women's Affairs Office has a five year 2008-2012 strategic plan (HZDWA, 2008).

"Facilitating and creating awareness on gender issues and related matters and mitigating of patriarchal systems from deep-rooted culture/ knowledge of societies that had been existed imbalance and inequality of gender attitudes,

Developing certain mechanisms that had to bring a palpable change of paradigm shift from Gender based Violence (GBV) against women and there by ensure equal participation and benefits of women in all development aspects;

Coordinating gender officers of government and non government sectors to enable them in the process of implementing gender mainstreaming at all levels and incorporating women issue in all development plan and project program; and

Thereby enhancing the organization activities and narrowing the existing situation of gender gap through ensured, developed and organized gender disaggregated data in all steps of developing plan, project/programs, at all levels of organization".

In the year 2009/10 the Hawassa Zuria District Women's Affairs (HZDWA) planed awareness creation program about women's land ownership right for 850 women. The 2009/10 report showed that the awareness creation achievement was only for 320 women (HZDWA, 2010). Hence, to analyse the role of the office on improving the knowledge of women and men about women's land right, the study forwarded the following questions to the Women Affairs Office key informants

- How and who organized awareness creation campaign and trainings
- Did you think that women equally participated during campaign and was the BoARD mainstreaming gender included in the program?
- What activities has the bureau been doing so far to raise the awareness level of the community on women's land right

Key informants of the women's Affairs Office staff answered the above question. The key informants responded that land administration proclamation campaign was organized by BoARD. The key informants from Women's Affairs staff explained that women did not participate in the campaign equally with men because the campaign was organized only for household heads that paid their taxes of land. The BoARD did not mainstream gender in land administration and registration programme. The follow up question forwarded to the staff was as how the Women's Affairs Office organized the awareness creation program to enhance knowledge about women's land right. The staff also responded that Women's Affairs Office had responsibility for awareness creation and give training on women's land right for community in general and for women in particular. Women's Affairs office use different networks to create awareness to enhance knowledge on women's land right such as women's association, women's league and women's federation at community level. A question was also asked about the main problem that the organization was facing regarding to women's land right and which type of land related cases were coming to the office. According to the staff the major problem related to women's land right was the issue of polygamy. The husband married to another woman on top of the existing wife and shares the land to his new wife. Under such circumstances, misunderstanding between the husband and the first wife easily created which finally led to a conflict. Hence women showed up to the Women's Affairs Office and complained the case.

Finally the staff stated that Women's Affairs Office has planned to ensure equal participation of both men and women in awareness creation programme to improve knowledge of the community in women's land right. To achieve the goal, the office has a plan to use different

networks at local level to initiate the people in awareness creation programme. The office creates coordination in different stakeholders especially those working together with BoARD to enhance the knowledge of community in women's land right.

The five year strategic plan shows that Women's Affairs is facilitating awareness creation on gender issues. However, land administration and registration campaign organized only by BoARD. Women's Affairs office did not participate in organizing and facilitating the campaign even though it has responsibility for coordinating other organizations enabling women in the process of implementing gender mainstreaming at all levels. But in practice,, the Women Affairs office did not follow whether or not the BoARD is mainstreaming gender in land administration and registration campaign and is participating women in community decision-making activity of LAC.

Women's Affairs Office has responsibilities to identify gender gaps and conduct trainings on gender issues to empower women. Practically, however, Women's Affairs office 2009/10 planned to conduct awareness creation programme for rural women to improve their knowledge on land ownership right but only 37.64% of women were participated in awareness creation programme. The office didn't give strong emphasis to awareness creation program on women's land right to enhance the knowledge of land holding rights of women. Many literature works revealed knowledge on women's land right is critical to the community in general and women themselves in particular to realize their land rights.

In general, the interview made with the key informant indicated that, the Bureau of Agriculture and Rural development did not treat participation of both men and women at an equal footing in land administration and registration programme. As usual, the BoARD only keeps men's interest but ignores women's triple role. Furthermore, BoARD and the Women's Affairs office lacked coordination between each other on improving the knowledge of women on land administration, registration programme and women's land ownership right.

The study forwarded the following questions to the key informants.

- How and who organized awareness creation campaign and trainings
- Who were conducting the campaigns
- What was the main message delivered during the campaign
- Were men and women have equal chance to participate in the campaign
- Is the knowledge of peoples changed through time regarding women's land right

The key informant from local land administration committee responded to the above questions Land administration and registration campaign was organized by BoARD and facilitated by Local Administration committee. The campaign was mainly focused on household head farmers that have paid their land taxes. The main messages delivered during the campaign were land measurement and the purpose of land certification. The couples (husband and wife) have equal land right and land certification that both of them attach their photographs on the book. Furthermore, the respondents replied that the participation of women in land administration and certification campaign is low because most of the household heads were men in the area and the other reason being women were not willing to participate in the meeting. According to the informants, the knowledge of the community on the recent land proclamation and women's land right has some improvements but still the community has not fully recognized women's land inheritance in practice.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

The conclusions that can be drawn from this study mainly focuses on why the campaign did not contribute to the enhancement of knowledge of women's land right; why women did not have sufficient knowledge about their land right; and the ineffective implementation of awareness creation made by Women's Affairs Office. Furthermore, the conclusion also includes the overall process of land reform, land registration and certification and its effect on the strength of women's land right.

The way the campaign is organized contributed to women not having knowledge about their land right because:

- The majority of women (93.3%) did not participated campaign and not know about their land right due to lack of awareness. During organizing, planning and implementing the campaign on the land registration and certification process around the study area the focus was mainly on tenure security and land ownership rather than strengthen of women land right and equal participation of men and women. In other words, the awareness creation campaigns were majorly focused on farmers that have paid their land tax.
- The Land Administration Committee (LAC), established by the BoARD only consists men. Not a single women was represented in this committee while the agenda was mainly on the Rural Land Administration Proclamation where by women are considered the main actors of the programme. Women's involvement in community activities and land administration process, decision making and leadership is still at its lowest level. Women were marginalized from community decision making practice in the study area. This has a direct implication that women still have not maintained their decision making and leadership position in the community like men which is one of the factors of gender inequality.
- The BoARD confirmed that, the awareness creation programme did not involve significant number of women because of the triple reasons. These are, firstly, women in the area engaged in both productive and reproductive activities in their locality so that they have no time to attend due to work load. Secondly, the existing socio cultural traditions influence women not to participate in such official programmes. Thirdly, women themselves were not willing to participate in the meeting.
- The staff of the BoARD stressed that nothing has been done to raise the awareness level of the community especially regarding women's land right, but generally awareness on land certification and administration processes were given more emphasis. According to the staff of the BoARD, in Sidama culture men are dominant figures over the use and control of land property. Women, have no enough knowledge about their land right because of the culture in the community which denied women from participating in various meetings and trainings.

Women do not have knowledge which is shown by:

- Married women have a common certification book with their husbands but they don't even know where the book is placed in their own homes and at the same time they don't even know how and when to use it. This implies that women have not enough knowledge on the importance of the land certification book with regard to that of ownership right.
- Federal and Regional Rural Land Administration Reform proclaims on land right issue that wives have the right to share equally all the properties including land with their husbands during divorce, however in practice, the study found out that the divorced wives did not pay attention to possess the certification and registration book due to lack of knowledge.
- Concerning women's claim for their land right, the study found out that 60% of married women claim their land right by going to the village elders while 40% to claim to the district Women's Affairs. All divorced women claim for, their land right first to their experience on this issue, the chairperson cannot solve their problem. However, one of the divorced respondent women of the study stated that currently women are claiming for their land right applying to the district women's affairs office. Likewise about 80% of the widowed women they have reported that there was no such a big problem for their category in land right claiming. However, 20% of them have been claiming by applying to the local administration whenever they encounter problems of land right issues. Most of women did not know the exact place to claim for land right. In contrast to women, all men respondents of the study highlight that the exact place to claim for land right is first to go to local kebele administration then to the District court. They acquired this knowledge of land right claim from the experiences they have obtained by participating in different political and social meetings, and trainings.
- Women with land right certification book did not know the purpose of the land right certification and registration book, In contrast to women; men have better understanding about their right and benefits associated with registration and certification book not only in terms of land but also on overall resources.
- According to the study made men are more knowledgeable on women's land right than women themselves. Men have more access to participate whenever new information is announced by the governments. Furthermore males are more favoured by the society to go to school than females which facilitated them to know more about any issues appearing in their area.

Ineffective implementation of awareness creation programs by Women's Affairs Office

- Women's Affairs office was not included in campaign which was organized and facilitated by BoARD. This contradicts with the responsibility of women's Affairs office as the office is expected to provide the role of coordinating other organization to enable them in the process of implementing men and women equal participation in the campaign. The Women Affairs's office did not follow mainstreaming of gender in land administration and registration campaign organized by BoARD and participation of women in community decision- making activity of LAC.

- Even though the Women's Affairs Office is responsible to identify gender gaps and conduct training on gender issues for women empowerment, in practical sense, this is was not achieved. For instance, the office planned to give awareness creation training programme for rural women to improve the knowledge of land ownership right in 2009/10. But only 37.64% of women participated on the programme. This implies that the office didn't give strong emphasis to awareness creation program of women's land right to enhance the knowledge of land holding rights of women. Literature revealed knowledge of women's land right is critical to all the community and women themselves to realize women's land rights (Woldetensay, 2007).
- Furthermore, BoARD and the Women's Affairs office lack of coordination between each other to improve the knowledge of women on land administration and registration programme, women's land ownership rights. Consequently, Bureau of Agriculture and Rural development did not participate men and women at equal footing and always keep men's interest but ignore women triple role.
- The Women's Affairs five years strategic plan shows that Facilitating and creating awareness on gender issues and related matters and mitigating of patriarchal systems from deep-rooted culture/ knowledge of societies that had been existed imbalance and inequality of gender attitudes, and coordinating the government and non government sectors of gender officers to enable them in the process of implementing gender mainstreaming at all levels and incorporating women issue in all development plan and project program.

Prior to the campaign, women's land right and certification book was not clearly specified. However, after the campaign about 80% of the male respondents assured that the campaign has improved their knowledge on the women's land right. In fact, married women have obtained equal land right and land certification with both pictures of the couples attached to it. About 66% of the male respondents confirmed that the campaign has not clearly specified women's land inheritance right from their parents.

Concerning the security on the land right issue after obtaining certification book 80% of the married and 40% of the widowed and divorced women indicated that women's land right even after certification book possession had no change at all. In other words, there was no any difference obtained to that of handling the security issue on prior to the possession of certification and registration book. However, 60 % of both widowed and divorced women confirmed that the land right certification achieved women's land right security.

Concerning land right inheritance both men and women that only the sons inherits the land from the parents, but the daughter can inherit at the absence of sons in the family. However, the Rural Land Administration Reform allows both male and female off-springs have equal rights to inherit land from their parents. This implies that the culture of the society still does not easily adapt the proclamation. It will take a time and will need continuous awareness creation programmes to bring attitude change of society on women's land inheritance right.

Concerning land right inheritance whether so far they have inherited land or not, all men respondents confirmed that "yes" they have inherited land from their fathers. However, women confirmed that so far have not inherited land from their parents due to the social challenge in the Sidama culture. This implies that the Sidama culture did not allowed female inherited land.

Major problems encountered in women's land right was the dominance of men over women and men's "unwillingness" to register with their partners. Another major problem related to land right was the polygamous marriage. This situation leads divorced women own houses with no claim to any of properties including land.

5.2. Recommendation

Based on the conclusions drawn from the study, suggestions for the improvement of knowledge of women regarding their land right have been forwarded for Women's Affairs Office, Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development and Local Administration.

Suggestion for Women's Affairs Office (WAO) in awareness creation to enhance knowledge about women land right:

- Initiate advocacy and awareness creation programmes to improve knowledge of women regarding their land right and legal process; and improving access to training and meeting to reach all women in community.
- Focus on improving the knowledge of rural women on women's land right. Working closely together and creating strong network with Women's league and Women's Association in community level and should be given education and training in continuous way and adders all women. Encourage women fully participate training and meeting. Because the knowledge and information of legal land rights is essential to realize and help women to claim land holding rights by breaking cultural barriers that hinder women's land right.
- Gender mainstreaming should be applied in the BoARD rural land administration system to improve the existing situation and women's equal participation in land administration and certification programme and strengthen women's land right .
- Work closely together with Government and Non Government Organizations strengthen of women's land right and improving knowledge of people on women's land right especially knowledge of women. To create coordination with BoARD and improve existing situation of knowledge gap between men and women, the office should give more attention to equal participation of male and female in all program.
- Local mass media is important to disseminate information for local community. Sidama Zone women's Affairs should use the opportunity of the local radio station broadcasting in sidamigna (local language of the area) to disseminate information about recent land proclamation and women's land right for local people. In order to reach both men and women during the broadcasting programme, choosing appropriate time is important.
- Organize strong Women's Association and women's group in village level and empowering them to focus on interventions of improvement of women knowledge on land right. The rural women have a lot of work burden and do not have time to participate meeting and training. The office need to study appropriate way to reach the rural women and minimize their work load by introducing and disseminating appropriate technology. E.g. fuel saving stove, enset processing materials.
- Arrange trainings for local authorities, women association leaders, and land administration committee and community leaders on the strengthening of women land right so that they help to effectively implementation of the reform.

Suggestions for BoARD regarding the dissemination of information about land administration proclamation, and organizing further campaigns:

- Mainstreaming gender (both male and female equal participation) strategy should be applied in rural land administration system in order to address gender triple role (reproductive productive and community management) and encourage their equal participation in land administration process and to ensure women's equal benefit from the system.
- Awareness creation campaign organized so far lacked women participation. Hence, intensified awareness creations have to be made whenever campaign is arranged to clarify and strengthen women's land right that is stated in recent rural land administration reform with equal participation of men and women.
- The land administration and implementation system should design strategies to initiate active involvement of women in the land administration process at different levels.
- Initiating women's involvement in community activities and decision-making process. Women should be elected in the local land administration committee to be involved and empowered to leadership position in LACs.

Role of Local Administration

- Local Administration has to initiate parents to send their female children to formal education to alleviate the knowledge gap created between men and women. It is the only and only way that women could emancipate themselves from any dominance in the society like the women's land right.
- Whenever there is information from the government, for instance like the recent rural land administration reform, women have to be aroused by local authorities so that they may have equal access like men to participate in various political meetings, campaigns and trainings.
- To over-come culture and traditions that affect realization of women's equal land rights, the Local Administration should work together with Women's Association and community leaders to address these issues through awareness creation programmes to change community's attitude and practice.
- Local Administration should collaborate with women's association to teach people about the socio-economic problem how polygamy imposes on rural peoples, especially women so as to improve the knowledge of men to abstain themselves from the practice and improve the knowledge of women on how to claim their land rights if their husband become polygamous.

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Appendixes

Appendix A

Survey questionnaire

Subject: questionnaire for survey on: The assessment of the knowledge of Rural Women on Recent Rural Land Administration Reform: A case from Sidama Zone Hawassa Zuria District, SNNPR Ethiopia.

Instruction

Dear respondents,

I am a prospective graduating student from Van Hall Lareinstein University, master on management of development. In partial fulfilment of the program I am undertaking the research on the assessment of the knowledge of Rural Women on Recent Rural Land Administration Reform: A case from Sidama Zone Hawassa Zuria District, SNNPR Ethiopia. This survey questionnaire aims to collect sufficient and valid data in order to comply with academic requirements. The finding of this research to make recommendation for Local Administration, Agriculture and Rural Development office and women's Affairs office on how they can enhance the knowledge of women on their land right. Your respectful response to these questions thus will have a big impact on the result of paper.

Finally yet importantly, I assure that all personal information obtained from you will be kept confidential.

Thank you very much

Appendix B

Household Questionnaire

Date data collection.....

I. Geographic information

Region.....
Zone.....
Woreda.....
Kebele.....

II. Household information

Head of Household Male.....Female..... Age.....
Education.....
Family members.....M..... F..... Total household size.....
Total land holding size.....

III. Information about land proclamation?

1. Did you hear about land proclamation and certification? Yes/No
If you say yes, how was the information transmitted?
1) Campaign 2) Meeting 3) training 4) Announcement on radio 5) others
(Word of mouth)
2. How was it organized the campaign? _____
3. Who organized the campaign?
1) Local administrators 2) BoARD 3) Women Affairs 4) NGOs
5) Other specify.....
4. Have you participated campaign /training? Yes/No
If you say yes, what type of information did you get? Explain _____
If no go to question 8
5. How was the women's land right clearly specified during the campaign?

6. Which information do you miss about women's land right? _____
7. How could the camping/information sharing be improved women's land rights?

8. If not participated the campaign/training why not participated? _____
9. What do you think you missed by not participating in the campaign?

IV. Knowledge about women's land right

10. Do you have land certification book Yes/No
If yes, can you show me certificate
If no why? _____
 11. What do you know about Women's land right?

 12. What are women's lands right during marriage?

- Where did the information come from?
1) From meeting 2) campaign 3) from radio 4) word of mouth 5) the certificate
include such information 6) others
13. What do you know about women's land right during divorce?

- What is the source of information? _____

1) From meeting 2) campaign 3) from radio 4) word of mouth 5) the certificate include such information 6) others

15. where to go to claim your land right if you divorce? _____

16. What the proclamation say on inheritance of land right? _____

17. Who has the right to inherit the land? _____

18. Have you inherited land so far? Yes /No

If yes, from whom? _____

If no why _____

19. Do male and female have the same right to inherit land from their parents? Yes/No If no, why _____

20. Do you think women land rights are secured after certification? Yes/No

If you say yes, can you explain? _____

If you say no why? _____

21. Do both husband and wife have equal right to keep and use the certificate? Yes/No

22. Do you know for what purpose to use the certificate? Yes/No

If yes, what are they? Explain _____

Appendix C

Check list

(Focus group discussion, community)

1. What is the main problem related to women land right in the community?
2. What do you think about the knowledge of community on women's land right during inheritance, divorce and on marriage?
3. During land certification how was the information about land administration and utilization proclamation transmitted to the community? By whom?
4. Do you think that the information addressed both men and women equally?
5. Do you think women is the member of land administration committee(who is land administrate committee)
6. Do you think that the existing joint land certification of husband and wife strengthen women's land right?
7. Do you think that training about land administration and utilization proclamation important to improve knowledge of women's land right?
8. What is the knowledge and practice of the community about the women land right?

Key informant in local land administration committee

1. How information about land administration and utilization proclamation transmitted to the community?
2. How do organize awareness creation campaigns and trainings on land certification?
3. Who was conducting the campaigns?
4. What was the main message delivered during the campaign?
5. How the participants were selected? Were both men and women having equal chance to participate the campaign?
6. Was women land right included as main issue in the campaign/training?
7. How often the question of women land right come to your office?
8. Is people's knowledge regarding women's land right changing through time?

Key informant women's Affairs

1. How information about land administration and utilization proclamation transmitted to the community?
2. How do organize awareness creation campaigns and trainings on land certification?
3. Who was conduct the campaigns?
4. What was the role of your office to organize awareness creation programme to enhance knowledge about women land right?
5. Do you think that women equally participated during campaign?
6. What are the main problems your organization facing regarding women land right?
7. Which types of women's land right related cases are coming to women's affair office? Can you put them from the most frequent to the least frequent?

Key informants Agriculture and Rural Development Land Administration Department

1. How information about land administration and utilization proclamation transmitted to the community?
2. How do organize awareness creation campaigns and trainings on recent land reform
3. Who was conducting the campaigns?
4. What was the main source of information for dissemination of the message of land right reform? Is it appropriate for both men and women?
5. What was the main message delivered during the campaign?
6. What type of media was used for the dissemination of information about land reform?
7. How the participants were selected? Were both men and women having equal chance to participate
8. What criteria used for selection of people for training? If there was training?
9. Was women land right included as main issue in the campaign/training?
10. Is people's knowledge regarding women's land right changing through time?