

International Journal of Gender Studies (IJGS)

**Levels of Participation of Men, Women and Youth in Alternative Livelihoods
in Turkana County, Kenya**

Miriti Lydiah, Gitonga Juster, Karienyeh Margaret and Kamau Marian

Levels of Participation of Men, Women and Youth in Alternative Livelihoods in Turkana County, Kenya

Miriti Lydiah¹, Gitonga Juster¹, Karienyeh Margaret² and Kamau Marian¹



Miriti Lydiah

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, (KALRO) Kandara

Mobile: +254(0)722998251

Corresponding Author's Email: lydiahmiriti@gmail.com

Gitonga Juster

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, (KALRO) Kandara

Mobile: +254(0)721835792

Co-Author's Email: justerkath16@gmail.com

⁵Karienyeh Margaret

Agrorient Consultancy

Mobile: +254 (0)792120180

Co-Authors Email: mmkarienyeh@yahoo.com

Marian Kamau

Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, (KALRO) Kandara

Mobile: +254(0)727883572

Co-Author's Email: mariankamau2@gmail.com

Article History

Received 15th February 2023

Received in Revised Form 4th March 2023

Accepted 13th March 2023



Abstract

Purpose: In many ASALS areas in Kenya, the frequency and magnitude of droughts, floods and famine have increased significantly in the recent past. This has impacted negatively on communities especially women whose vulnerability is increased further by cattle raids that are prevalent in these areas. In Turkana County, women lack the capacity to participate in resource management due to lack of access to information and skills. The County government through gender department has a good will to minimize challenges women and youth are facing. However, political will should be enhanced for women and youth to participate in raising the community's living standards. This study therefore sought to explore the levels of participation of men, women and youth in alternative livelihoods in Turkana County.

Methodology: The study used cross sectional data gathered through questionnaires and administered on the men, women and youth including selected key informants. The study was conducted in Turkana west, Turkana East, Turkana North, and Turkana South of Turkana County, Kenya.

Findings: Men, women and youth, are embracing alternative livelihoods to earn extra income. However, men exclusively control land and also makes most decisions concerning sale and purchase of livestock and their products. Access to information on livestock production is limited for both genders. The main challenges in transportation of livestock and their products, including farm produce are; long distance, bad roads, lack of security, high transportation cost and spoilage of products.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The study presumed that in order for women and youth to participate in alternative livelihoods, for instance, agribusiness, small businesses and crop farming, there is need for enhanced access to information, skills, and household empowerment, including good political will. The assumption was validated and ratified during visits to key political leaders, gender office and key community leaders. The county government and other development partners should support the community's alternative livelihood by encouraging formation of groups in order to be assisted through capacity building to improve their business skills, value addition and marketing of their products. Capacity building should be conducted in their localities to enhance attendance hence, increase the living standard of the community.

Key words: *Participation levels, Alternative Livelihoods, Turkana, Kenya*

©2023 by the Authors. This Article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

INTRODUCTION

Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) of Kenya have high internal and across international borders, mobility of both people and livestock. In many of the ASALS areas, the frequency and magnitude of droughts, floods and famine have increased significantly in the recent past, (Odhiambo, 2014). This has impacted negatively on pastoralist communities and especially the women whose vulnerability is increased further by cattle raids that are prevalent in these areas, (Omollo, 2010), (GOK, 2011). Indeed, poverty, unemployment, marginalization of women, youth and people with disabilities, rising levels of population and unskilled labour are still major challenges in ASALs, (GOK, 2011).

Turkana County is located in Northern Kenya. It is classified as an Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL). ASALs make up about 80% of Kenya's land surface and are occupied by 36% of Kenya's population, (GOK, 2011). Of the 47 counties in Kenya, 23 are in northern Kenya and other arid lands. The dominant mode of production is pastoralism. There is also an over reliance on wood based fuel; for example, in Turkana county, 87% of the people use firewood with less than 1% using LPG and 1% using paraffin, (Mbugua, 2015). Consequently, women and girls who are usually busy with household chores, also bear the burden of fetching firewood. The overall education performance and transition rate to secondary schools and tertiary institutions in Turkana County are low and the situation of girls is even worse, given the subordinate status of girls and women in most pastoral societies (GOK, 2011). For example, transition rate in Kakuma Sub County for boys (54%) and girls (55%) for class four and (67%) boys and (40%) girls, for class seven. Overall primary to secondary transition rate is (40%) compared to the national average of (80%), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (2014).

Mbugua (2015) indicates that there is low involvement of women in natural resource management in Turkana County which is associated with their low capacities in education, knowledge and skills, economic, socio-cultural and political issues. Poor management of resources and low participation of women leads to lost opportunities while better management of resources create employment, raise income levels, enhances trade and ultimately boosts peace among communities. Key among barriers of women participation in natural resource management are cultural /ideological predisposition towards women and high levels of illiteracy (Mbugua, 2015).

Research has shown that if women have equal access to productive assets as men, they can increase farm yields by 20-30 per cent (FAO, 2011). Both genders acquire and use assets in different ways and in diverse contexts thus, a full understanding of these differences is therefore essential in formulating gender-sensitive interventions for the resource-poor men and women. This need is greater in conservative communities like Turkana County in which, apart from gender-specific challenges, cultural perceptions also impede development. Women need secure and stable access to productive resources in order to invest in, and improve their production systems. This will not only increase women's realization of their potential in agribusiness, but also the governments' in poverty alleviation by 2030. With practical gender sensitive strategies, it is doable.

Gender Issues in Turkana County

Women in Turkana lack the capacity to participate in resource management due to lack of access to knowledge, skills and supportive economic, socio-cultural and political framework (Njambi, 2014), yet lack of access to productive resources limits opportunities for income generation, raised

standard of living and wealth creation. This is exacerbated by existence of certain cultural practices that hinder women's participation, a scenario corroborated by FAO (2017) who found that the land tenure system in Turkana County is customary in which access is mainly through inheritance, with no formal documentation. The community traditionally demarcates land using indicators such as family graves, large old trees, and watering wells. Women have no land ownership rights, though daughters of chiefs or women from rich families are allocated land. However, at times this land can be taken away by their brothers once the parents are dead (FAO, 2017). Councils of elders are supposed to ensure that every community member has access to land and to sort out land-related disputes at the community level. However, women, youth, and other vulnerable groups (those with disabilities, HIV, etc.) are seldom involved in discussions on land-related matters (FAO, 2017).

A study by KVRTS (2017) indicates that the actual treatment between men and women in land governance systems in Turkana is linked to specific roles and relationships that are tied to societal norms. Women less participate in land governance, or any other natural resource management and this increases their vulnerability hence, limiting their capacity to access, use and own land or livestock especially large livestock such as cattle. Men own all livestock and land resources.

According to KVRTS (2017), there is lack of political will to fund the gender related activities in Turkana County. However, gender department of Turkana County has prioritized various issues in order to promote equality and empowerment of women in Turkana. The main ones includes:

- i. Sensitization on available funding opportunities, tendering process and registration of women company's and support to their led enterprises
- ii. Disbursement of women empowerment fund
- iii. Sensitization on harmful cultural practices, early marriages, forced marriages and support to girl/boy mentorship programs
- iv. Training trainers of trainees as agents of change and peace ambassadors
- v. Construction of one stop gender based violence (GBV) centre for sexually (GBV) survivors (medication, counseling and referrals)
- vi. "HE" or "SHE" trainings, meeting and campaigns to empower boys and girls.

Further, the gender department has an initiative to support youth empowerment in the County. The priorities include:

- i. Sensitization on formation of youth SACCOs for entrepreneurship
- ii. Sensitization on environmental conservation and greening of Turkana County
- iii. Sensitization on peace and conflict resolution
- iv. Life skills training weaving, beadwork, basketry and embroidery and capacity building, garage, car wash
- v. Youth rare skills training like foreign exchange, oil and gas and weights and measures (1 student per sub-county)

The department is ensuring they actualize the above, through resource mobilization strategies. This shows that the County has a good will to minimize the challenges women and youth are facing through ensuring that their unique needs are taken care of. However, political will should be enhanced for women and youth to participate in raising the community's living standards. This study therefore sought to explore the levels of participation of men, women and youth in alternative livelihoods in Turkana County.

The study was responding to the following questions:

1. What is the livelihood of men and women in Turkana County
2. Who has access to and control of productive resources including income and information
3. Who makes decisions on various household activities
4. What are the challenges to transportation and marketing of livestock and their products

According to FAO (2017), the factors affecting women and youth in Turkana County from engaging in alternative livelihoods and access to land rights are:

- i. Religious and cultural beliefs that women should not mingle with men
- ii. Low literacy levels among women
- iii. Lack of female role models who have succeeded in accessing land in Turkana
- iv. Lack of access to information
- v. Lack of political good will.

Based on FAO (2017), the study presumed that women's and youth's participation in alternative livelihoods, for instance, agribusiness, small businesses and crop farming, will be enhanced by access to information, skills, and household empowerment, including a good political will. The assumption was validated during study's visit to the key stakeholders like political leaders, gender office and key community leaders. According to the gender officer, the office has an on-going initiative for youth and women whose initiatives are laid down in the background information. The gender officer also acknowledged that there exist good political will since the women and youth initiatives were already recognized hence, supposed have a budgetary allocation through the governor's office. This was ratified by further visits to the governors' office.

The study adapted the following conceptual approach.

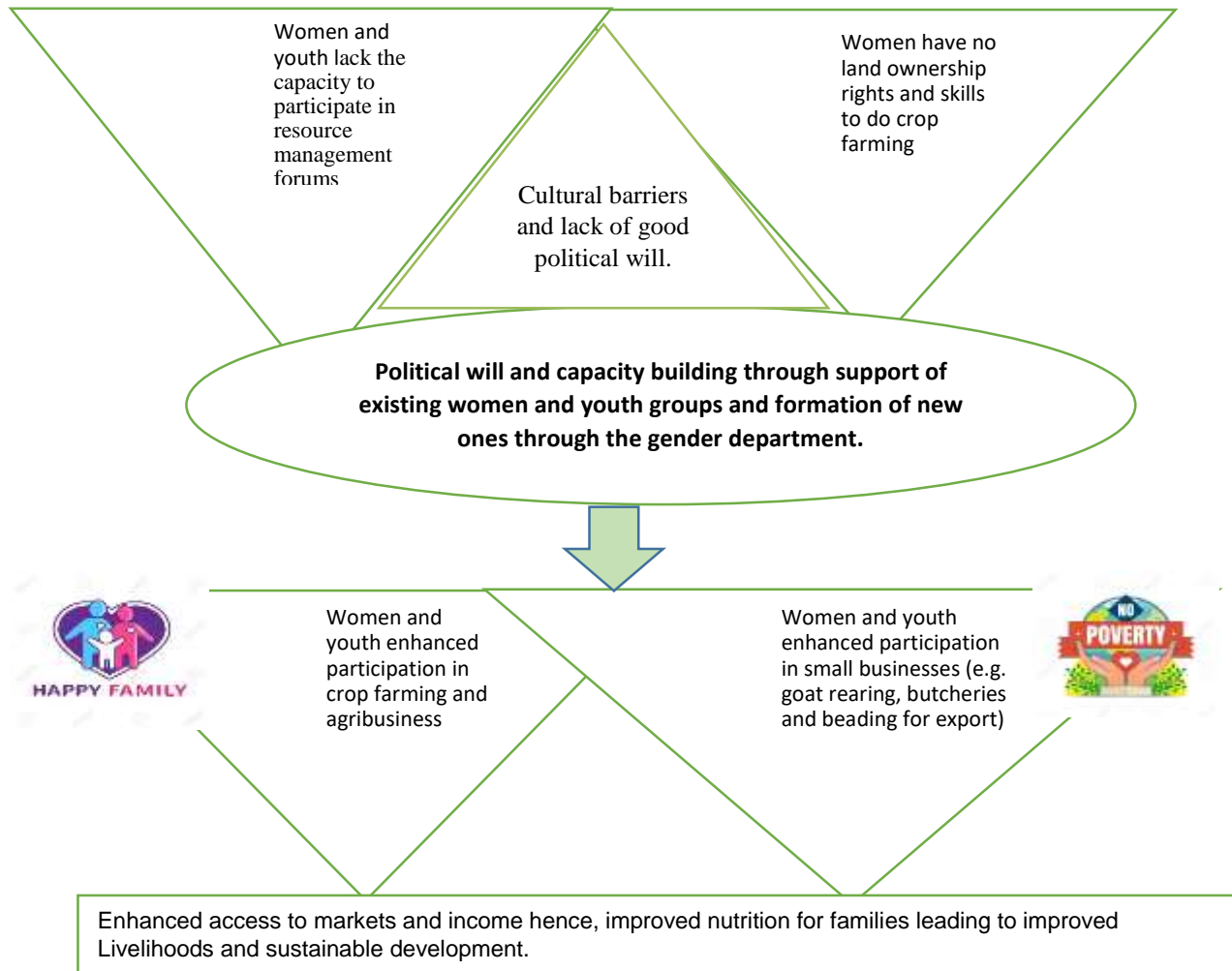


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

The study used an investigative survey design. Creswell (2014) defines an investigative survey as one that provides a measurable description of trends, attitudes, or opinions of a population by studying a sample of that population. The population in this study was the Turkana community (men, women and youth). To enrich the investigation, a mixed method approach was used which involves combining or integrating qualitative and quantitative research in a study. This design allowed an in-depth study approach and application of various research instruments. The study was therefore both qualitative and quantitative in nature.

Study Area

The study was conducted in in Turkana west, East, North, and South Sub-counties of Turkana County, Kenya.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

Household Surveys

For the household survey 212 households were randomly sampled which included both male and female headed households. This being a gender study, efforts were made to include all age groups and social status.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Eight (8) FGDs were conducted with members who were drawn from 8 self-help groups operating within Lodwar, Kakuma and Lokichogio. The men, women and youth who participated in FGDs were chosen on the basis of their availability at the time of the study. The FGDs were interactive to allow for further probing on the basis of information provided by the informants. The method provided information on groups' activities, maintenance, impact in the community and their specific challenges that can enhance earning extra income, raise their standard of living and have more impact in the community.

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

These were conducted with seven (7) experts selected on basis of their work within the County. The respondents were drawn from the County Government of Turkana; CEC water, CEC trade, County project leader, Agricultural officer, 2 livestock officers and a fisheries officer. The key informants provided information on the nature of livelihoods in Turkana particularly the gender perspective, unique needs of women and youth as they engage in alternative livelihoods and their views on what can be done to minimize challenges encountered in Turkana for enhanced socio-economic impact both in the community and the County.

Case Narratives (CNs)

These were conducted with two gender and youth officers in the County. The case narratives focused on the nature and scope of gender and cultural issues in the County, especially women's and youths' involvement in alternative livelihoods, their challenges and what the County is doing concerning the specific and unique needs of women and youth. The narratives also focused on any emerging issues affecting women in the County especially the increase of female headed households in the County.

Data Collection Methods

To collect household data, research assistants were utilized. Structured and Semi-structured interviews with closed and open ended questions were used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data based on research objectives. This was a guided interview which provided an opportunity for further probing which enabled collection of sufficient information on household characteristics and study objectives. A FGD guide was used to collect information from men and women who were selected as participants in group discussions while interview schedules were used for KIIs.

Data Processing and Analysis

Quantitative data collected was processed through manual cleaning and then edited. The data was then entered in for analysis in statistics in SPSS computer software. Qualitative data was processed by cleaning it manually through identification of main themes from in-depth interviews. It was

then classified as per study objectives. Excel spreadsheet was used for further data interpretation. Results were then presented in form of lists, frequency tables, percentages, charts and other patterns showing relationships and comparisons.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographics

Gender, Age and Number of Children in a Household

This being a gender study, efforts were made to ensure that age of respondents was also considered. The study interviewed 212 respondents 99 (96.7%) women and 113 (53.3%) men. Concerning age of respondents, the youngest was 15 while the oldest was 71 years old. The average age was 36 years old hence, majority of interviewees were between 30 and 40 years old. The average number of children per household was 7 with a maximum of 20 children in some households, which could be argued it can be due the polygamous nature of the study area.

Education Level

Education plays a vital role in the socio-economic well-being of any community. It is crucial especially in any commercial enterprise. Men and women require basic knowledge in transacting business which is supported by KARLO (2017) that education enhances acceptance of improved technologies since it facilitates farmers' adoption of innovations. The study sought to find out the education level of participating respondents (Figure 2).

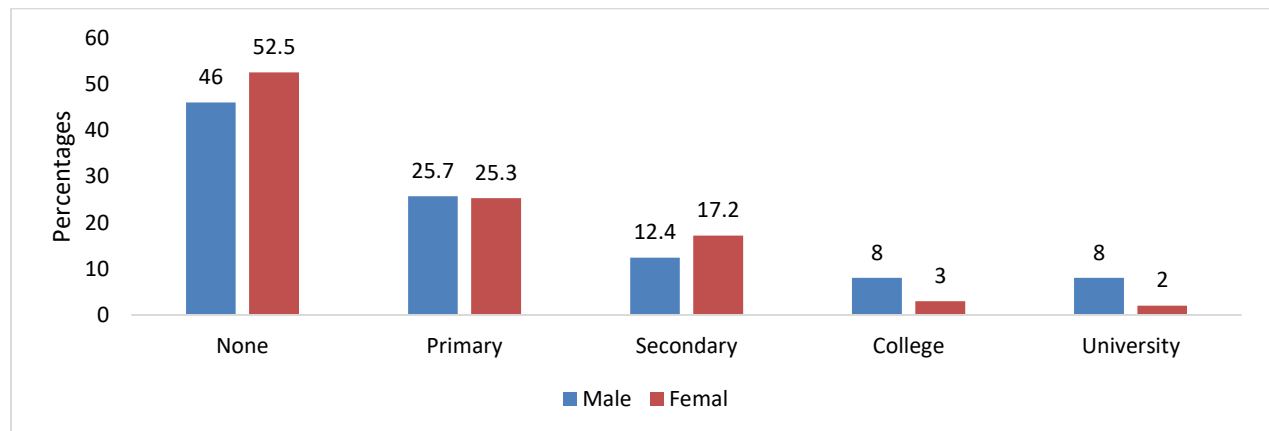


Figure 2: Education Level by Gender

Most respondents had no formal education (46% men and 52.5% women). Both genders were almost at par in accessing primary education. Notably, more women (17.2%) than men (12.4%) had accessed secondary education. However, the trend changes in access to higher education where men are more than women, though in limited numbers. This indicates that in the study area, women are generally less educated than men. Consequently, it has a negative impact on socio-economic welfare of the area considering the fact that all genders are enthusiastic in engaging in agribusiness as the latter results shows.

The study noted that some women aged 18 lacked basic knowledge as little as writing their names, a scenario that can be attributed to the conservative culture of the Turkana community that equates

women with wealth. The results corroborates Njambi (2014) that gender disparities are prevalent in Turkana County given that men have greater access to resources, credit, information and education. However, it was further noted that this custom is fading away since both genders are embracing education by taking their children to school. The embrace in education was noted in a case study of a youth group consisting of educated youth.

The group has initiated strategies to bridge education gap in the community by passing business ideas to the illiterate youth and embracing plans to start adult classes in the area for illiterate young men and women. The group has 30 members, this youth group has four (4) educated members who are all men, (2 university graduates and 2 diploma students). The one person in secondary school is also a man.



Figure 3: Some Members of Nachuchikait Integrated Youth Group during the Interview

Adult classes can enlighten the youth who are illiterate especially women. Obama (2015) supports this by stating that a woman is a power house of entrepreneurship and when she succeeds, she invests more in her family and community.

Household Income and Livelihoods in Turkana County

According to KVRTS (2017), livelihood in Turkana is mainly livestock which is exclusively owned by men. However, women and youth are engaging in alternative livelihood. The study thus sought to find out the main income generating commodities and food availability in the area. The respondents were asked to rank the five commodities that generate income and food from the most important to the least (Figure 4).

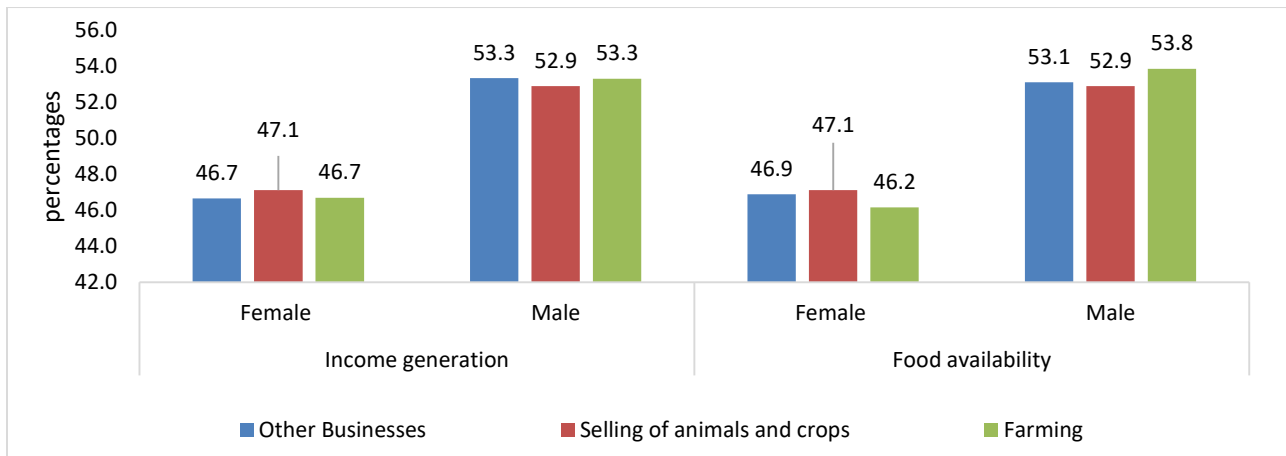


Figure 4: Household Income and Livelihood

Most women were selling animals and crops for both income generation and food availability (47.1% each respectively) (Figure 4). Similar trend follows for men though in all livelihoods, there are more men (above 52%, in comparison to women who are below 48%). The results corroborates findings from FGDs and Key informant interviews that most of self- help groups were engaged in buying and selling animals and other businesses for instance; selling curios, livestock drugs, general shops and also selling farm produce. The findings indicate that though livestock production which is a man’s domain has been the major livelihood the area, women are embracing alternative livelihoods as an income generation notwithstanding the many challenges they are facing as observed during FGDs. When asked the main hindrances in embracing agribusiness, majority of women cited the following challenges:

- i. Cultural believes that women should not mingle with men
- ii. Lack of access to productive resources
- iii. Forced early marriages of teenage girls
- iv. Low literacy levels among women
- v. High poverty levels even among the young women
- vi. Gender inequality due to cultural and discriminatory traditions
- vii. Poor access to information on available opportunities

Nevertheless, the fact that men are also engaging in alternative livelihoods other than livestock show the community’s change of mind set. The study noted that in many gender integrated self- help groups, women members were more than men, a scenario that suggest a change in the stereotype that in this community, men cannot mix with women. This is further illustrated in Figure 5 that shows the composition of three gender integrated groups that were interviewed.

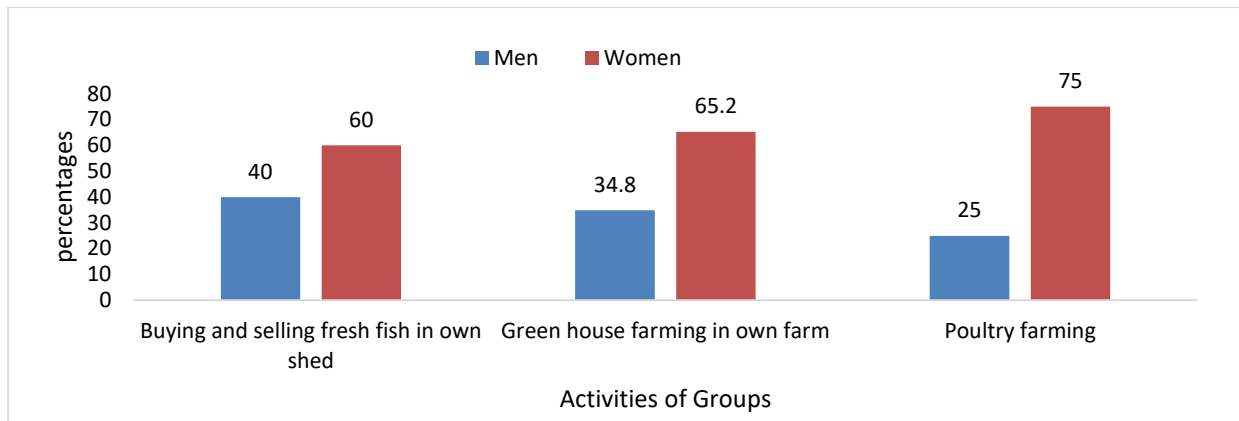


Figure 5: Composition in Some Gender Integrated Groups

In Figure 5, all the groups has women’s membership is more in comparison to men’s. When asked how they use income from their businesses, most women participants in FGDs indicated support of households and education of children. This corroborates with Word Bank (2012) that when women earn extra income, they invest in their households and community. There is need therefore to invest in not only enhancing women’s businesses, but also capacity building to improve their business skills and value addition. This will go a long way in raising living standards in Turkana.

Access to Productive Resources in the Household

Ownership may imply legality where the person has a title to an asset or property which is mainly applicable to resources such as land. For livestock, however, there is no legal title or document to show possession except means of acquisition such as purchase, hence, the study sought to find out who owned land and other household assets such as livestock, in households (Figure 6).

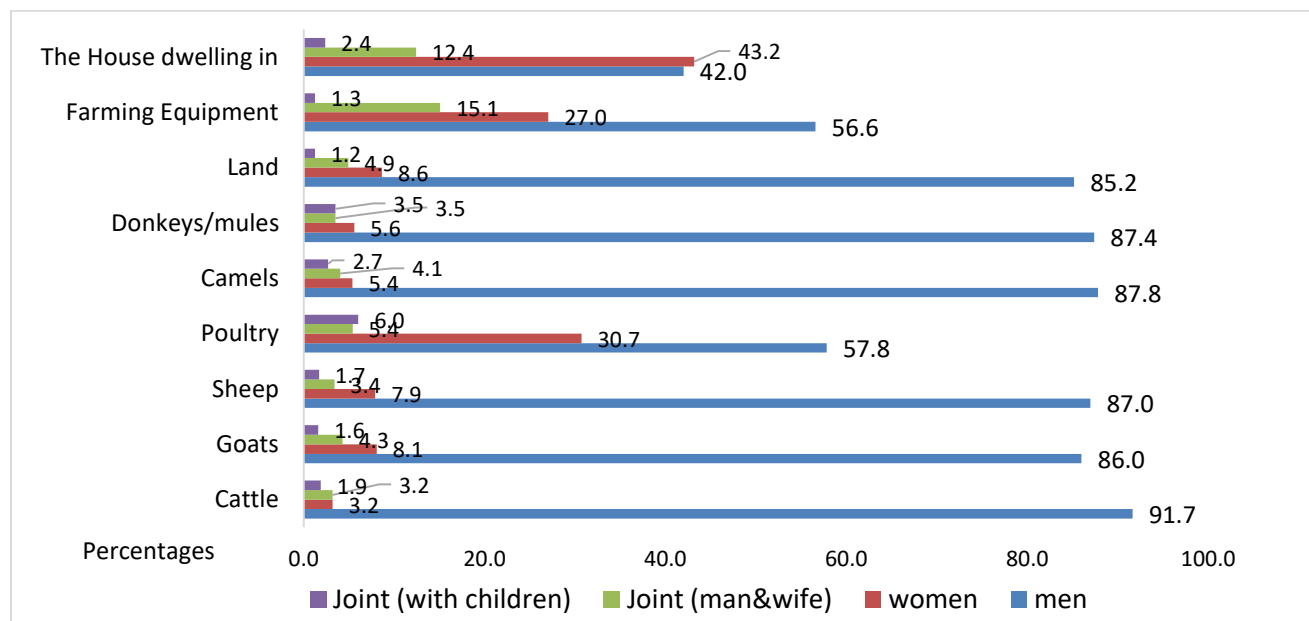


Figure 6: Control of Livestock and Other Household Resources by Gender

Results indicate that ownership of livestock is dominated by men. Few women, (30.7% of those interviewed), in comparison to 57.8% men, control poultry. Similar to livestock, land is exclusively controlled by men while assets such as farm equipment are either owned jointly or by few women. The only asset women are slightly more (43.2%), in comparison to men (42%), is the household house, a scenario that can be attributed to the fact that women construct traditional houses (*manyatta*). However, few respondents (12.4%), cited that structures are owned jointly. Consequently, in all the assets, joint ownership with spouses or children is negligible. Ownership of land and large livestock increases income control due to decision making power to sell the same. This increases women's vulnerability in access to income. Consequently, as women embrace alternative livelihoods, initial capital can be a challenge. There is need therefore to engage initiatives that target household empowerment.

The findings corroborates KVRTS (2017), that actual treatment between men and women in land governance systems in Turkana is linked to specific roles and relationships that are tied to societal norms. Very few women participate in land governance, or any other natural resource management and this increases their vulnerability hence, limiting their capacity to access, use and own land or livestock especially large livestock such as cattle. Men own all livestock and land resources KVRTS, 2017. When probed further concerning land and gender ownership, the gender and youth officer said the following:

“Most land in Turkana is communal thus, accessible to any person for grazing purposes. Livelihood in Turkana is purely pastoralism and out 7,700 Sq. Km, three quarters of this land is communal for pastoral purposes. However, there exist some private land which is exclusively owned by men who possess allotment letters since there are no titled deeds yet. Nevertheless, some pieces of private land (very few), are owned by middle-class women in FHHs who are either employed in NGOs/government or doing business in urban areas”.

The scenario above corroborates FAO (2017) that land tenure system in Turkana County is customary and is mainly inherited with no formal documentation. The community traditionally demarcates land using indicators such as family graves, large old trees, and watering wells. Majority of KIIs cited that women have no land ownership rights, though daughters of chiefs or women from rich families are allocated land. However, at times this land can be taken away by their brothers once parents are dead (FAO, 2017).

Ownership of cattle and other productive resources such as land increases income control due to the decision making power to either buy or sell the same. By not owning such, women in Turkana are at a disadvantage; it limits their participation in income generation despite being actively involved in productive activities in the community. This indicates that their access to income is limited. Starting any business requires capital thus, lack of access to the same marginalizes women yet they are expected to take part in raising the standard of living and the fact that Turkana community is very conservative, increases the gender-gap. Women therefore continue to bear the consequences of gender and socio-cultural relations which dominate many African households. It is perceived that decision making power, especially on productive resources, belong to men. Changing these perceptions usually result into gender based conflicts in households considering the fact that patriarchy dominates most homes.

For example, though some women in male headed households in Turkana County own some small livestock such as goats, decision making power on how to use the income from sale of the same is either made jointly, or solely by the husband. Consequently, if development interventions continue to ignore gender issues in access to productive resources, it will take a longer period to achieve the goals envisioned both in national and regional programs.

Decision Making Power in Households

Power control, just like productive assets, influences ability to earn extra income in the household. The study sought to find out who makes most decisions concerning income, purchase of livestock and sale of livestock and their products including the major decisions made by women in households (Figure 7 and 8, Table 1 and 2).

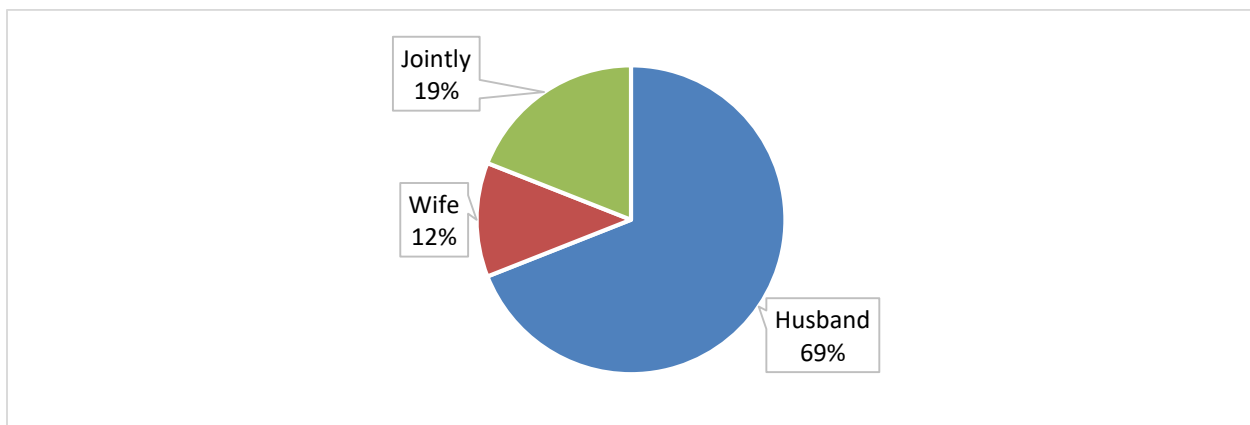


Figure 7: Control of Income in Male Headed Households by Gender

Findings reveal that in male headed households, most decisions concerning income are made by the husband as indicated by 69% of the respondents, while few (12%), indicated that wives can also make some decisions and 19% of the respondents cited that some decisions can be made jointly (by husband and wife). This shows that men control most decisions concerning income in households. These results carries with what was found during FGDs. Asked regarding decision making in households, men and women participants in FGDs, including key informants stated the following:

“Decision making in male headed households concerning use of income is exclusively a man’s domain. Since socialism is very strong in Turkana, decisions in FHHs especially concerning livestock is also made by sons or any male who is a close relative”.

The study established that women in Turkana are engaging in agribusiness especially on alternative livelihoods and they are using income to support the household especially in education of children. Access to income therefore largely influences their participation in such initiatives. For this reason, lack of access to capital impedes the realization of their potential in business. Bearing in mind that Turkana community is conservative, overcoming inequalities associated with gender perceptions will have powerful social-economic impacts in the area.

There is evidence that as agricultural/livestock production becomes commercialized, women have often lost control and management of income derived from it (Njuki et al 2013). Alkire et al.,

(2012) argue that women in empowered households are able to negotiate for rights and freedoms and as a result; in a better position to bargain on resource availability, accessibility and control. Trainings that consider the unique challenges of women will enable them be in a position to negotiate their own rights especially in control of income from their labour (Alkire et al., 2012).

Table 1: Decisions on Livestock Purchases by Gender

Who makes most decisions to buy the following?	Men	Women	Joint (men & women)	Joint (with children)	Total
Cattle	92.5	2.5	4.3	0.6	100.0
Goats	88.3	4.1	7.7	0.0	100.0
Sheep	86.2	4.8	9.0	0.0	100.0
Poultry for sale	65.0	19.4	6.9	8.8	100.0
Indigenous chicken	57.9	23.0	9.0	10.1	100.0
Camel	93.9	2.4	2.4	1.2	100.0
Donkeys	93.9	3.0	3.0	0.0	100.0

Table 2: Decisions on Sales of Livestock and Their Products

Who makes most decisions to sell the following?	Men	Women	Joint (men & women)	joint (with children)	Total
Cattle	93.4	1.2	4.8	0.6	100.0
Goats	87.9	3.5	8.5	0.0	100.0
Sheep	87.7	3.2	9.1	0.0	100.0
Poultry	62.7	18.4	11.4	7.6	100.0
Indigenous chicken	57.1	22.8	12.5	7.6	100.0
Camel	89.6	4.9	5.5	0.0	100.0
Donkeys	90.2	4.9	4.9	0.0	100.0
Meat	73.8	14.4	11.4	0.5	100.0
Milk	31.2	58.8	8.0	2.0	100.0
Eggs	32.3	55.9	8.1	3.8	100.0
Wool	48.0	39.3	9.3	3.3	100.0
Skins	50.3	37.6	10.2	2.0	100.0

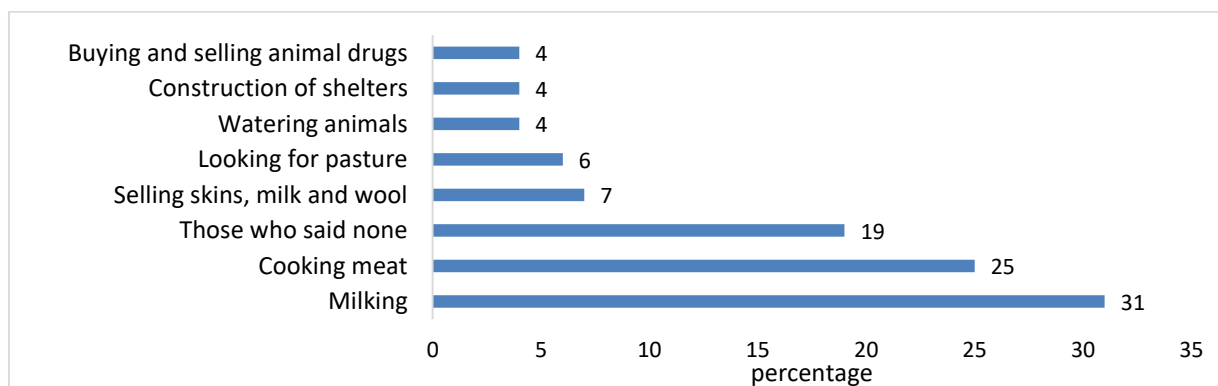


Figure 8: Major Decisions Made by Women in Households

Results reveal that most decisions on purchase or sale of livestock and their products is exclusively by men. Observably, while some women make decisions on sale of milk and eggs, the decisions

on how income is used is by the man as earlier noted. This is more elaborate in Figure 6, where milking is actually ranked number one among major decisions made by women. The other major decision made by women is cooking, (mentioned by 25% respondents). However, 19% of respondents were of the view that there are no major decisions by women. While search for pasture and water for livestock is a man's activity, women can make decisions on the same, a scenario that can be attributed to the fact that some women are engaged in buying and selling livestock such as goats which they need to feed and give water. The study also sought to find out uses of income from agricultural, livestock and livestock products (Table 3).

Table 3: Uses of Income from Agriculture, Livestock and Products

	Responses	Gender Responses		% of gender		Total %
		Men	women	Men	Women	
School fees and food	115	55	60	47.8	52.2	100
School fees and hospital bills/clothing	74	35	39	47.3	52.7	100
School fees and business	11	4	7	36.4	63.6	100
Total	200	94	106			

Out of the 200 men and women who responded, majority of respondents 115 (55% men and 60% women) indicated they use income on school fees and food. A number of them 74 (47.3% men and 52.7% women) use income on school fees and hospital bills or clothing while few, 11 (36.4% men and 63.6% women) use their income on school fees and business. Notably, school fees is the dominant use among the three major uses. This shows that education is being embraced by both genders in the county though this does not mean both girls and boys have an equal access in education. For instance, the transition rate in Kakuma Sub-County of Turkana County for class four is 54% for boys and 55% for girls. However, the rate diminishes for girls in class seven (67% boys and (40%) girls).

Nevertheless, the overall primary to secondary transition rate is quiet low (40%) compared to the national average of (80%), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (2014). This notwithstanding, the fact that men and women in Turkana are channeling their income to school fees indicates a positive mindset towards education which should be encouraged through empowerment initiatives in households, especially the support of the girl child.

The study sought to find out if men and women were saving some income (Table 4), and reasons of not saving (Figure 9).

Table 4: Savings Sources for Income from Livestock and Agricultural Sales

	Responses	Gender Responses		% of gender		Total %
		women	men	Women	men	
In the House	70	43	27	61.4	38.6	100
In the Bank	47	13	34	27.7	72.3	100
Mpesa	21	8	13	38.1	61.9	100
Mpesa	9	6	3	66.7	33.3	100
Table banking/merry go round	5	2	3	40.0	60.0	100
Total responses	152	72	80	47.4	52.6	100

Out of 152 respondents who save their income, most women save income in the house 43 (61.4%), in comparison to 27 (38.6%) men. On the other hand, more men 34 (72.3%) in comparison to

women 13 (27.7%), save their income in banks. Out of those who save their income in Mpesa, majority (61.7%), are men in comparison to 38.1% women. This indicates that most women use informal sources of savings while more men, than women, use formal ones.

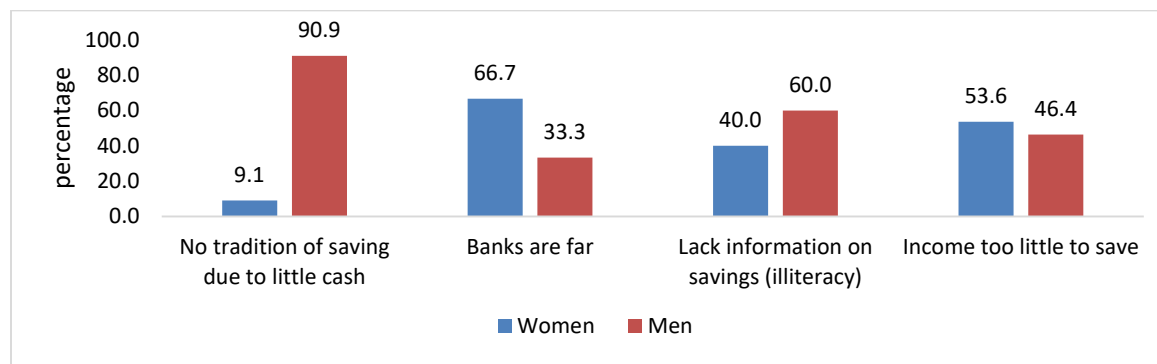


Figure 9: Reasons for Not Saving Income

While majority of men (90.9%), attributed their lack of saving a culture to limited income, majority of women (66.7%), indicated that banks are far from their homesteads. Noting that women are embracing agribusiness, it follows that they would appreciate a saving culture reason why most of them indicated the location of banks as a barrier to save. According to Rubin et al. (2010), women have less access to formal financial services because of cultural barriers and collateral requirements and removing these constraints, for example, through low interest credit, women can participate in agribusiness.

Agricultural and Livestock Production Systems

Household and Livestock Activities

Table 5: Household Chores and Productive Activities by Gender

	Women	Girls	Men	Boys	Joint (men & women)	Total %
Household chores						
Fetching water	90.0	2.4	4.8	1.0	1.9	100.0
Fuel (firewood)	90.8	4.3	3.4	0.0	1.4	100.0
Housework	91.9	2.9	3.3	0.0	1.9	100.0
Cooking	94.7	1.9	1.9	0.0	1.4	100.0
Washing clothes	91.8	2.4	1.9	0.0	3.9	100.0
Care of sick and old	63.9	0.0	6.7	0.0	29.3	100.0
Taking children to hospital	58.7	0.0	12.0	0.5	28.8	100.0
Livestock activities						
Milking	85.8	2.0	5.9	0.5	5.9	100.0
Construction of houses	47.8	0.0	23.2	1.4	27.5	100.0
Sale of milk products	70.1	2.5	20.3	1.0	6.1	100.0
Herding cattle	3.4	1.0	86.8	6.8	2.0	100.0
Slaughtering	39.1	0.5	40.6	0.0	19.8	100.0
Sale of animals	13.6	0.0	68.3	1.5	16.6	100.0
Search for pasture	8.2	0.0	83.7	4.1	4.1	100.0
Search for water	10.5	2.5	78.5	1.5	7.0	100.0
Migrating animals	4.5	0.0	86.0	3.0	6.5	100.0

Results indicate that almost all household chores are a woman's work. Notably, most women perform livestock activities such as milking and sale of milk products (85.8% and 70.1% of the respondents respectively), while they also construct houses and slaughter animals (47.8% and 39.1% respondents respectively). Men's main livestock duties include; herding cattle (86.8%), migrating animals (86.0%), and searching for pasture (83.7%) searching for water (78.5%) and sale of animals (68.3%). These results show that women's activities burdens them more in comparison to men's. This is because while women perform daily household chores, they also engage in livestock activities, sentiments echoed by men and women participants in FGDs, including key informants:

“Men's main activity is grazing. When they are not grazing, they sleep under the trees and play traditional games with fellow men. They retrieve to the manyattas to get food”.

The study noted that women and girls fetch water for household use as far as 12 Km away from homesteads (*manyattas*). Mbugwa, (2015) affirms that there is an over reliance on wood based fuel in Turkana county since 87% of the people use firewood with less than 1% using LPG and 1% paraffin. Consequently, women and girls who are usually busy with household chores, also bear the burden of fetching firewood.

The study observed that many butcheries are owned by women and in some instances, they also slaughter goats. Asked why this is the case, the key informants said the following:



Figure 10: A Woman Roasting Goat's Meat in a Butchery Owned by Women Group

“Conservative Turkana men believe slaughtering brings food on the table. Since cooking is women's activity, some men cannot slaughter since this is infringing in a woman's work. In fact, 90% of butcheries are owned by women groups. They buy and slaughter goats and sheep, sell in their own butcheries, and at times, they also roast the meat for customers”.

When women who are in self-help groups were asked how they balance between household chores and at the same time engage in small businesses, they had this to say:

“We are assisted by our children (both girls and boys). The boys are adapting to change of culture due to the empowerment initiatives both in schools and in the community meetings”.

The sentiments above were also echoed by the gender officer in the County, a scenario that shows that though men and women in Turkana are conservative, culture is not static since the community is embracing change, for instance, boys assisting mothers with household roles.

Farming, Community and Other Livelihood Activities

Table 6: Farming, Community and Other Livelihood Activities by Gender

Who does the following?	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Joint (men & women)	Total
Farming Activities						
Land clearing/preparation	43.5	7.6	4.1	0.0	44.7	100.0
Planting/sowing	16.6	33.1	2.4	0.0	47.9	100.0
Weeding	11.1	26.3	2.3	0.0	60.2	100.0
Harvesting	10.1	28.4	3.0	0.0	58.6	100.0
Sale	35.3	27.5	1.8	1.2	34.1	100.0
Community Activities						
Maintenance of water points	81.4	8.3	2.5	0.0	7.8	100.0
Grazing land protection	90.1	2.5	3.9	0.0	3.4	100.0
Participate in relief activities	37.4	25.2	0.5	0.5	36.4	100.0
Construction of roads	72.5	2.0	0.5	0.0	25.0	100.0
Participation in cultural events e.g. weddings	18.4	10.4	0.0	0.0	71.1	100.0
Other Livelihood activities						
Local Brewing (for sale)	4.9	83.3	0.0	3.4	8.4	100.0
Charcoal Production	26.1	58.0	0.0	0.0	15.9	100.0
Paid casual labour	37.3	20.6	0.5	0.5	41.2	100.0
Beadwork for sale	10.9	73.1	3.0	10.4	2.5	100.0
Petty trading	6.1	59.2	6.6	24.0	4.1	100.0
Picking/selling wild fruits	8.2	60.1	6.6	20.2	4.9	100.0

Results reveal that farming activities such as land preparation, planting, weeding and harvesting are mostly performed by both men and women while community roles, for instance, maintenance of water points, protection of grazing land and construction of roads are mainly for men, with an exception of participation in cultural events, e.g. weddings, which is for both genders. Concerning other livelihood activities, local brewing as well as beads for sale are women’s reserve. Notably, many other livelihood activities such as charcoal production, petty trading and picking/selling wild fruits are a woman’s and girls’ domain while paid casual labour is for both genders.

These results show that apart from performing household chores and livestock activities, women are also equally involved in farming as well as community and other livelihood activities, a scenario that indicates they are heavily burdened yet, men rarely assist in household duties. There is need for change of mindset among both genders, including political, especially with devolved government in order to formulate strategies that include everyone in income generation.

Membership and Leadership in Groups

Membership in Groups

The ability to participate in community groups, especially those that improve the socio economic welfare of the society not only empowers the individual, but also the household. The study thus, sought to find out the membership in community groups by gender (Figure 8).

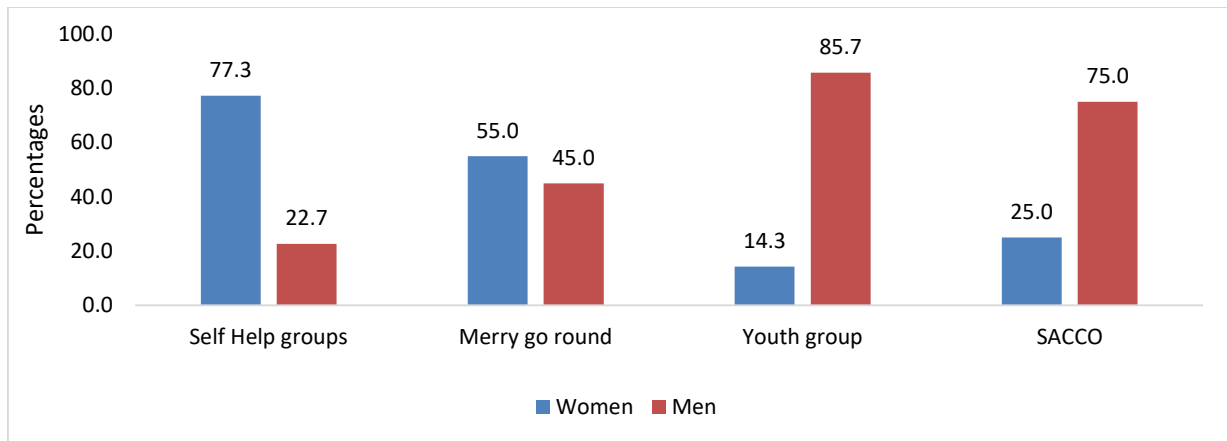


Figure 11: Membership in Groups by Gender

Majority of women (77.3%), in comparison to men (22.7%) are in self-help groups while majority of men (75%) in comparison to women (25%) are in SACCOs. Similarly, few women (14.3%) in Comparison to men (85.7%) are in youth groups. Though merry go rounds are usually associated with women, men are also members (Figure 8). These results corroborates findings in FGDS and key informant interviews that majority of members in self-help groups are women. For instance, a group that buys and sells fish by name *Natogo self-help* has a membership of 100 members (60 women and 40 men) while a group that engages in irrigation farming by name *Aminatoi self-help* has a membership of 230 (80 men and 150 women).



Figure 12: The *Natogo self-help* group Fish Bada at the Peak of Buying and Selling

Some of the *Aminatoi* group members during the interview

The dominance of men in youth groups was also noted during FGDs and key informant interviews. For instance a group by name *Lodwar airport self-help* has a membership of 36 (30 men and 6 women). Asked why women are very few, the group members stated that most young ladies are waiting for the group to be established since currently, they are experiencing many challenges. According to them, young women prefer established groups.



Figure 13: Some of the Lodwar Airport Youth Group Members during the Interview

The main activities in different type of groups are documented in the following section:

Main Activities in Groups

Main Activities for Self-help Groups;

- i. Table banking
- ii. Selling vegetables and fruits
- iii. Hotel business
- iv. Rental houses
- v. Economic empowerment
- vi. Buying and selling either plots, charcoal or livestock
- vii. Building houses for the members

Main Activities for Merry Go Round Groups;

- i. Table banking and loans
- ii. Petty trading
- iii. Economic empowerment
- iv. Buying and selling livestock

Main Activities of Youth Groups;

- i. Buying and selling animals
- ii. Farm activities
- iii. Poultry farming
- iv. Community welfare

- v. Youth empowerment
- vi. Operating cyber
- vii. Savings and loans
- viii. Transportation services of goods and passengers
- ix. Sports and civic education
- x. Table banking

Main Activities in SACCOs

- i. Repairing motor bikes
- ii. Buying and selling livestock
- iii. Buying and selling motorbikes
- iv. Poultry farming
- v. Savings and loans
- vi. Table banking

Notably, while there are diverse activities in different type of groups, most activities are also similar for instance, table banking, buying and selling livestock and economic empowerment. The list of activities also shows the community’s enthusiasm to embrace alternative livelihoods, a good gesture from reliance on livestock herding by men. Nevertheless, there is need to empower young women to join income generating groups at the initial stages instead of waiting for established ones. This is because it may be challenging to join established groups due to the criteria to join especially where fee is involved.

Leadership in Groups

The ability to be in any leadership enhances decision making power hence, inclusion of both men and women in groups’ leadership ensures that needs of all genders are equally represented.

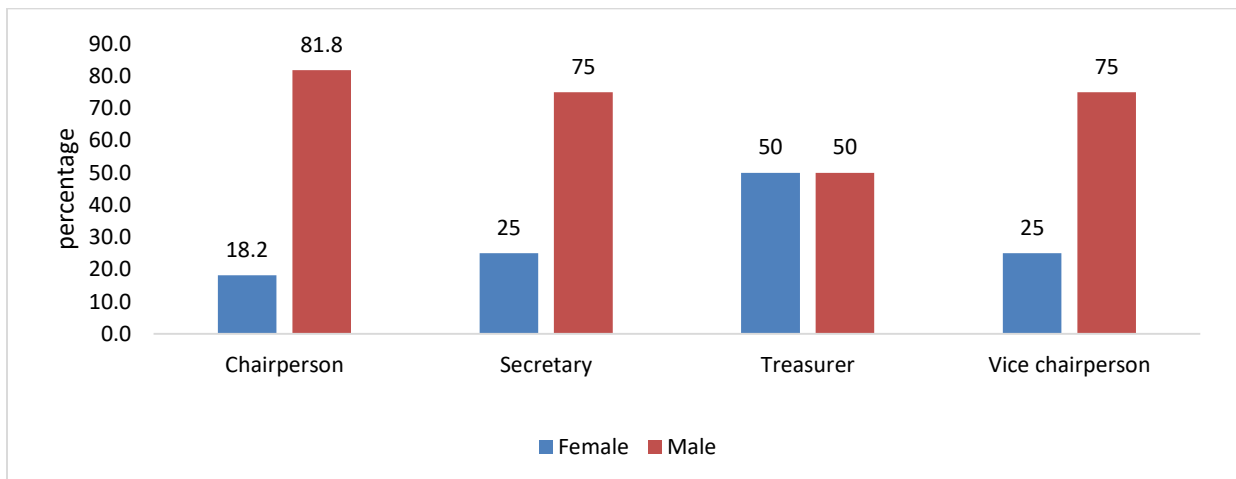


Figure 14: Leadership Positions in Groups by Gender

Findings revealed that out of 27 leadership positions, only 6 (13%) are occupied by women as compared to those by men 21 (77.8%). Notably, positions of chairperson, secretary and vice-chairperson are exclusively occupied by men. It is however noted that the position of treasurer is

equally shared by both genders. These results corroborates a study by Miriti et al., (2017); Ndungo et al. (2011). The scholars found out that while all other positions in farmer groups were occupied by men, the position of treasurer was exclusively a woman's affair. Asked why this is the case, respondents in these studies said the following:

“Women are trustworthy; hesitant in misappropriation of funds; can easily be trusted to repay any debt; are transparent and accountable; and hence best placed to keep the cash.”

On the hand, men were dismissed as treasurers due to reasons such as:

“Their level of corruption is high; are poor in keeping money; are tempted in diverting money to other uses e.g. drinking local brew; and are poor managers of resources especially those that belong to groups.”

Asked why other positions have few women, group leaders in these studies said that leadership in groups requires commitment and availability especially any time a need arises which constraints most women who are busy with household chores and mobility (Miriti et al., 2017). The reasons given by respondents in these studies with regard to the nature of women and men's participation in various leadership capacities indicate the influence of gender stereotypes in society's thinking. Thus, while both men and women often successfully serves in various leadership capacities, many respondents still felt that men were more suited in the position of chairperson while women were best suited as treasurers. This indicates that traditional gender perceptions persist. However, though women were dismissed as being too committed at home for leadership, many respondents acknowledged the value of their participation in leadership, especially after they have seen their performance as treasurers.

The Kenyan Constitution 2010 provides that in formation of committees or commissions, the position of the chairperson and vice chairperson should not be held by the same gender. The study therefore notes the need for enhanced gender training so that both men and women may be able to value their participation in decision- making forums.

Marketing and Processing of Livestock Products

The study observed that processing of livestock products is minimal in Turkana. During FGDs, it was noted that hides and skins are thrown away. According to a key informant, the hides and skins factory is no longer functional. There is need to revive processing of livestock products in the area bearing in mind that livestock is the main livelihood hence, men and women can also earn extra income from products such as hides and skins. However, the study observed that some women are engaged in processing fish through drying after which it is sold to customers, though the initiative also requires a lot of support from the County government.

Access to Information

When asked if they have attended any livestock trainings, only 61 (29%) of the respondents interviewed affirmed. Out of these, 27 (44.3%) were women while the rest, 34 (55.7%) were men. This indicates access to information on livestock production is limited for both genders, though women are more vulnerable. The reasons for not attending trainings on livestock production and marketing are diverse for both genders (Figure 10).

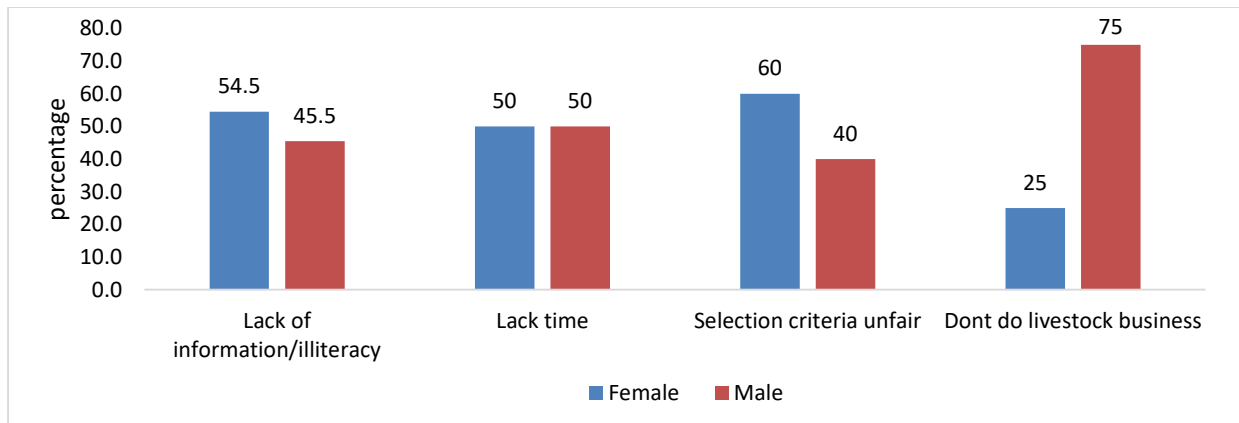


Figure 15: Reasons for Not Attending Livestock Trainings

Majority of men (75%) in comparison to 25% women, stated that they never attended any livestock production trainings due to the fact that they do not engage in livestock business. On the other hand, most women (60%) compared to 40% men pointed out that the criteria used to select those who should attend is unfair, meaning that they would have preferred to attend given a chance. Lack of information due to illiteracy (54.5% women and 45.5% men), was also a major reason while lack of time was mentioned by an equal number of both genders (50% each respectively). The reasons for men not engaging in livestock business can be argued that since livestock has been traditionally the main livelihood in the area, and at the same time a man's activity, men do not view it as a business worthy attending trainings for. They rather feel they know all that is required since after all, they have done it for decades.

On the other hand, the study noted that keeping cattle is a cultural affair and the more a man owns, the wealthier he is notwithstanding quality of animals. That is why milk and meat has limited value in the area especially from cows. There is therefore need for men to have a change of mindset from quantity to quality livestock. This will make them appreciate livestock trainings. Lack of time for men can also be attributed to the traditional lifestyle of being used to grazing and resting under trees. However, women's lack of time can be attributed to busy chores both from household to the community level. For this reason, the venue of trainings for both genders is crucial. It should be within their localities. When the few who were trained were asked their trainers, majority (70%), stated NGOs, while 25% were trained by county government and few, 5% the church. The trainings received were mainly on livestock production and marketing, and farming techniques.

Similar to productive resources, access to livestock/agricultural information has been gendered for decades and women continue to be marginalized. However, in Turkana, it is both genders who are vulnerable. Agribusiness is knowledge intensive (KALRO, 2017) and lack of skills contributes to low technology adoption. Access to information therefore influences success in agribusiness either negatively or positively. There is need to intensify access to information especially with rise of alternative livelihoods that are enhancing income generation among men and women hence, negating the mindset that the only livelihood is livestock herding. This will increase their knowledge on livestock quality, value addition of their products and acceptance of farming as a business hence, increase on food availability.

Small Businesses

Further, the study sought to identify the small businesses most respondents were engaged in apart from livestock and farming (Figure 15).

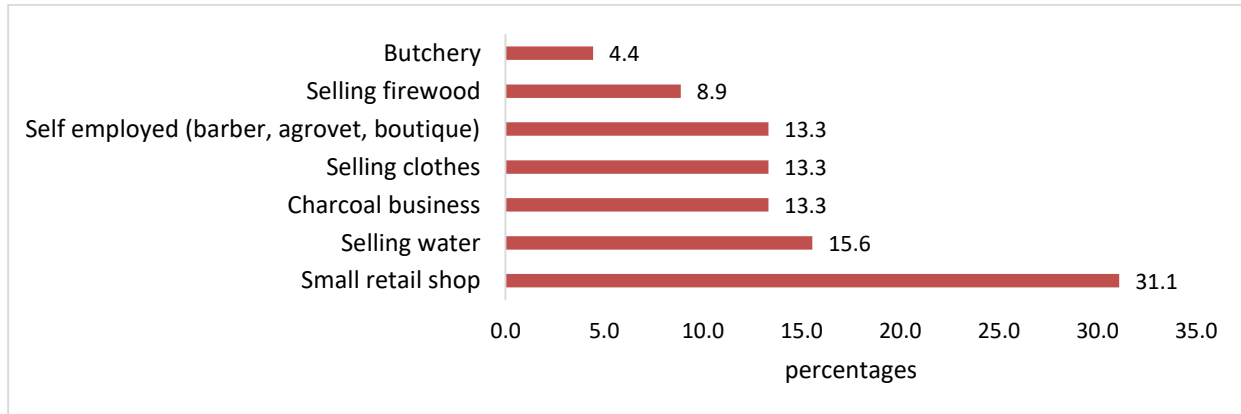


Figure 16: Small Business Other than Livestock and Farming

The findings corroborates results from FGDs. Most men and women were engaged in small retail shops, followed by selling water, charcoal business, selling cloths, self-employment for instance, barber shops, agrovvet and boutique, selling firewood and butchery. When asked if they would prefer business or livestock/farming, majority of men and women (64.8%) mentioned business, while 35.2% preferred livestock/farming. When those who preferred either of the two were asked to give reasons of their choice, they cited various reasons (Figures 12 and 13).

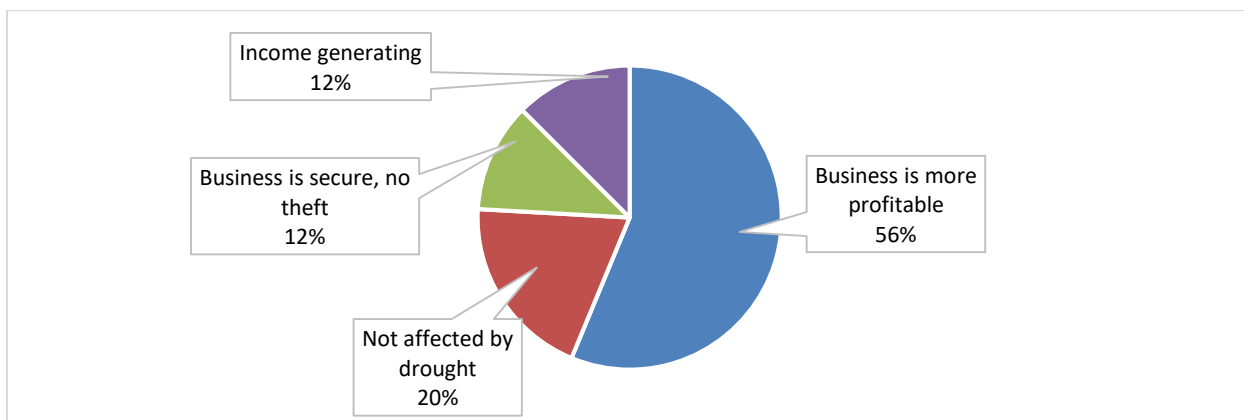


Figure 17: Reasons for Preference of Business

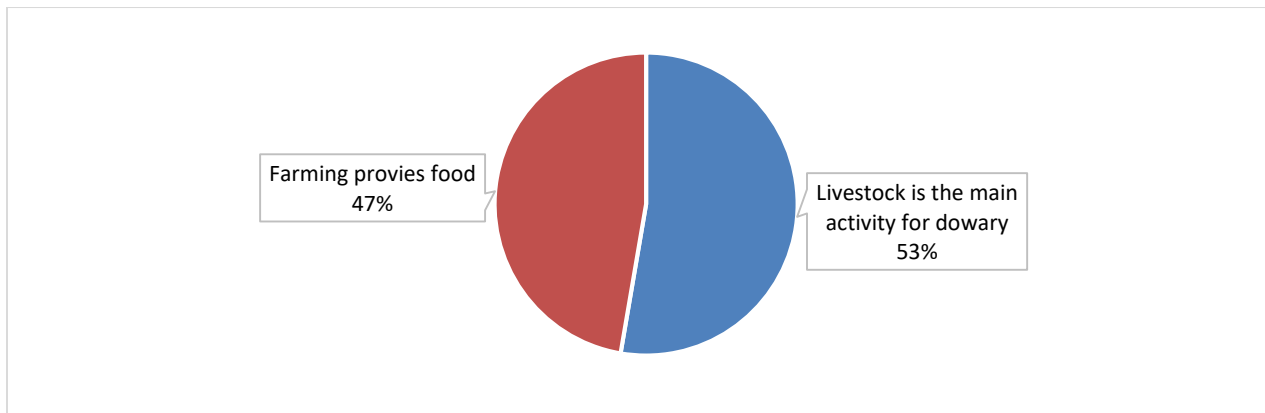


Figure 18: Reasons for Preference of Livestock and Farming

Most respondents (56%), stated that they would prefer business because it is more profitable in comparison to livestock or farming. Other reasons of preferring business are; not affected by drought (20%), secure (12%) and income generating (12%). For those who preferred livestock/farming, 53% indicated that livestock is the main activity for dowry while farming provides food as cited by 47%. The preference of business most respondents 64.5% in comparison to business (35.2%), shows that, as earlier documented, the community, especially women, is embracing alternative livelihood to generate income. There is therefore need to take the opportunity to initiate capacity building for small businesses in the area.

The study further sought to find out the main challenges to transportation and marketing of livestock and their products as documented in the following section. The main limitations to transport of livestock and their products;

- i. Long distance (time wasting)
- ii. Bad roads
- iii. Lack of security
- iv. High transportation cost
- v. Spoilage of the product

The main challenges in marketing of livestock and their products;

- i. Lack of external trade linkages
- ii. Fluctuating of prices
- iii. Lack of knowledge in marketing
- iv. Lack of ready Market,
- v. Low market demand
- vi. Low prices
- vii. Lack of market yard
- viii. Spoilage of products

Most challenges seem to focus on poor infrastructure and marketing strategies. There is therefore need for County government and other development partners to focus on suggestions provided by the respondents as mentioned in the recommendations.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

Findings reveal that both genders are at par in primary level of education but the trend changes in access to higher education and women are vulnerable. The fact that women as old as 18 years are illiterate, continues to widen the gender gap in access to education. Women are equally engaging in agribusiness thus, they require basic knowledge on how to transact it. Concerning income generation and food availability, selling animals and crops was ranked first in both livelihoods. This indicates that though livestock is both a man's domain and the major livelihood in the county, women are embracing alternative livelihoods to earn extra income. However, men are exclusively controlling land and also making most decisions concerning sale and purchase of livestock and their products. Consequently, women who are equally engaging in agribusiness continue to be vulnerable especially in access to income to enhance their businesses. The study noted that processing of livestock products is minimal in Turkana. However, some women are engaged in processing fish through drying after which it is sold to customers.

Access to information on livestock production is limited for both genders though women are more vulnerable due to gender related challenges such as mobility and time. The main challenges in transportation of livestock and their products, including farm produce were; long distance, bad roads, lack of security, high transportation cost and spoilage of products. Likewise, challenges in marketing of livestock and their products were; lack of external trade linkages, fluctuating of prices, lack of knowledge in marketing, lack of ready Markets, and long distances to markets.

Recommendations

The study found that though access to education is a challenge to both genders, girls are more vulnerable especially due to cultural perceptions. The study suggests that the county government should encourage and support youths' initiative e.g. adult classes for uneducated youth and also the fact that the community is embracing education by using income to educate their children, is a positive impact that should be supported.

Women are embracing earning extra income through alternative livelihoods for instance, buying and selling livestock. The county government and any other development partners should support this initiative by encouraging them to form groups in order to be assisted either financially and/or through capacity building to improve their business skills including value addition.

Concerning access to and control of productive resources, the County government should initiate household empowerment especially to overcome inequalities associated with gender perceptions. This will have powerful social-economic impacts in the area. They can engage in trainings that consider the unique challenges of women in order to enable them be in a position to negotiate their own rights especially in control of income from their labour. However, these trainings should be conducted in their localities to enhance attendance.

The study noted that processing of livestock products is minimal in Turkana. There is therefore need to revive processing of livestock products in the area bearing in mind that livestock is the main livelihood hence, men and women can also earn extra income through processing or selling to processors. The women who are drying fish should be supported either financially or through

capacity building on value addition. There is also need to intensify access to information in Turkana especially with rise of alternative livelihoods.

The study noted various challenges concerning transportation and marketing of livestock products and farm produce for instance, long distance to markets, bad roads, and lack of security, high transportation cost, lack of knowledge in marketing and lack of ready Markets. The following solutions to the prevailing challenges were suggested by both genders and they can be considered;

- Build advanced multipurpose market
- Provide low interest loans.
- Build livestock markets
- Empower farmers on skills concerning farming and animals
- Provide bore holes
- Improve skin drying machines
- Provide irrigation water
- Provide good infrastructure
- Provide cattle dips
- Provide bore holes
- Provide slaughter houses,
- Better prices for products
- Build marketing centres in every ward

REFERENCES

- FAO (2017). The Community Land Rights of Women and Youth in Turkana County, Kenya: Policy Briefs, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. [Www.Fao.Org](http://www.Fao.Org)
- GOK, (2011), Vision 2030 Strategy Development for Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands, Nairobi: Ministry of State for Planning and National Development and Vision 2030
- Kenya Vulnerability Research Team (KVRTS): 2017: A report on Turkana County.
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, (2014).
- Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (2017). Strategic Plan 2017-2021. KALRO. Nairobi, Kenya.
- Mbugua, Joseph Kioi (2015). Women, Natural Resources Management and Peace Building in Turkana County. Occasional Paper Series 6, N 1: International Peace Support Training Centre Nairobi, Kenya. www.ipstc.org
- Miriti, L., Mariara, J. and Karienyeh, M. (2017). A Draft Report on Participation of Small Holder Farmers in Avocado Contract Farming: Evidence from a Qualitative Study in Kandara Sub-County, Kenya.
- Njambi, Eunice (2014), Women Level of Participation in Peace and Security in Northern Kenya, Occasional Paper Series 5, No.4, Nairobi, Kenya: IPSTC
- Ndungo, C., Ngari, G., Okenwa, p., Musyoki, K., and Kizito, P. (2011). Gender Impact Assessment of the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programe (Nalep). Final Report submitted to NALEP from Gender Department, Kenyatta University
- Njuki, J., Mburu, S., and Pimentel, P. (2013). Livestock and Intra-household Income Management. In Women Livestock Ownership and Markets: Bridging the Gap in Eastern and Southern Africa, ed. Jemmimah Njuki and Pascal Sanginga, pp. 63-75. Nairobi, Kenya, ILRI.
- Omollo, N.A. (2010), Gender and Climate Change-Induced Conflict in Pastoral Communities: Case Study of Turkana in North Western Kenya
- Odhiambo, M.O. (2014), An Analysis of Changing Policy Narratives about the ASALs in Kenya, Nairobi: International Institute for Environment and Development, (IIED) Report
- Rubin, D., Tezera, S., Caldwell, L. (2010). A Calf, A House, A Business of One's Own: Microcredit, Asset Accumulation, and Economic Empowerment in GL CRSP Projects in Ethiopia and Ghana, Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program.