**College of Law and Governance**

**Department of Governance and Development Studies**

**MA Thesis**

**The Relationship between the Women Local Council Members and their Socio-Cultural and Economic Effectiveness: The Case of Seka Chokorsa Woreda, Jimma Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia**

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## DECLARATION

The research paper undersigned, I declare that this is my own original work and has not been presented in this or any other university, and all sources of materials used in this research have been duly acknowledged.

Student Name-------------------------------- Signature ---------- Date-------------------

**Advisors approval sheet**

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### *Abstract*

*The objective of this study was to examine the relationship between the women being members of local council and their economic and socio-cultural defectiveness.  As a result, the current study addressed these formulated specific objectives:  to discuss the extent of women participation in local council of Seka Chokorsa woreda; to examine the relationship between women's being local council member and their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness in Seka Chokorsa woreda; to identify the major socio-cultural challenges women of Seka Chokorsa woreda council members face to be economically effective. Descriptive design was employed. Census sampling technique was used to include the Seka Chokorsa local council members (51 women). Questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion were used to gather data from the participants. Mixed data analysis technique was used to analyze the collected data. Furthermore, Pearson correlation product moment was employed to address the relationship between the pre economic, post economic and pre socio-cultural and post socio-cultural effectiveness of the women.  The study revealed that most women were effectively participating in the council and their economic and socio-cultural status scaled up after they joined the council. The attitudes of the society members and the women themselves changed on the defectiveness and abilities of the women.  As a result, it has found the women have improved their self-confidence. Moreover, the post economic status of the women has been found to have moderate and significant relationship with the women's being the council member. Both pre and post socio-cultural effectiveness of the women found to have significant relationship with their being the council membership. Lack of smooth communication from center to remote area to participate the women in the proposed meeting and short term training that the institution used to scale up the members' political skill because as the background of the study revealed most women of the council are illiterate. Therefore, the current study concluded that the women's council participation improved their economic and socio-cultural effectiveness. Based on this the study recommended that the council institution should give contentious short term training and launch   sustainable communication systems among the council members and the council itself; the Seka Woreda administration should formulate different programs along which the women share their experiences among themselves and other women.*

***Key terms****: Council members. Socio-cultural effectiveness, economic effectiveness*

## Chapter One: Introduction

### 1.1. Background of the study

Despite the increasing involvement of women in various fields of life, they remain much behind than men in the sphere of politics. Politics is the most important field of human life and involvement in political activities and access to political power is a fundamental right of all the citizens. Providing equal chance to individuals to participate in activities related to politics and in the decision making of their society ensures the accomplishment of their needs (Ahmed, 2013).

Political domain almost everywhere and particularly in developing countries has been dominated by male member of the society. In poor countries, like Ethiopia, women are confined to household activities while public and political domain is occupied by male mostly in the society. No one can deny the fact that a woman is one of the important segments of the society. Similarly, no nation can reach to high success and glory until women are not provided opportunities to work side by side with men (Maccionis, 2009).

Equal involvement of women in various fields is important for the socio-economic development of their country. In spite of their social and economic role in family and economy; they en counter multiple problems in various spheres of their lives. A number of reasons are connected with the male social status in the society and the most dominant one is their physique which makes them suitable for various socio-economic activities (Rustagi, 2000). It is a fact that women from the very start have been facing a lot of problems in various spheres of life especially in political one. Woman at her early ages experience inequality and deals with discrimination in the family (Jalal-ud-Din and Khan, 2008).

Women political empowerment means the freedom of women to vote and contest election without any barriers. Similarly, political participation means the extent to which people are involved in activities related to politics (Igwee, 2002). It means all those activities which are related to politics mainly voting, campaigning, attending meetings, protesting and contesting election are the part of political participation. Despite the important segment of the society,

Women have been ignored in social, cultural, economic and political spheres of life. Women confront various problems and challenges in the way of their political participation.

Women active role in politics is essential for their empowerment as it is directly   linked with women political participation. Women political participation ensures women representation in various spheres and fields. Thus, when a woman is given opportunities of entrance to political domain it provides a path of empowerment to women. Political participation makes women to work for social change which is imperative for the upbringing of society (Stromquist and Fishman, 2009).

The participation of women in political activities began to increase recently but is still considerably lower (Maloutas, 1998). Further in global perspective as far as women political empowerment is concerned, they hold just less percent of seats in parliaments across the world. Various measures have been taken to bring gender equality in public sphere especially in political domain but still there is low level of political participation of women (Fund, 2011).

Women political empowerment varies from society to society. Similarly, in Ethiopia, women participation is very low and there is not enough representation of women in political activities.  Many reasons such as variations in norms, value system and rigid culture are impeding women participation in political activities but the only and common factors which lower their participation is gender discrimination.  Low participation of women in politics is because of their low level of literacy (Davis, 2008). Further women traditionally are considered inferior to male which leads to lack of women political empowerment in Ethiopia. No doubt the reservation of 33% seats is a change in the political history of Ethiopia. It is of course one of the positive changes that encouraged women especially in the urban areas. Further, the situation is changing in rural areas especially in the traditional and conservative districts while the number women taking part in political activities is increasing including being a member local parliament.

Political participation of women is one of the core factors in the development of any nation and also a core determinant of women empowerment.    But unfortunately,

sociocultural factors like norms and values, patriarchy and misinterpretation of religion used to prevent women from participating in political activities especially in rural areas. In Ethiopia especially in the traditional districts of rural areas, socio-cultural, and

This is to mean that these researches mainly focused on the effects of socio-cultural and economic factors as determinants of political participation of women rather than dealing with the impacts of women's participation in political activities on their both socio-cultural and economic effectiveness in Ethiopia. However, it is important to investigate its reciprocal ways because women may face either challenges or opportunities to be socio-culturally and economically effective while participating in political activities.

The intention of empowering Ethiopian women to engage in political activities is to improve their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness. However, to what extent they improve these factors because of their taking part in different political activities including being members of local parliaments is still not researched in woreda local council. Therefore, this study attempted to assess the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of women who are politically empowered focusing on women members in local council: The case of Seka Chokorsa woreda, Jimma Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia.

## 1.2. Statement of the problem

Today most countries recognize the role that women play in shaping policy and many states have ratified or signed international conventions that provide women's rights and welfare (UNDP, 2007). Equal participation of Women in local governments' decision-making processes is significant for creating gender sensitive policies and for promoting sustainable development (UNDP, 2007)). Unfortunately, women are not well represented in local governments around the world and they face a number of barriers that range from cultural exclusion to the resistance of key political institutions and machineries to creating gender balanced local administrations (UNDP, 2007)):

Political participation helps to enhance representation of the population in the governance of society or nation. Most constitutions worldwide provide for equality of rights between

women and men including the right to participate in politics and governance (Otieno, 2013). In communities where women's roles as politicians and decision-makers are not well accepted, women face strong cultural barriers entering local governments (Lokar, 2008). Most local governments are inherently patriarchal and their structures and procedures are designed by men and they do not take into account women's multiple responsibilities in their homes and communities, or differences of communications and decision-making styles existing between men and women (*Ibid*):

In Ethiopia there are considerable disparities between the status of men and women. In order to reduce this gap, empower women and increasing effectiveness, the government of Ethiopia has adopted various social, economic, legal and political strategies and policies (Shimelis, 2014). Women's participation and representation in politics is one of the components for empowerment *(Ibid)*. The government of Ethiopia has used this to solve women related community problems at grass root level and more importantly to empower them socially, economically and politically (UN, 2014).

Political participation of women is also used as end because it is the right of women to equally participate in politics. Women councilors' participation in local government has been increased and remained satisfactory and they participated politically in decisions making. Furthermore, women empowerment effectiveness depends on their prior experience influenced the way in which they act and behaved, the structure and culture of their community affected the difference of their acts made and how they act were perceived and received (*Ibid*).

According to Bari (2005) effectiveness was not static, it was an evolving and dynamic construct, realized and given meaning in different ways and at different times. Understanding of women political empowerment effectiveness is subject and depends on the perspectives of participants especially from the socio-cultural, economic and structural context within which the women's experience takes places. The patriarchal nature of Ethiopian society keeps women at subordinate position, using religion and culture that challenges the effective representation of women political decision making. These excuses have for many years, supported by laws and legislation that uphold

patriarchy and women's subordination. This has brought about and maintained disparities between men and women, in division of labor, share of benefits, in law and state, in how households are organized, and how these are interrelated (Shimelis:,2014).

Women remain under-represented in local political and administrative structure and the resource allocated for women affairs seem ever diminishing (*Ibid*). Furthermore, Bari (2005) argues that the common patterns of woman's underrepresentation or exclusion in politics stem from political structures and institutions, the socio-cultural and functional constraints limits women participation.

Similarly, Frew (2010) noted that the extent to which women political empowerment largely depends on the interplay among factors such as level of gender awareness among the society, development of women organizations, competitive party and electoral politics at lower level of administration, power and resources available to local institutions. To ensure political gender equality and to empower women in Ethiopia, the government has taken a number of measures recently which includes affirmative actions, quotas, advocacy, lobbying and awareness creations in order to increase the participation of women in political affairs but, researches indicate still women political empowerment is lagging behind(Nigist,2019).

Although there has been significant research done on the level of women participation in political process, most of it tend to focus on the innumerable challenges faced by women, no researchers in general and in our local in particular tried to investigate the reciprocal impacts. Most of this research tend to show an image of women being passive participants in politics rather than to see the impacts of their political participation on their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness. That means the result of post political empowerment of women in socio-cultural and economic effectiveness is the most important literature gap that needs be addressed.

A study carried in different African countries concluded that patriarchy is pervasive and dominates all aspects of society. The study coated an idea, Selamawit Abebe, from Ethiopia "Women are considered subordinate to men and second-class members/citizens both in the family and in the society." There were barriers to women's entry into politics;

illiteracy and economic dependency were the most commonly cited challenges. According it, the responsibility that women have for their households and the cultural expectations inhibit their experience outside the private sphere. According this study, Ethiopian women lack the time to participate in politics. However, when one could see the contrary to this conclusion to what extent women do have time to lead both political and social-economic effectiveness together (ILO, 2004).

Therefore, this study attempted to assess the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of women who are politically empowered focusing on women members in local council: The case of Seka Chokorsa woreda, Jimma Zone, Oromia, Ethiopia.

## 1.2.    Objectives of the study

### 1.2.1.  The general objective

The general objective of this research is to study the relationship between the women local council members and their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness.

### 1.2.2.  Specific objectives

1. To discuss the extent of women participation in local council of Seka Chokorsa woreda.
2. To examine the relationship between women's being local council member and their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness in Seka Chokorsa woreda.
3. To identify the major socio-cultural challenges women of council members face to be economically effective.

## 1.3.    Research question

In order to study the relationship between the women local council members and their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness, Seka Chokorsa woreda,the study attempted to answer the following questions.

1. What is the extent of women participation in local council of Seka Chokorsa woreda?

2. Is there relationship between women's local council member and their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness in Seka Chokorsa woreda?

3. What are the major socio-cultural challenges women of council members face to be economically effective?

## 1.4. Scope of the study

In order to make a research consistent, feasible and coherent the study delimited geographically, conceptually and temporarily. Therefore, this study has generally delimited on geographical, conceptual and durational aspects to make the study more manageable. Geographically the study was conducted in Oromia Regional State Jimma Zone particularly Seka Chokorsa Woreda. Covering all aspects of socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of women participation local council would difficult to manage and came up with comprehensive generalization. Hence, conceptually the study was delimited on the effectiveness of participation of women's in Ethiopia: challenges and prospects on women's of Seka Chokorsa Woreda. Furthermore, this study was expected to complete in semester-based duration of time.

## 1.5. Significance of the study

This study may help to understand the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of women participation in local council. This study may also provide feedback for policy makers, stakeholders working in the area and other concerned bodies to get reliable information on the status of women's political empowerment and the challenges and possible opportunities of their involvement on the overall affairs of women's in Seka Chokorsa woreda in particular and the country in general. Finally, the study may serve as a stepping stone for further and in-depth studies for researchers, experts, particularly; those who need to study further investigate on the related topics.

## 1.6. Limitation of the study

In research writing, there may be limitations that could jeopardize the study directly or indirectly. Thus, in this study there was constraints including the councilors became drop many members, material availabilities concerning the topic, and unwillingness of

informants to provide information's may challenges and determines the quality of the study.

Furthermore, limitations have been emanated from the current COVID 19 pandemic and unpredictable political turmoil in the country at large. Therefore, it was primarily impossible to organize and conduct the envisaged focus group discussions at convenient venues. Moreover, the Internet shut down sometimes prevented me from accessing relevant web-based published and unpublished dissertations and theses, research reports, government documents, and other files found elsewhere in the world. These resources could help in interpretations and discussions of the study findings on time.

Consequently, these inter-dependent problems faced and challenges encountered might affect the depth of qualitative data collection, discussions, conclusions reached, and recommendations put forward to solve those problems and challenges. Finally, all these problems may limit the external validity and generalization of the findings of this study.

## 1.7.    Organization of the study

This study organized into five sections. The first section holds the introductory part of the study which consists of background of the research, statement of the problem, research questions, and objectives of the study, significance, scope of the study, and limitation of the study. The second section deals with comprehensive review of the literature pertinent to the research. The third section discusses about the data collection methods, procedures, instrumentation, and data analysis techniques. The collected data from the subject of the study was carefully analyzed and interpreted under the fourth section. The fifth section includes summary, conclusions drawn and recommendations made on the basis of findings of the study. Reference and appendix including questionnaire, interview format and other related materials

**Chapter Two**

## 2. Review of related Literature

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents reviews of scholarly written related literature on those issues under investigation. Dictionary and operational definition of the terms and concepts are also described and literary works which are related to the study being discussed thoroughly in line with the theoretical perspectives on the issue. In addition, factors which hinder women council substantive representation and challenge them have been encountered. Generally, the chapter highlights available empirical literature reviews at different levels in the world which are related to the study being discussed and then thoroughly examines them in an argumentative manner in line with the theoretical, empirical, and conceptual frame of the study perspectives.

### 2.2 Political engagement contributions to socio-economic effectiveness

Research on the impact of institutional reforms that made political engagement more inclusive of socially and economically disadvantaged groups showed that it yielded leaders who are more likely to reduce poverty, improve human development outcomes, and reduce social discrimination.

Pande (2003) uses political reservations to examine the role of mandated political representation in providing disadvantaged groups influence over policy making. The variation used in this paper is at the state level, and it exploits the fact that the extent of state-level political reservation enjoyed by a minority group varies by its population share, but is only revised during census population estimates. This situation creates discrete changes in representation even though the underlying population share is continuous. The paper finds that political reservations yielded more leaders from lower caste groups has increased redistribution of resources, such as increases in spending on public education programs, which benefits low-caste groups.

The impact on poverty of political reservation for disadvantaged minority groups is examined by Chin and Prakash (2011). The authors find that increasing the share of seats reserved for the most disadvantaged groups significantly reduces poverty. Greater space for political engagement by disadvantaged groups has a greater effect on rural poverty than urban poverty, and appears to benefit people near the poverty line as well as those far below it.

Additionally Bhalotra and Clots-Figueras (2014) supported the finding that the mechanism of impact is greater public health investments by women leaders. Female political leaders are more likely to invest in village-level public health facilities, whereas male leaders are associated with greater availability of financial (and telecommunications) infrastructure. Female leaders are also associated with higher probabilities that women attend antenatal care, take iron supplements during pregnancy, give birth in a government facility as opposed to at home, and initiate breastfeeding early. Correlation of women leaders with outcomes that are not dependent upon public health infrastructure, such as breastfeeding, suggests that female leaders are more likely to promote health outreach and education campaigns.

## 2.3 Women Political Participation

Women political participation is a matter of human rights to have the ability to make decision on one's own cause and interest. Though women make up more than 50% of the world's population, they are still consistently under-represented as voters, political leaders, and elected officials. Based on the other perspective under the international community, there is almost universal agreement that gender equality is not only a human right but also it is one of the ultimate development goals, as well as a major driver of human development (Izzi, 2017). Goal 3 of Millennium Development Goals and Goal 5 of Sustainable Development Goals has included gender equality and women empowerment as pillars to build peaceful and prosperous society, respectively (UN Women, 2016). Therefore, a certain ratio of women in decision-making positions, is crucial, not just for equity reasons, but also for incorporating women's perspectives into their economic effectiveness and socio-cultural

effectiveness policy and decision-making and achieving the positive changes we envisage (GIZ-Ethiopia, 2015). Therefore, the women's participation in political decision making is imperative for the advancement of a real and effective democratic political culture that contributes to good governance and the achievement of sustainable development (Bhatti, 2012).

Women political inclusion is a social, economic, and political good in itself. It matters for democracy and gender equality. Democratic process requires the participation of all citizens. Any deviations to this renders any attempts in promoting democracy are just other forms of fostering the social and political norms that created an unfair and unequal power sharing between men and women. This results in inequitable social policies and unfair political processes. Women political inclusion challenges both the power structures and relations that undermine the consideration of women's needs and interest in policy-making. The inclusion of women in decision-making is a democratic good in itself and breaks male dominance in politics (Hassim, 2006). Women political participation promotes gender equality by challenging the social and political existing structures that perpetuate a culture of women's subordination in both the private and public sphere. Including women in the political process engenders political and economic benefits. Politically, it increases the number of women in the parliament, curbs corruption, improves policies outcomes, and promotes the inclusiveness of minority groups in public spheres. Economically, it considers women as actors of development, encourages the integration of women in the labor market, and promotes economic and development growth.

## 2.4 Theoretical evidences

Women empowerment is a process of personal and social change taking place over interlinked and mutually reinforcing psychological, political, social and economic domains, and through which women individually and collectively gain power, meaningful choices and control over their lives (Cornwall and Edwards, 2016). Although it has attracted increased attention in recent years, there is no universally agreed definition of women's political empowerment. However, Women ability to succeed and

advance politically and the power to make and act on political decisions is core to understand the concept (Golla, et.al, 2011). Empowerment can be approached from distinct perspectives, which carry different political priority and strategies. For some, it is primarily about making changes that gives individuals greater freedom in pursuing their reasoned goals. Others argue that this focus is too individualistic. In this view, the structural causes underpinning women's lack of power also matter and failure to address these will limit the effectiveness of policies aimed at expanding choices (Cornwall and Edwards, 2016).In developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe shows excessively low percentages of women's participation in various ranking positions in many professions including teaching (UN, 1992 as cited in Ashebir,2014 ).They have insignificant share in leadership and decision making roles in most of these countries. Majority of women working in public sectors are concentrated in professions of teaching, nursing, technical and related services, while men occupied administrative and managerial positions (Ibid).Generally Alder and Izraeli (1992) stated that "though women constitute around 50% of the world population, there is no country that represents them half of their decision making positions" For example, women's share of administrative and managerial labor force is less than 30% in all regions of the world.

## 2.5 Women Political Empowerment

Women empowerment and their political participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in decision making process and access to power are fundamental for the achievements of equality, development and peace. According to Alsop, 2005 as cited in Firew, 2010) women empowerment implies an action-oriented strategy aimed at increasing the individual and collective capacity of women to make choices and to transform those choices in to desired actions and outcomes. Women political empowerment is an approach for promoting the participation of women in formal politics. As such, political empowerment involves a range of mechanisms to increase women's participation in politics (Oxaan and Baden, 1997).

Women's political empowerment considered as equitable representation of women and their voice in collective decision-making structures and in the formulations of policies

affecting their life and the lives of their society. Accordingly, women political empowerment implies control over resources and establishes the means to acquire ability and opportunity to participate in decision making process and its implementation at various levels. Furthermore, women political empowerment as an action oriented concept with the focus on the removal of barriers and creating opportunities for women to gain access to participation and control over state politics and decision making  so as to transform the power relations between men and women and state institution and women (Carlos and Zahidi 2005 as cited Firew,2010)

## 2.6 Challenges Women's Political Participation

The apparent gap between the promise of enhanced participation through democratic decentralization of local government on the one hand, and the everyday realities of participatory politics on the other, suggests the need to understand more fully the barriers and dynamics to participation in local government. To properly understand women's participation in politics, it is important to identify factors that determine women's level of political representation within a single country or across the world.   Women's participation in formal politics including suffrage, voting, running for and holding political office, and political influenced by various challenges (forinstaneet.al 2007). For instance, Paxton, Kunovich and Hughes (2007) distinguished between supply-side factors and demand side factors when explaining women's levels of political representation. The authors stated in which the Supply-side factors increase the pool of women with the will and experience to compete against men to hold political office and On the other hand, demand-side factors  are characteristics of countries, electoral systems, or political parties that affect the  likelihood that women will be pulled into office from the supply of willing candidates. Furthermore, Shvedova, (1998) stated that the prevalence of the masculine model of politics; lack of party support for women candidates; lack of sustained cooperation with women organizations; and the nature of the electoral system are among the political obstacles that women face. In addition the social and economic status of women in society has a direct influence on their participation in political institutions, Lack of adequate financial resources, illiteracy and limited access to education and choice of professions; and the dual burden of domestic tasks and professional obligations

are raised as the socio-economic obstacles impacting on women's participation (Verba and Nie, 1972).

Ethiopia is a patriarchal society that keeps women in a subordinate position (Hirut, 2004). There is a belief that women are submissive, patient and tolerant of monotonous work and violence for which culture is used as justification. Women political participation in Ethiopia is also influenced by socio-cultural factors that make women under representation in participation in educational leadership. These factors include: gender socialization, societal-attitudes and perception, women's self-concept to leadership, family and home responsibilities. Women themselves acknowledge the world of masculine and perceive themselves as compliant, submissive, passive and less skillful than their male counterparts. They also fear that success in competitive achievement situation will lead to negative consequences like loss of unpopularity (Ashebir, 2014). Women chose from a narrow range of occupations that are low in status and end up in poorly paid jobs such as book keepers, cashiers, typists, barbers, housekeeping services. When they are given equal opportunities to learn and get the necessary professional qualifications, they tend not to reach the high levels of professions which might be caused due to the effect of sex role stereotypic attitudes of the society that prevent them from seeking high ranked positions.

Socio-economic development is defined in different ways for various contexts, social, political, biological, science and technology, language and literature. In the socio-economic context, development means the improvement in people's lifestyles through improved education, incomes, skills development and employment (Mebratu, 1998). It is also defined as the process of creating economic and social opportunities for women and their families. Socio - economic development is desirable change of society. It is measured with indicator such as GDP, like expectancy, literacy and level of employment (Hicks and Streeten, 1979). Changes in less- tangible factors are also considered such as personal dignity, freedom of association, freedom from fear of physical harm, and participation in civil society. Cause of socio- economic change is, for example, new technologies, changes into laws, changes into physical environment and ecological changes. Ethiopian women are actually involved in all aspects of their societies like

women are producer and procreators and they are also active participants in the social political and cultural activates of their community. However, their participation in the country economy has not been valued, Ethiopian women have not received their rare shape of the nation's wealth (Ayferam, 2015).

Equal participation of women and men in political life is an internationally recognized human rights, and indicators of the quality of democracy, and it is instruments for economic development. However, a number of challenges were highlighted for women to enter politics, particularly in terms of accessing political parties. It was mentioned that policies remain a male-dominated field, filled with stereotypes preventing women from entering and participating (International forum report, 2017).

The pursuit of democracy is incomplete without policies, measures and practices that seek to reduce inequalities between men and women in all spheres of life. Democracy is expected to transform power relations between men and women by promoting the equal distribution of power and influence which ensuring that gender equality is integrated into democracy building. Properly addressing issues related to gender equality and the political empowerment of women is the key to the consolidation of strong democracies (Ibid). There is no automatic win-win between gender equality and wider development outcomes. The process of empowerment requires complex, multi-layered solutions and women empowerment is the process of achieving women's equal access and control over economic resources, decision making and cultural areas of their lives. Therefore, government should take interventions to minimize constraints like education, skill development and training, access to quality and decent paid work, access to property, assets and financial services, collective actions and leadership, social protection, legal regulatory and policy frame work (Golla etal, 2011).

## 2.7 Dimension of Women Political Empowerment

Basically, women political empowerment entails the extent of constitutional recognition of women civil and political rights, and prevalence of other enabling conditions for them to engage in public affairs of their society. It also includes the degree of availability of institutional avenues (such as system of elected council and competitive party and

electoral politics) and measures (such as affirmative action's targeting women), informational and other personal assets such as education for women to engage in politics (Majitu and Bedria, 1999).

The participation dimension of women political empowerment refers to the situation of women political mobilization, and their numerical representation in decision making in national and local representative bodies or councils, associational politics such as political parties on the basis of gender equality (*Ibid*).

Studies have shown that sustainable development is impossible without women political empowerment and gender equality. Reinforcement of institutional mechanisms and strategic capacities in the government helps to enable and sustain the full participation of women in society. The existing structures of societies are sources of women subordination. Women gender subordination emanated from the complex socio-political, economic and cultural context which is deeply rooted not only in the existing structures, but also in the minds of both women and men (Linda K, 2013).

Women's are slowly succeeding in politics and gaining voice through leadership and participation, but continue to be limited by lack of economic power, political parties that only pay lip service to women's empowerment, a civil society that only takes an interest in women's in politics at election time, lack of leadership training, and a male domination parliaments that often times undermine the role of women parliamentarian (Linda K, 2013).

The challenges that women face is many According to Linda (2013) Women's are usually sidelined and their role relegated to being a mobilizing tool for party functions. They are also considered as simply having their role of casting votes during an election and providing entertainment at political rallies for male politicians. Furthermore, they are dis empowered socially and economically and this translates in to their inability to actively participate in politics (*Ibid*). Despite their significance number, Ethiopian women's representation at different political decision-making levels is too spares to improve governance. Women's lacks equal power share with men in leadership and decision making across all level of government institution. Concerning women political

empowerment evidence across the country shows that women in local political, administration and development leadership and decision making is negligible. (UNDP, 2015) In order to achieve socio-cultural transformation and attaining sustainable development by alleviating the aforementioned socially constructed wrong perceptions towards women, empowering women at family level is very essential (Endalkachew, 2015). Ethiopia is one of the developing countries where women are facing political, social and cultural challenges that undermine their human worth and dignity. They are suffering from economic poverty, social discrimination, political disenfranchisement and cultural subjugation (Helina, 2015, as cited in Tefera, 2018). Some of these challenges are lack of access to productive resources such as land, lack of access to education, employment opportunities, and low decision making which results in marginalization of women in the country (Almaz, 1991, As cited in Tefera, 2018).

The government of Ethiopia has good in tension to increase the participation of women in leadership and decision making, but women's participation and empowerment in the political and public sector is still low. Mostly this is because of the traditional patriarchy of Ethiopia which remains buttressed by religion, culture, and until recently also the legal system (Mulatu, 2016).

## 2.8 Ethiopia's Policy on Women

The Ethiopian Government has also expressed its commitment to gender equity and equality by issuing a national Policy on Ethiopian Women Apart from being a signatory of major conventions that protects women from discrimination and other. The policy, which was issued in 1993, has the following objectives: Facilitating conditions conductive to the speeding of equality between men and women so that women can participate in political, social and economic life of their country on equal terms with men and 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 their fruits of their labor or from performing public functions and being decision makers; Facilitating the necessary conditions whereby rural women can have access to basic social services and to ways and means of lightening their work load; and Eliminating step by step, prejudices

as well as customary and other practices that are based on the idea of male supremacy and enabling women to hold public office and to participate in the decision making process at all levels(*Ibid*).

### 2.8.1 Participation of women on election

One of the means of taking part in politics is by participating in election. Regarding this, the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia constitution grants equal right of electing and being elected to both women and men (Bogie Kene, 2016). In order to evaluate the participation of women in election, the above mentioned researcher asked the respondents whether or not they took part in the previous local election and whether they have thought of running to be elected.

Accordingly, greater majority of the interviewed respondents stated that they have casted their vote in the previous local election. Only few of the respondents did not cast their vote on the previous local election. Those who missed the event of the election pointed out that they
did not cast their vote believing that their vote will not bring change at all and others mentioned personal inconvenience as a reason of their absence from the event. Regarding the interest of women to run for local election to be elected; only one fourth of them indicated that they want to run for election and the remaining greater majority of the women interviewed replied that they do not think of running for an election. In line with this, the key informants interviewed expressed that the participation of women in election as a voter is really appreciated. However, from the focus group discussion and interview, the researcher identified that the participation of women in meaning full political participation other than vote casting is very low(Bogie Kene, 2016).

Even though attendance on the election is very promising, data shows that still there are remaining assignment to be done in achieving optimum participation of women on an election. In democratic society, the value of one vote is very determining in winning election. Therefore, due attention should be paid in encouraging women's participation on an election (Bogie Kene, 2016).

### 2.8.2 Representation of woman's in Town and Kebele council

In analyzing the participation of woman's in politics, it is important to identify their representation in local government decision making body. There is one city council and eight Kebele councils in Seka Chokorsa town administration. From the data collected through interview the researcher identified only one fourth of women respondents are member of either woreda or Kebele council. Moreover same proportion of women interviewed are member of either political party (that is either ruling or opposition parties) and/or women association (Bogie Kene, 2016).

From this it is possible to understand that three fourth of interviewed women are not member of town or Kebele councils, political party and women association. That means both councils, where the decisions regarding local issue are made, are dominated by man. It is in this scenario that the major decisions that affect the life of both are made. One can understand that it is less likely to expect decisions made in favor of woman's representation in the decision making bodies (Bogie Kene, 2016).

During the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth round local elections, the number of women who was a member of town administration council scaled up. In the case of Kebele administration council, the data from the town administration revealed that during the same time the number of women Kebele councilor increased respectively. According to the data, during the local elections, the proportion of men and women in Kebele administration council become relatively equal. This is due to the commitment made by the local government correct the imbalance of representation of women at Kebele administration council. This shows that where there is greater determination and commitment by the government to enhance women equal involvement in decision making body, it is possible to have equal representation of women (Bogie Kene, 2016).

On the other hand, membership in political party and women's association is also another opportunity for women to participate in politics. However, data collected revealed that only one fourth of interviewed women are member of either political part or women association (Bogie Kene, 2016).

This implies that the effort of political parties in increasing their membership is either do not directed towards women or totally nonexistence. In addition, even women's association which is specifically established to advance women's interest by solving their problems by them self which is respected to their political, economic and social problems is not doing much what it is established to do (Bogie Kene, 2016).

### 2.8.3    Participation in Town and Kebele meeting

At local government level, one of the mechanisms by which people directly in engaged in politics is by participating in woreda/town and Kebele meeting. Accordingly, women are expected to take part on a meeting held at local government level.

Greater than half of the interviewed women rarely take part in local meeting held by Town or Kebele administration body. In addition, only one quarter of the interviewed women indicated that they always participate in a local government meeting. Rare participation in this sense means they at most attend the meeting ones per three months.

Those who never and rarely attend the meeting revealed that it is very difficult for them to frequently attend meeting due to the burden they have around their home. Moreover, they think that except for attendance purpose, their presence does not bring any change at all. However, the secretary of the previously OPDO now OPP party interviewed does not accept the claim made by the interviewed women. The key informant mentioned that their part values the participation of women in local government meeting and they expect women to raise important issues on the meeting. Nevertheless, this does not practically happing in the study area.

On the other hand, the regular attendant believe it is good to attend that messing for at least you will hear firsthand information, will not be identified as absentees and you may also raise some relevant issues. This shows that the practice and value of meeting for discussion at local level does not have greater significance to the community as the people do not consider their voice and view be incorporated in the decision made by local

authority. This is highly manifested by reason mentioned by both categories of women who rarely and regularly attend the meeting.

Furthermore, the researcher asked the respondents whether they have ever voluntarily brought governance-related issues to the attention of relevant government offices. While pretty majority of women interviewed replied that they have brought governance related issues to the attention of local government, the remaining stated that they did not do that. This may lead one to think that it implies that the participation of women in local politics is good.

## 2.9 Empirical Literature

### 2.9.1 Global Overview

Asiedu et al. (2016) indicated that there were positive correlations between political representations of women in the national parliaments and adoption of gender-sensitive laws (e.g., legal quotas to promote women's political participation at national and sub-national levels; women given equal parental authority as men to be the legal guardian of and custody rights over a child after divorce; laws on domestic violence offering legal protection to women from domestic violence; laws on a rape offering women legal protection from rape; and laws on sexual harassment offering women legal protection from sexual harassment) in 111 developing countries outside of Africa. Thus, it is possible to argue that those developing countries with a higher share of women in the national parliament are more likely to pass and implement those gender-sensitive laws.

Now, it is possible to see the issues further and consider women's empowerment. Here it worth raising related to whether or not women's empowerment contributes to their increased political participation in the local council, their socio-cultural effectiveness and economic effectiveness elsewhere in the globe. This empowerment may take place in different dimensions of life, including psychological (i.e., the belief that one can effect change in the external world), political (i.e., the ability to influence rules about who gets what, when, and how), social (i.e., the ability to control

one's own social interactions within the household and community, reproduction, health, and education) and economic (i/e., the ability to make and act on decisions about participation in labor markets, the sharing of unpaid work, and the use or allocation of assets). The women's council membership is, therefore, a multidimensional concept.

Regarding political representation and participation of women; some studies also show that women's participation in local politics or association life can improve their status within communities, particularly when they are seen to deliver concrete group benefits, and that women's access to employment outside the home can shift social norms that restrict women's mobility and participation in public life. Study on women's voice and leadership rarely presents data on changes in socio-economic outcomes for women and girls, or attempts to attribute these to women having more influence over decision-making. Overall, and whether or not in politics, business or association life, the symbolic and substantive effects of women holding power, and causal pathways for these, is an under-explored area (DiLanzo, 2017). However, there were recurrent themes about the factors that had enabled women and gender advocates to develop voice, influence and leadership capacities across the political, economic and social spheres- and in the factors that signal active modes of resistance. Political processes and institutions were found to be keys to women's access to decision-making (DiLanzo, 2017).

### 2.9.2 Consequences of women participating in politics

With a view to the role of women in politics, plenty researches have proved that "women are critical to economic development, active civil society, and good governance, especially in developing countries." As Nobel Prize winning economist Amartya Sen claimed, the economic, political, and social participation of women is the most important force for development today. Women, who have long been treated as passive recipients of aid, are now generally seen as active agents of change who can help the whole community. And a variety of researches suggest that accordingly the benefits to women are the greatest, when aids focused on improving their education, their control over resources, and their political voice.

One of the advantages of female politics is that women are less corrupt than men. Female's behavior is always different from male according to practical experiments. Rivas (2012) argues that women can be more careful for the relationship and have higher standards of ethics, implying that women are more willing to sacrifice private benefits for the public. Besides, women are more risk averse than men, leading them less corrupt since corruption can be regarded as risky activity. Just as previous research said, 'Women attach great importance to the quality of contact between people and bare less individualistic than men. (ENE, 1997)' Focusing on Asia, Panday (2008) mentioned that women's participation in parliament certainly has a positive impact on the character of Asian parliaments and make public policies create a more peaceful, productive and less corrupt societies.

Another advantage which is widely proved is that the presence of more women in parliament brings better governance. Achieving gender equality is seen as essential to reducing poverty and improving governance. Women's participation in politics can facilitate democracy, not only because it improves their civil rights and helps them speak out their interests, but also because powerful women tend to make different policy choices from their male counterparts, which are beneficial to the local distribution of public resources and the development. When a woman is in charge, they invest more in infrastructure which matches the needs of women in order to cover the imbalance of women resulting from the past ignorance of women (Coleman, 2004). The 56th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference points out that the political culture can be changed by more women participation in the decision making and women represent change and creation.

On the microeconomic aspect, Khandker (2005) proved that female microeconomic borrowing are much more efficient than male's borrowing, showing that women are better microeconomic operators. This efficiency may also have an impact when women are in the office. Moreover, microfinance endows greatest long-term interests on the social status of women. Studies show that women with microfinance can obtain more decision-making power in family, a growing number of political and legal awareness, and more participation in public affairs than other women. Microfinance can

also reduce wife abuse because women start to generate income of their own and need not only depend on male to survive (Coleman, 2004).

Other interesting findings about the role of female parliamentarians are how they are able to promote female representation in parliament. Intuitively, senior women officers in national managerial system tends to increase the amount of women representatives by putting forward a lot of female-supportive policies, for example, they can facilitate gender equality when the parties make a decision of the candidates submitted to voters (Kunovich and Paxton, 2007). Moreover, active women political activities have undoubtedly succeeded in creating a more open political environment for women (Chappell, 2002). Reindgold (2000) stated that female legislators are much more likely to make laws beneficial to female's interest.

The fact that women's career and promotion are facilitated with each other is widely noticed too. Mansbrige (1999) argues that social groups (including women) tend to elect individuals who have similar backgrounds to them even if the candidate may have some different perspectives and interests from them. It is believed that women in the office are supposed to create and increase opportunities for the career of other women (Cornfield, 1989). A study in law organizations proved this facilitation too.

The findings of Ely (1994) shows that female associates in law firm gain more help if there are female partners exist. There is evidence that women leaders often benefit considerably from the network of women and conversely makes their organization more female-friendly (Healy, Geraldine, Kirton and Gill, 2012).

### 2.9.3 Economic Consequence

Domingo (2015) conclude that voice, decision-making and leadership are understood as elements of women's empowerment. They encapsulate women having the power to express their preferences, demands, views and interests, to gain access to positions of decision-making that affect public or private power and resource allocation, and to exercise influence in leadership positions. Women's voice, leadership, and decision-making power may be present at the household, community and national level (i.e., be it

individual or collective).  These authors have further argued that  social structures and norms, political regime types,  characteristics of state, civil societies,  markets, and international relations which are  the broader  contextual  conditions that inform  the women's political participation,  social activism, and economic empowerment.

It is furthermore possible to empower women socio-economically through microfinance intervention as community development project which could play a vital role to improve their living standards thereby increasing the women's household income level and enhancing  their decision-making  capacity in the suburbs of Islamabad in Pakistan (Bhatti, 2012). In conclusion, under  enabling  conditions;  women's  political participation, social activism, and/or economic empowerment can progressively shift social norms towards their active political participation and decision-making in the parliaments  at  large.  Around the world, women now have more influence over the decisions that affect their lives. In more conservative societies, the feminists and gender advocates have been able to forward more equitable policies and outcomes. Based on essence of decision-making power as the ability to influence decisions that affect one's life (both  private  and  public),  the  women's  political  power  in  the  parliaments  in the  world  differs between regions and countries, and within countries; between sectors and socio-economic groups due to institutions, structures, and capabilities (O' Neil & Domingo, 2015).

### 2.9.4   Women and the Economy in Ethiopia

Since women constitute half of the population in Ethiopia, they significantly contribute to the country's economy, mainly in the agriculture and the informal sector. According to Central Statistics Authority (CSA) 1996, there are more women (64.3%) than men in the informal sector. Despite their contribution to the economy and social development, however, they did not enjoy the fruits of development equally as their male counterpart. To this effect, they do not have access to, health, education, and other productive resources and they are not adequately represented in leadership and decision-making positions at all level.  In order to address these problems, various measures have been taken by the government. With the support of the Government, Women Entrepreneurs are

being organized at all levels ranging from Federal to Regional level. Women in the informal sector are being a member and benefit from these associations. Further, the FDRE constitution of the 1995 guarantees women the right to acquire, administer, control, use and transfer property including land. The National Policy on Ethiopian Women that aimed at facilitating conditions to the speeding up of equality between men and women in the political, social and economic life of the country is worth mentioning (National Report, 2004).

### 2.9.5 Socio- Cultural Consequence

Culture is that which environments us and plays a certain role in determining the way we perform at any given direct in time. By no means a standing, insight explains culture and is both separate by events that are taking place both locally as well as regionally and globally, it is formed by specific events as well as collective ones, and it is a feature of the time or period we live in. Because it is so vast, culture is also often used as a tool to legalize all conducts of activities not, all of which may be acceptable to all concerned and are often closely, connected to issues of identity. Cultural frameworks are not always imposed, but are open to handling and explanation from many angles and sources.

Responsibilities as well as, place-bound situation more partner were early suppliers to women, lack of administrative success, either because of the demand of family on women candidates limited them because those who hired believed that women would be hindered by family commitments. Natural American women in Montana are example reported to be identifying family responsibilities as fences to incoming administration

In most African culture include Ethiopia, social-cultural traditions tend to assume that women public roles are just additional activities to their primary roles. For examples, in Ethiopia women engaged in productive and community works. As we known women are mother, wives, and breadwinners in their home (Meron, 2003). Because of those many responsibilities women are being restricted to domestic role with small opportunities and contact to decision making and leadership position. According to Bernaars, (as cited in Mbugua, 2007) in any ethnic group in Africa a typical woman has low status particularly lack of power to make decisions on matters affecting her life and those of her family.

This culturally determined expectation and attitude towards the girl child influences less allocation of resources towards the girl as compared to the boys. A boy will always be considered first before a girl. This gender biased cultural assumption and the subsequent differential treatment of boys and girls in a homestead not only diminish girls 'access and performance in the education but also tend to push girls to doing the so called ‗feminine careers. One of the earliest biological justifications for male superiority comes from Aristotle 5th century B.C (as cited in Amrot, 1998, p.7). He stated that the world is a hierarchy composed of ruling elements and women are ―naturally‖ fit to the second. In his own words he described it as ―The male is naturally fitter to command than the female and women benefit most by being subject to male royal authority‖. It is mainly because during that time the inequality of men and women was a legally and socially accepted fact. (*Ibid*)

## 2.10  Women in Power and Decision Making

Due to the various obstacles that women have such as triple role, violence against women, lack of education etc., their representation and participation in leadership and decision-making position has also been limited. Despite the Government policy of equal opportunity for both men and women to participate in the democratization of the country, women has not been adequately represented at all levels of decision-making positions (FDRE constitution, 1995). Although not satisfactory, women participation in local authorities has also improved. With the introduction of a Federal System of Government, in 1991, by devolution of decision-making power and responsibilities to regional states, an increasing trend of women participation in local authorities have also been seen. Further, at the level of international representation, among the 28 ambassadors that Ethiopia appointed at different mission abroad, only 4 (14.3) are women.

In the area of employment, while the number of women in the Ethiopian civil service has been relatively small, the senior positions are overwhelmingly held my men. According the Federal Civil Service Commission recent statistics revealed the fact that the overwhelming majority of women civil servants are concentrated in positions such as secretary, cleaner, and other (National Report, 2004).

Ethiopia is 82nd in the 2020 rankings and has closed 70.5% of its gender gap to year. It has achieved full parity on its Health and Survival sub index and has attained the 16th position globally in terms of Political Empowerment. Almost half (47.6%) of ministers are women, and a woman was elected president in 2018. In addition, 38.8% of parliament seats are occupied by women. Despite these remarkable results, women still suffer from underdevelopment in health services. For instance, every year 400 mothers out of every 100,000-die giving birth, and only 27% of births are attended by skilled health personnel. Further, Ethiopia is struggling to progress on gender parity in education (85.0%, 140th) and economic opportunities (56.8%, 125th). Investments in human capital are insufficient in general, but women are even more penalized than men. Only 44% of women and 59% of men are illiterate, and almost 20% of girls and 12% of boys are not receiving formal primary education. At higher levels of education, participation is even lower: only 5.2% of women and 10.9% of men proceeding from high school attend university. Interruptions in formulating the capacity pond also interpret into short employment acts. Employment force contribution is tilted near men: 87.8% of men are in energetic employment versus 77% of women. Salaries and wage are small in general, and gender gaps are still important (51% and 42% of the pay and income gender gaps are yet to be locked). Women are also a marginal among accomplished employees (32.6%) and administrators and older bureaucrats (26.5%). Despite the detail that regulation does not confine women from retrieving assets, there are still some restrictions for women who belong to some cultural or social groups, which principals to a relatively little number of female entrepreneurs (16.5%) in general. world Economic forum (Global Gender Gap Report 2020).

**Conceptual framework**
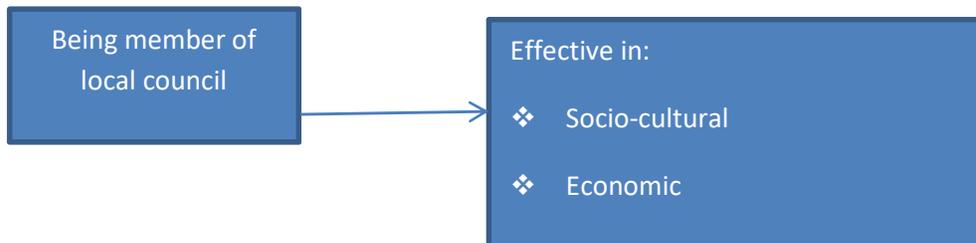
# Chapter Three

## 3   Research Methodology

### 3.1     Research area description

Seka Chokorsa woreda was one of the Woredas that found in Jimma Zone, Oromia Regional State which was located 368 km from Addis Ababa in the southwestern direction. According to the 2007 national census report the total population of the woreda estimated to 208,096, of whom 104,758 were men and 103,338 were women. The woreda have 36 kebeles.  Geographically, Seka Chokorsa was found between 7020'-7045' N and 36033'53''E whereas Topographically Seka Chokorsa divided into escapement and plains. The climatic condition of the area is 'Woina dega' with annual average temperature of 19.50C and total annual rainfall ranges between 1450mm-1800mm. The altitude of the woreda ranges from 1580 to 2560 meters above sea level. In addition, the woreda survey of the land use shows that 45.3% is arable or cultivable (44.9% was under annual crops), 6.1% pasture, 25.8% forest, and the remaining 22.8% is considered swampy. (The woreda annual report 2018).

### 3.2 Research Design

Methodology is a philosophy or general principle which guides a given scientific inquiry or study (Dawson, 2006). Descriptive research design was employed for this study. This is because descriptive research design helps to utilize survey method of all kind. The researcher believes that this method was help to find or gather relevant data in detail and to describe the state of the problem as it exists at present.  Furthermore, using descriptive research design was helps the researcher to be accurate in description of a situation or of an association between variables and to minimize bias and maximize the reliability of data collected and analyzed (Kothari, 2004:37). A descriptive survey design was used because it is believed that appropriate to look into what really affect the effectiveness of post political participation of women in decision make and also used to make a detailed

description of existing socio-cultural and economic phenomena with the aim of producing data that justify current conditions and practice and to draw valid conclusion from the facts discovered from the study area.

## 3.3 Research Approach

In order to conduct this study, the researcher was use a mixed approach. Thus, both quantitative and qualitative research methods were employed. The qualitative research method was employed to the study with the information gained by open ended questionnaire, interview and documents and information gained by closed ended questionnaires was also employed with quantitative research method. The qualitative approach was help to conduct in-depth study through exploring attitudes, behaviors, and experiences of women political participation. Whereas the quantitative approach helps to generates statistical and produces numerical data (Alsop & Heinsohn, 2005 as cited in Firew, 2010). Hence, this study employs a mixed approach of qualitative and quantitative. The reason is that mixed approach helps researchers to solve the weakness of one approach by the strength of the other. Furthermore, the nature the problem under study involves both institutional and opportunity factors characterized by psychological, organizational, social, economic and human aspects.

## 3.4 Sources of Data

Primary data was used while interview and focus group discussion was held for participants while gathering data from the participants.

### 3.4.1 Primary Source of Data

The primary data are data that the researcher of this study was gathered from the original sources that have direct relation with the problem and believed to give relevant information about the problem was researched and helps to make the research work more accurate and valid. The primary source of data was collected from women from selected government institutions, legal experts, concerned stake holders, government officials.

### 3.4.2 Secondary Source of Data

The secondary source of data was gathered from different printed and unprinted works of researchers related to the topic, books and journals, decisions taken by government institutions, agreements, Minutes, enactments and measures taken by concerned stake holders. Furthermore, the secondary sources of data were relevant to the problem under study and will helps to make the findings more plausible.

### 3.5 Population, Sample size and sampling techniques

Population is the group of peoples whom the study was conducted whereas Sample is the group of participants whom the researcher was used as a source of Data. Hence the size of the sample was depended on the type and purpose of the research. Therefore, the sample size was including all women and key informant men representatives in the local council of the study. Furthermore, the sampling unit for this study was individual that means women of the targeted institution in which the study was conducted. There are 51 women who the members of councilors. And key informant institution, 1 woreda women Affairs office, 2 woreda women Association office, 3 woreda health office, 4 woreda Administration office and Woreda council Standing committee head. These offices are taken by sampling purposive techniques.

Sampling techniques: census was administered by the researcher because the total sample of respondents was manageable and small. Hence, all women council members of the study area were used as to collect data pertinent to this study.

| No | Selected sectors | Number of respondents | |
|----|------------------|------|--------|
| | | Male | Female |
| 1 | The focal person Woreda Administration office | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Women youth and children affairs office | - | 1 |
| 3 | woreda Health office | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | Women association agent | - | 1 |
| 5 | Women councilor | - | 51 |
| 6 | Woreda council Standing committee head | 4 | - |
| | Total | 61 | |

### 3.6 Data collection instrument

Using different types of tools for gathering data was help to get adequate and sufficient data for the problem on the study. Therefore, the researcher was use questionnaire, interview, Focus group discussion and document analysis for the problem under study.

### 3.6.1 Questionnaire

The main reason to use questionnaire was to obtaining certain facts about the respondents such as demographic characteristics, to find out what the respondents are doing or have done in the past and what peoples think covering opinions and attitudes from large number of subjects with-in a short period of time. Both closed and open-ended items was used to collect data from the above respondent to investigate women political empowerment, areas and factors affecting women participation in political decision-making processes and the possible mechanisms that could improve women political empowerment hindrances.

### 3.6.2 Interview

Interview was used to collect primary data about women's political empowerment in Seka Chokorsa woreda council members which was help to extract further deep information. The type of interview was semi-structured which helps to get specific information that can be compared and contrasted with the information gained in other instruments and it contained similar idea with the contents of the questionnaire. For this purpose, interview guideline was prepared for the respondents.

### 3.6.3 Focus group discussion

The researcher was also employed focus group discussion with respondents to get in-depth information which helps to triangulate the data gained from questionnaire, interview and document documents. Hence, two focus group discussions with five members were used to collect data to support the information gathered through questionnaire and interview. The respondents are select from the sectors and women who on the position there are total 10 divided into two groups and discussed. Those sectors and respondents as mentioned in the table 1 woreda women Affairs office one female, 2

woreda women Association office one female, 3 woreda health office one male and one femal , 4 woreda Administration office one male and one female and Woreda council Standing  committee head four male because there are four standing committee in the council.

### 3.6.4    Document analysis

Documents was checked to see different printed and unprinted documents    such as minutes of meeting of management committee, researches, journals, books and other related documents were analyzed in order to check the current status of women participation in local council political empowerment in Seka Chokorsa woreda.

## 3.7  Method of Data analysis

The data collected in the form of close- ended questionnaire was systematically coded, tabulated and organized for analysis using quantitative method. The organized and coded data was imported to statistical package for social science (SPSS) and analyzed using descriptive (percentage, frequency) and inferential (Pearson correlation) statistics. The items were classified to different tables according to similarities of issues raised in the questionnaire. After the classification each of the issue was analyzed and interpreted. In addition to the above methods of analysis of data, data obtained through interview, open ended questionnaire, focus group discussion and document observation was analyzed and interpreted qualitatively by describing or narrating the ideas provided by the respondents.

## 3.8  Ethical Consideration

During the research process the researcher was expected to recognize and obey the ethical principles of scientific research such as anonymity and respect for person and built mutual relationship with respondents. Such ethical principles were strictly followed, in conducting research as they protect the right of individuals and public demands for accountability and institutional protection (Abdulkadir, 2011). Based on the above principles, the respondents were informed that their information should be kept confidential and their personal information would never be publicized and given to third

party. In general, the concern of integrity, anonymity and other human elements for the participants was well protected.

### 3.9.1 Validity

Validity is the accuracy of a measure or the extent to which a score truthfully represents a concept. To ensure content validity of the research instruments, the researcher ensures that the questionnaires covering all areas of each variable and the objectives of the study.

# Chapter Four
## 4. Data Analysis and Interpretation

### 4. 1. Introduction
The objective of this study was to investigate the relationship between being a local membership and socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of Seka Chokorsa woreda women. The data were gathered through different techniques namely questionnaire interview and focus group discussion. Thus this chapter presents the organized analyzed and interested data

## 4.2 The Demographic Characteristics Participants

This study tried to see the demographic features of the participants namely their age, their education status, marital status, and monthly income. This foundational point has been summarized as the here under table.

*Table 4.1: the demographic characteristics of study participants*

| Variable | | F | % | $\bar{X}$ | Sd. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | <30 | 6 | 12 | | |
| | 30-40 | 33 | 66 | **2.10** | **.580** |
| | 41-50 | 11 | 22 | | |
| | **Total** | **50** | **100** | | |
| Educational level | Illiterate | 29 | 58 | | |
| | Grade 8 Complete | 11 | 22 | | |
| | Certificate | 1 | 2 | **3.08** | **2.184** |
| | Diploma | 5 | 10 | | |
| | Degree | 4 | 6 | | |
| | **Total** | **50** | **100** | | |
| Marital status | Single | 3 | 6 | | |
| | Married | 41 | 82 | **2.08** | **.853** |
| | Divorced | 6 | 12 | | |
| | **Total** | **50** | **100** | | |
| Monthly Income level | <500 | 16 | 32 | | |
| | 500-5000 | 20 | 40 | **2.08** | **.853** |
| | 5001-10000 | 14 | 28 | | |
| | **Total** | **50** | **100** | | |

As the table reveal most the member women's age is categorized among 30-40 year old while few women age lesson 30 year

The standard deviation showed that there is great variation among the women in age interval. This indicates that most women are almost in the same age range. The other background observed by the study was their educational status. The study found that most women of the member are illiterate while other few of them are first degree graduates. This indicates that most women are illiterate while few of them are uneducated. Further, the study found that most women are married while the next few are Divorced women. This tells us that the married women are taking part in political issue.

Finally that the average income level of the women is between 500-5000 while few they have less than 500.00 birr.

### 4.3 The council membership status of the women
In order to identify the status of their membership three status focused items developed and presented to the participants as presented in the next table.

*Table 4.2: the council membership status of the women*

| Items | Statistics | | | Variat | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | f | % | X̄ | Sd. |
| For how many terms you have elected to be a member of the local council? | Five times | | | 2.4 | .90 |
| | Four times | | | | |
| | Three times | 30 | 60.0 | | |
| | Twice | 8 | 16.0 | | |
| | Once | 12 | 24.0 | | |
| How you evaluate participation in every activity of the woreda councilor as an effective member? | Very high | | | 2.4 | .82 |
| | High | 11 | 22.0 | | |
| | Medium | 29 | 58.0 | | |
| | Not decide | 10 | 20.0 | | |
| | Low | | | | |
| How you evaluate your decision power as a member of the woreda councilor? | Very high | 11 | 22.0 | 2.3 | .82 |
| | High | 12 | 24.0 | | |
| | Medium | 27 | 54.0 | | |
| | Not decide | 27 | 54.0 | | |
| | Low | | | | |

The table revealed that most participants or a member has been elected three times to be the membership of their local council while few of them only elected twice. This shows that most members age good participants of the woreda councilor. Thus the computed standard deviation found that there is no exaggerated variation among the women to be membership the because of most of them were elected for least three times.

The other important point raised for the local councilor was to identify how evaluate their participation in the local council. In this case the study found their local councilor participation is medium while few could not decide their participation status. This finding tells us that most women age moderately active of the local council.

Moreover, most women of the member found their decision-making status in the local council is medium one.

This shows that being a member increase the decision making power of women. This is a good experience that should be shared among women non- member.

## 4.4 The attitudinal change brought after they joined the council

One of the most important points touched in this study was the attitude change that brought after the women have joined the local council. To address this issue, therefore different items were developed presented to the study participants as manifested here in the table.

## Table 4.3: The attitudinal change brought after they joined the council

| Item | SA F | SA % | AG F | AG % | ND F | ND % | DA f | DA % | SDA F | SDA % | X̄ | Sd. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| After I have come to a member of the local councilor my, self-confidence and fear of Effectively participate in different Socio-Cultural affairs has been improved. | 7 | 14 | 32 | 64 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 16 | 3.6 | 1.25 |
| After my coming to the membership of the local council, most people changed their attitudes and perception that I could be effective both economically and socio-culturally. | 3 | 6 | 34 | 68 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 4 | 8 | 3.5 | 1.1 |
| I am more responsible to home and family related issues parallel to my political activities- as a membership of the council | 10 | 20 | 26 | 52 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 3.6 | 1.2 |
| The existing situation is not favorable to me to take part effectively in sociocultural and economic life (after I came to the council membership). | 4 | 8 | 29 | 58 | 9 | 18 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 3.5 | 1.0 |
| There is no change between me and non- women in socio-economic life in the my village | 4 | 8 | 25 | 50 | 7 | 14 | 8 | 16 | 6 | 12 | 3.3 | 1.2 |
| **Grand average of the scale** | | | | | | | | | | | 3.4 | .65 |

The very important point that rose in the questionnaire was to identify whether the women developed self-confidence after joining the local council or not. In this case most member women agreed as their self-confidence is improved not only this most of them were agreed as the people's attitude has changed about the ability the women right after joining the woreda local council . Further, most of them found as they can carry out home activities and political activities side by side without any problem. This may be the unique characteristics of women though it seeks further investigation.

Additionally most member women are happy with their current situation or contexts to participate in the finally few 's member women found as they could not able to decide whether is variation between themselves and the nonmember women while most of them

strongly disagree as there is no difference between themselves and the non-members of the woreda local councilor .

Moreover, the computed grand mean and standard deviation indicated that there was no much variation among the women on the attitudinal change they brought after they become to the membership of the local councilor. Generally, this finding indicated that being membership of them improved the attitude that the women do have for themselves and their ability.

**4.5 How Women of the Council Members Evaluate Their Socio-cultural and Economic Effectiveness?**

One the critical concern of this study was to see the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness women after they have joined their local council. Based on this most participants agreed that the women of they are becoming effective in the socio-cultural and economic condition or life. Based most women of agreed as the society started to encourage the women to effectively take part in both socio-culture and economic activity. Thus, this study identified that the women are becoming effective in both the socio – culture and economic activities right from they became the member of the council.

**4.6. The women's decision making power in their life**

This study has also been tried to study whether being the member ship improved the women's deciding power or not as present here under in table.

*Table 4.4: the change brought on the women's decision making after the join the council*

| Items | Statistics of the alternatives | | | | | | | | | | Variation | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | SA | | AG | | ND | | DA | | SDA | | X̄ | Sd. |
| | F | % | F | % | F | % | F | % | f | % | | |
| The inability of women to correct wrong attitudes by speaking in the meeting or in the have been improved since membership | 6 | 12 | 26 | 52 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 20 | 5 | 10 | 3.4 | 1.2 |
| Lack of the women's ability to confronting socio-cultural and others attitude has been changed post to being membership | 16 | 32 | 19 | 38 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 3.7 | 1.3 |
| The impacts of the society's attitude on women's socio-cultural and economic effectiveness pre and post membership to the local council is too different because most attitudes are becoming positively shaped | 4 | 8 | 29 | 58 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 12 | 3.4 | 1.2 |
| **Grand average of the scale** | | | | | | | | | | | 3.6 | 1.1 |

As the table revealed most council member women agreed as they improved their ability to straggle on other attitude by their speaking chance on different stages. Beside this they agreed that their lack ability to directly confront the societal attitudes that block them from socio-economic effectiveness. When they conclude about their decision making abilities the agreed on that imparts that the social attitude on the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of the women of the pre and post to the part membership is different for the attitude of the society became shaped.

## 4.7. Economic effectiveness of the women of the council members
### 4.7.1. Pre Economic Effectiveness of Women of Local Members

To address these objectives different items were developed to in two parts. Pre and post to being the local council member of the women. As a result the collected data were analyzed and presented as here under.

Table4.5: the women's economic effectiveness before being the member of the council

As the table revealed most women of the (62%) agreed that they had lost different

| Item | Statistics of the alternatives | | | | | | | | | | Variation | |
| | SA | | AG | | ND | | DA | | SDA | | $\bar{X}$ | Sd. |
| | f | % | F | % | F | % | F | % | f | % | | |
| I lost different economic opportunities before participating in political activities | 14 | 28 | 32 | 62 | 4 | 10 | | | | | 1.5 | .70 |
| I had time to work on my economy before coming to local council | 20 | 40 | 25 | 50 | 5 | 10 | | | | | 2.3 | .64 |
| I used to monitor my household activities before being woreda local council membership | | | | | 13 | 26 | 27 | 54 | 10 | 20 | 2.3 | .86 |
| **Grand average of the scale** | | | | | | | | | | | 2.0 | .40 |

economic opportunities pre to their membership. There standard deviation found as there less variation among the women on their presented issue. However, most of the agreed (50%) as they were losing working time post to their membership of the local council. This may be due to frequently participate in political actives including meetings, and other related issues.

The other critical issue raised for the women was it there is variation in managing and monitoring their home-based economic activities pre to being the membership based on this most of them (54%) responded as they had not. This might be due to lack of a chance to lead or take authority on household economic activities generally, there is less variation (SD=0.40) among the women about issues raised on their economic effectiveness pre to the membership.

### 4.7.2. Post economic effectiveness of the women of the council members

*Table 4.6: the post economic effectiveness of the women of council members*

| Items | SA | | AG | | ND | | | DA | | SDA | | X̄ | Sd. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **f** | **%** | **F** | **%** | **F** | | | **%** | **f** | **%** | | | |
| My economic effectiveness has positively changed since I have become a member of local council | 25 | 50 | 11 | 22 | 14 | 28 | | | | | | 2.2 | .9 |
| I started to save my income right after being a member of the local council | 30 | 60 | 10 | 20 | 10 | 20 | | | | | | 2.4 | .81 |
| My political participation positively changed my household activity planning and managing | 22 | 44 | 11 | 22 | 17 | 34 | | | | | | 2.1 | .90 |
| **Grand average of the scale** | | | | | | | | | | | | 2.2 | .58 |

Previously mentioned the economic effectiveness of the women post to their being membership was also analyzed. The table showed that most women (50%) strongly agreed as their post economic effectiveness has been positively changed since it has found to be less than 1.00 the computed standard deviation (SD = 0.90) indicated there in no variation among the women concerning the raised point.

The other point asked for the women was to identify as it they developed saving skills post to the membership where (60%) of them stated that they strongly agreed that their saving culture has been improved. Further most women (44%) strongly agreed that their becoming the local membership improved their household economic management skills. Generally the computed standard deviation clearly stated that every woman's economic effectiveness has positively changed.

## 4.8. Socio-cultural effectiveness the women of the council members
### 4.8.1. Pre social-cultural effectiveness of the women

One other target point of this study was to investigate the socio-cultural effectiveness of the women of the district council members. To see the impacts of the women's being membership of the council, it was important to see their pre socio-cultural effectiveness or status. As a result, data were taken from the participants on the pre socio-cultural effectiveness the women as detailed here under in the table.

Table 4.7: the Pre social-cultural effectiveness of the women before they joined the council

| Items | Statistics of the alternatives | | | | | | | | | | Variation | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | SA | | AG | | ND | | DA | | SDA | | $\bar{X}$ | Sd. |
| | f | % | f | % | F | % | F | % | f | % | | |
| My social interaction decreased since I came to politics | | | | | 19 | 38 | 14 | 28 | 17 | 34 | 2.0 | .90 |
| My political participation mostly shared my cultural routine activities such as visiting mothers, visiting those gave birth, etc. | | | | | 35 | 70 | 6 | 12 | 9 | 18 | 3.0 | .80 |
| I used to effectively take part in local women's activities like idir, baltina, coffee-ceremony, etc. before. | | | | | 26 | 52 | 12 | 24 | 12 | 24 | 2.3 | .83 |
| **Grand average of the scale** | | | | | | | | | | | 2.3 | .60 |

As the table revealed most (38%) women were no decided whether their being council members decreased or increased their social interactions. However, most women (34%) strong disagree as their social interaction is decreased since they have joined the council of the district. That means the personal social interaction of the women of the council has been increased. Furthermore, most women don't decide how their being the council member shared their time from routine socio-cultural activities while 18% of them strongly disagree as their socio-cultural routines were shared by the council activity. Moreover, most women (52%) did not decided as if their being the council member protected them from the local socio-cultural activities like idir, iqub, baltina, coffee ceremonies. This is to say the women were not aware of the roles of the political participation in one's socio-cultural and economic effectiveness. In summary, being a member of the district council member is not decreased the socio-cultural participation of the women.

### 4.8.2. Post socio-cultural effectiveness of the women of the council members

As mentioned before assessing the effects of being a district council membership helps women to socio-cultural effective. Having this in mind, therefore, data were gathered from the women of the council members and analyzed here under in the table.

*Table 4.8: the post socio-cultural effectiveness of the women of council members*

| Items | Statistics of the alternatives | | | | | | | | | | Variation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | SA | | AG | | ND | | DA | | SDA | | $\bar{X}$ | Sd. |
| | F | % | F | % | F | % | f | % | f | % | | |
| This opportunity helped me to effectively exercise my social life in general | 13 | 26 | 22 | 44 | 6 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 8 | 4.0 | 0.2 |
| Participating in local council helped me to increase my cultural practices than before. | 20 | 40 | 16 | 32 | 12 | 24 | 2 | 4 | | | 4.1 | .90 |
| I am happy to be a member of the local council since it teaches us to overcome some cultural hindrances to be socio-culturally effective | 16 | 32 | 8 | 16 | 16 | 32 | 8 | 18 | 2 | 4 | 3.6 | 0.2 |
| Grand average of the scale | | | | | | | | | | | 3.5 | 0.1 |

As the table showed that most women (44%) agreed that the opportunity they had got to be member of the council helped them to practice their socio-culture activities than their previous life. The computed average also indicated that being the council membership has graded the socio-cultural effectiveness of the women. There was no more variation among the women on this concern too. Additionally, 40% of the women strongly agreed that their cultural practices have been increased since they become the member of the council while 24% of them did not decide to say on the concern. Finally, the same number of participants responded (32%) as they were strongly agree and not decided whether they are happy with their being a member the council. Generally, the socio-cultural effectiveness the women increased after they had joined the council to the district.

## 4.9. The relationship between women's being council membership, socio-cultural and economic effectiveness

The most important objective this study was to examine the relationship between being council membership, socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of the Seka Chokorsa council members' women. To address this objective, therefore, Pearson correlation moment product was computed as the results were depicted in the next table.

Table 4.9.: the relationship between being council membership, socio-cultural and economic effectiveness

| | | Pre-economy | Post Economy | Pre- Socio-Culture | Post Socio-Culture |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Being Membership** | R | .116 | .315$^*$ | -.386$^{**}$ | . 41 |
| | Sig. | .424 | .026 | .006 | .003 |
| | N | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |

As the table indicated the women's being members of the local council does not related with their pre economic effectiveness but it has moderate, positively significant relationship with their post economic effectiveness with r = .315 at p < .05. This indicates that as the being membership of the women increases their economic effectiveness will increase too. Further, the table showed as there is direct relationship between the women's being membership of the local council and the post economic effectiveness of

the women. Contrary to this, the pre socio-cultural effectiveness of the women has inverse relationship with their being membership of the council with r = - .386 at p < .05 while it directly related with their post socio-cultural effectiveness with r = .41 at p < 05. This shows that as the women's being membership strengthened their socio-cultural effectiveness increases too. To sum up, the computed correlation coefficient identified as there is significant relationship between the women's post economic, pre socio-cultural, and post socio-cultural effectiveness.

## 4.10. Analysis of Qualitative data

The major intention of this study was to investigate the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of Seka Chokorsa district member women's. To achieve this objective there for qualitative data were gathered through interview and FGD techniques. Based on this the study tried to analyze the row data as presented here under.

The first interview item asked for the interviewees was to identify the constraint factors that block women of members' effectiveness in both socio-cultural and economic life. As a result, most interviewed participants responded that lack of information or lack of even communication among the members is hindering them to participate in every activity the even the interviews tried to state that they sometimes lose some training opportunities and experience sharing programs that proposed for the members. Supporting this idea one of the FGD members stated the reason behind this challenge as most member women come from remote areas from the center of the district further. One of the interviewed participants put his ideas in her own terms like this:

> "Since most of the women come from remote area, they come here putting different household activities and the stay here in our town paying for bed and for food. In addition to this, since they use transportation to come to the center most of the time they do not get transportation access on time" (an interviewed women, 12/08/2013)

In addition to this, the data that gathered from the FGD sessions concluded that fear of the women of the meetings is the other important factor to determine their effectiveness.

In line to this a study concluded that there are different prominent features of political barriers: the prevalence of the 'masculine model' of political life and of elected government bodies; lack of party support such as limited financial support for women candidates, limited access to political networks, communication systems, and the more stringent standards and qualifications applied to women; lack of sustained contact and cooperation with other public organizations such as trade (labor) unions and women's groups; lack of access to well-developed education and training systems for women's leadership in general, and for orienting young women towards political life; and the nature of the electoral system, which may or may not be favorable to women candidates (Shvedova, 2005).

The other important point that rose during FGD session and interview session was whether there is change that the women of the brought after becoming the member on their socio-cultural and economic life. Having this in mind most participants of the FGD and interview sessions clearly put as there are improvements in both socio-cultural and economic the women of the concerning this one of the interviewees put her concern in her own words in this way.

> *"There are changes on the sociocultural and economic life of the women. For instance most of them started manage their own household economic assets and most women started to take part in different social activities or affairs like iqub, idir, baltina, savings, etc" (a member of FGD, 02/09/2013).*

One of the FGD members added that previously most of us did not have knowledge and skills of savings but after our coming to the member our awareness on saving has scaled up. As a result, our economic life is becoming improved after being membership.

Supporting this result, a study result stated that a significant social feature resides in the double - if not triple - responsibilities of women: In most countries, women are perceived to have 'primary' responsibilities as wives and mothers. But in many cases, either as a result of a preference for personal development, or out of sheer economic necessity, women also go out to work in the employment market. Hence, a political career may well

come in these cases either as a second or third job (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Central Statistical Agency, 2005).

In addition to this different summarized literature conceptualized that relatedly, there is also evidence indicating that there may be a bi-directional endogenous relationship between political and economic participation. On the one hand, mandating women's political representation can help break the vicious cycle leading to low female labor force participation by raising aspirations and encouraging entrepreneurship by providing a role model of a successful woman policy-maker (Ghani, Kerr, & O'Connell 2014). A higher presence of women in parliaments is found to be correlated with greater equality of employment laws (Htun & Weldon 2014), and with the probability that a country implemented a reform to remove legal gender differences in economic rights (Hallward-Driemeier & Hasan 2013).

Furthermore, most participants from both the interview and FGD sessions reported that the women of the members were becoming socio-culturally effective after they became the membership of the. According to the participants, currently the women started to decide in their social life including issues of their marriage life. For instance, they said that their marriage could not easily breakdown as previously it used to be. Moreover, as the participants discussed, most of them become decision makers in their household life including sharing responsibility to manage family incomes with their husbands.

Inconsistency to this finding a study concluded that recent quantitative evidence shows that higher security of women's right has a greater impact on productivity for women compared to men, because they have much more insecure rights to begin with. For example, according to the study, the Rwanda land regularization program had a significantly larger impact on   investments among female-headed households than male-headed households (Ali, Deininger, & Goldstein, 2014). As the study tried to study, the women became decision makers after their political rights reserved by the government like to the participants of this study.

One of the interviewed women added that after they became members they mostly began to take or lend women from savings and credit organizations than before generally, the data that gathered through FGD and interview sessions indicated that there are

improvements in socio-cultural and economic life of the women after they become the members. However because some factors the changes seen on the women may not be even.

However, survey study carried out in Ethiopia found contrary result with my findings. According to this study, there is no significant evidence that female political participation affects economic growth, but it stated as the signs of other control variables match the expectation. Female primary education enrolment and the ratio of trade in GDP have a positive impact on economic development, especially girl's primary education. Regarding statistical significance, except the key explanatory variable, seats held by women in local council which represents the extent of female political participation which is insignificant. Based on its finding, therefore the study concluded that that female's participation in politics does not affect economic growth (Jayasuriya, & Burke, 2013).

# Chapter five
## 5. Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendation
### 5.1. Discussion

One of the specific objects proposed to be addressed by this study was to discuss the extent of the Seka Chokorsa district council member women council participation. The analogized data identified that most women of the council has been elected at least three times. This indicates that most women of the council are active in their political participation. This in turn supports them to be effective in both economic and socio-cultural development. Generally, most council member women of Seka Chokorsa women were identified active participants in the council activities. Supporting this study stated Political participation extends beyond parties, however. Women can also become involved in certain aspects of the electoral process through independent action particularly at the local level and by joining civil society organizations. Some women in post-conflict countries have gained political experience by participating in non-elected transitional assemblies. Women's networks, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, and the media can all provide avenues for women's political participation (Addati and Cassirer, 2008). In the Kebele council, the data from the town administration revealed that during the same time the number of women Kebele councilor increased respectively. According to the data, during the local elections, the proportion of men and women in Kebele administration council become relatively equal. This is due to the commitment made by the local government correct the imbalance of representation of women at Kebele administration council. This shows that where there is greater determination and commitment by the government to enhance women equal involvement in decision making body, it is possible to have equal representation of women (Bogie Kene, 2016).

Further, the current study tried to examine the relationship between women's being local council member and their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness in Seka Chokorsa Woreda. To address this objective Pearson correlation was computed. Where their pre economic effectiveness identified that it has insignificant relationship their being the council membership but moderate and positively significant relationship with post with

economic effectiveness ($r$ = .315 at $p$ < .05). This indicates that as the being membership of the council increases their economic effectiveness will increase too.

Further, the revealed that there is inverse relationship between their being membership of the local council and their pre socio-cultural effectiveness with $r$ = - .386 at $p$ < .05 while it has direct relationship with their post socio-cultural effectiveness with $r$ = .41 at $p$ < 05. This indicates that as the women's being membership strengthened their socio-cultural effectiveness upgrades too. This change may be the fruit of the attitudinal change they brought straggling along being the member of the local council. Beside most women stated that they feel good in that their being the council members has changes their economic and socio-cultural life. The qualitative data that taken through interview and focus group discussion were also mostly supported this finding. Therefore, the council participation of the women improved their socio-cultural and economic effectiveness. Not only this but also their membership of the council improved the attitudes that had for themselves and their ability to economically and socio-cultural be effective.

The other pointed identified result in this study was the challenges that the Seka Chokorsa Woreda council member women faced and the improvement they brought post to their being member of the council. As the study revealed the women had not have self-confidence pre to their membership. However, after they had joined the council their self-confidence became scaled up. This might be the result of different exposure to the social interactions that proposed by the institution. The other important challenges the women are facing are the lack smooth communication from the center to the kebele level to take part in the council activities evenly. According to the study, most women lose the programmed short term training and other critical meetings because the information limitation.

## 5.2. Conclusion

The intention this study was to investigate the roles of being the district membership in the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of women based on this the gathered data through questionnaire, FGD and interview analyzed and found different results. Based on the findings, therefore, this study tried to give this conclusion. The socio-cultural

effectiveness of the women of the members was investigated. In line to this, therefore, the women's membership of the brought positive changes on their economic effectiveness including taking their own decision in their social life including deciding on their own arraign issues; family issues; and other important social points. Moreover, their economic effectiveness has also been improved. As this study revealed there was significant relationship between their being membership and their active economic participation including their taking part in local economic affairs such as iqub, savings, taking credits from the local micro-finances to support their life; and others. However, there are still different constraints that challenging the effectiveness of the women including lack effective communication system; lack of sustainable training that needed to scale up their both economic and socio-cultural effectiveness.

Moreover, this study has found that there was significant relationship between the women's post economic effectiveness and both pre and post socio-cultural effectiveness with their being membership of the council. From this result it is possible to conclude that being membership of the council improves the socio-cultural and economic effectiveness of the women. This tells the government that encouraging every women of the nation in political and other related activities for it helps them to get awareness on how to scale up their own economic and socio-cultural effectiveness.

## 5.3. Recommendation

Based on the findings of the study the following points have been recommended for different stakeholder.

1.  The Woreda should arrange ways of commodification among the council members. Therefore, there should be even communication system for every member. The district, therefore, should launch smooth communication way for the women whenever there are meetings or training to be given for the members.

2.  There should be sustainable training for the member women to scale up their life skills. Any concerned body including the local office, local women affairs, social

affairs and others should adjust practical training to strength the women's holistic effectiveness in general and socioeconomic effectiveness in particular.

3. There should be experience sharing among the members and within the local and outside of the local. Therefore, the local office, women affair office and others should organize the program.

4. The member women by themselves should tie themselves with each other and other members in the way they can share updated information among themselves as possible.

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# Appendixes

Appendix A:

| Items | Alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | *5* | *4* | *3* | *2* | *1* |
| For how many terms you have elected to be a member of the parliament? | | | | | |
| How you evaluate participation in every activity of the parliament as an effective member? | | | | | |
| How you evaluate your decision power as a member of the parliament? | | | | | |

**Appendix B:**

| Item | alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| After I have come to a member of the parliament my, self-confidence and fear of Effectively participate in different Socio-Cultural affairs has been improved. | | | | | |
| After my coming to the membership of the parliament, most people changed their attitudes and perception that I could be effective both economically and socio-culturally. | | | | | |
| I am more responsible to home and family related issues parallel to my political activities- as a membership of the parliamentary | | | | | |
| The existing situation is not favorable to me to take part effectively in sociocultural and economic life (after I came to the parliamentary membership). | | | | | |
| There is no change between me and non-council women in socio-economic life in the my village | | | | | |

**Appendix C:**

| Items | alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Post to their being parliament membership, women's sense of inequality (accepting and internalizing inequality) had been decreased. | | | | | |
| Post to becoming a member of the parliament, the women becoming socio-culturally & economically effective in their community | | | | | |
| Prior to being member of the parliament, men dominance in the home had been hindering the women not to involve in political activities | | | | | |
| The society has become experienced to encourage women to be effectively participate in the local socio-economic councils after the most became membership of the parliamentary | | | | | |
| Since they started to share experience from those who are members of the counsel, non-membership women started taking part in socio-economic affairs of their community | | | | | |

**Appendix D:**

| Items | Alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| The inability of women to correct wrong attitudes by speaking in the meeting or in the council have been improved since membership | | | | | |
| Lack of the women's ability to confronting socio-cultural and others attitude has been changed post to being membership | | | | | |
| The impacts of the society's attitude on women's socio-cultural and economic effectiveness pre and post membership to the parliament is too different because most attitudes are becoming positively shaped | | | | | |

| | alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Item** | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| I lost different economic opportunities before participating in political activities | | | | | |
| I had time to work on my economy before coming to parliament | | | | | |
| I used to monitor my household activities before being parliament membership | | | | | |

**Appendix E:**

**Appendix F: Post-economy**

| Items | Alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| My economic effectiveness has positively changed since I have become a member of parliament | | | | | |
| I started to save my income right after being a member of the parliament | | | | | |
| My political participation positively changed my household activity planning and managing | | | | | |

**Appendix G: Pre- Socio-cultural**

| Items | Alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| This opportunity helped me to effectively exercise my social life in general | | | | | |
| Participating in parliament helped me to increase my cultural practices than before. | | | | | |
| I am happy to be a member of the parliament since it teaches us to overcome some cultural hindrances to be socio-culturally effective | | | | | |

**Appendix H: Post socio-cultural**

| Items | Alternatives | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| My social interaction decreased since I came to politics | | | | | |
| My political participation mostly shared my cultural routine activities such as visiting mothers, visiting those gave birth, etc. | | | | | |
| I used to effectively take part in local women's activities like idir, baltina, coffee-ceremony, etc. before. | | | | | |