



**Mekelle University  
College of Business and Economics  
Department Of Cooperative Studies**

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVES IN  
GEWANE AND AWASH FENTALE WOREDA, AFAR, ETHIOPIA**

By:

Nega Endale

A Thesis

Submitted in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master of Art Degree

In

Cooperative Marketing

Advisor:

Kelemework Tafere (PhD)

October, 2010

Mekelle

Ethiopia

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# Declaration

This is to certify that this thesis entitled “**Participation of Women in Multipurpose Cooperatives**”, in **Gewane and Awash Fentale Woreda, Afar, Ethiopia**, submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of M.A., in Cooperative Marketing to the School of Graduate Studies, Mekelle University, through the Department of Cooperatives, done by Mr. Nega Endale Haile, Id. No. FDA/PS 0024/2000 is an authentic work carried out by him under my guidance. The matter embodied in this project work has not been submitted earlier for award of any degree or diploma to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name of the student **Nega Endale Haile**

signature and date\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the supervisor **Kelemework Tafere** (PhD)

signature and date\_\_\_\_\_

## **Biographical Sketch**

The author was born in April 21, 1978, in Sodo Buee town, Gurage zone. He started his education in Sodo Buee elementary school and completed his high school studies at Sodo Buee Senior Secondary school in 1998. Upon successful completion of high school studies, he joined the Alemaya University of Agriculture in 1999 and graduated with B.Sc Degree in Agricultural Extension in July 2002. After completion of university education, he was employed as an instructor in Gewane Agricultural Technical vocational and Educational Training College in 2003. He served in Gewane Agricultural Technical vocational and Educational Training College until he joined the School of Graduate Studies of Mekelle University in July 2008 to specialize in Cooperative Marketing.

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# Table of contents

<b>Declaration</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>Biographical Sketch</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Acknowledgement</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Table of contents</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>List of Tables</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>List of Figures</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>xii</b>
<b>Abstract</b> .....	<b>xiv</b>
<b>CHAPTER I</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1. Background.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3. Objective of the study.....	6
1.3.1. General Objective.....	6
1.3.2. Specific Objectives: .....	6
1.4. Research Questions.....	6
1.5. Scope of the Study.....	6
1.6. Significance of the Study.....	7
1.7. Limitation of the Study.....	7
<b>CHAPTER II</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>REVIEW OF LITERATURE</b> .....	<b>8</b>
2.1. Theoretical Concepts and Definitions .....	8
2.1.1. Concepts.....	8
2.1.2. Definition of Cooperatives .....	8
2.1.3. Principles of Cooperatives .....	9
2.2. Historical background of cooperatives in Ethiopia.....	10
2.3. Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies .....	11
2.4. Concepts of Participation.....	12
2.4.1. Participation .....	12
2.4.2. Members' Participation.....	13
2.4.3. Typology of Participation .....	14
2.4.4. Measurements of Participation .....	15
2.4.5. Factors Affecting Participation .....	15

2.5. Overview of Policy Approaches to Women .....	16
2.5.1. Women in Development/WID/.....	16
2.5.2. Women and Development/WAD/ .....	17
2.5.3. Gender and Development/Gender in Development.....	18
2.6. National women’s policy in Ethiopia .....	19
2.7. Women and Food Security Issues.....	20
2.8. Women in Cooperatives .....	23
2.9. The Socio- Economic Contribution of Cooperatives to women.....	24
2.10. Factors affecting women participation in cooperative.....	26
<b>CHAPTER III.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>MATERIALS AND METHODS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
3.1. Description of the Afar Region.....	28
3.1.1. Location .....	28
3.1.2 Population Size and Distribution.....	28
3.1.3 Temperature of the Region.....	29
3.1.4. Rainfall.....	29
3.1.5. Livelihoods.....	29
3.1.6. Cooperative Activities in the Region.....	30
3.2. Description of the Study Weredas .....	33
3.2.1. Gewane Wereda.....	33
3.2.2. Awash Fentale Wereda .....	35
3.3. Research Method .....	37
3.3.1. Sampling Technique .....	37
3.3.2. Data Collection Procedures and Sources .....	38
3.3.3. Primary Data.....	38
3.3.4. Secondary Data.....	38
3.4. Methods of Data Analysis .....	38
3.4.1. Paired Sample T-Test.....	39
3.4.2. Karl Pearson’s Coefficient Of Correlation.....	39
3.5. Operationalization of Variables .....	40
3.5.1. Dependent Variable .....	40
3.5.2. Independent Variables .....	40
<b>CHAPTER 4.....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>RESULT AND DISCUSSION.....</b>	<b>44</b>
4.1. Background Information.....	44
4.1.1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.....	44

4.1.2. Description of economic factors of the sample respondents.....	49
4.1.3. Description of awareness factors of the sample respondents.....	52
4.1.4. Respondents' Access to Training .....	53
4.1.5. Membership characteristics of the respondents.....	53
4.1.6. Membership in more number of cooperatives.....	54
4.1.7. Distance of MPC office from respondents' residence .....	55
4.2. Extent of women participation in multipurpose cooperatives .....	55
4.2.1. Nature of participation .....	55
4.3. Socio-Economic Contribution of MPCs to Women .....	62
4.3.1. Economic contribution .....	63
4.3.2. Social contribution of MPCs to women.....	70
4.4. Relationship between Participation and factors affecting participation .....	74
4.5. Constraints which hinder women participation in multipurpose cooperatives .....	77
4.6. Suggestions for improving women participation MPCs.....	79
<b>CHAPTER V .....</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Conclusion and Recommendation.....</b>	<b>82</b>
5.1. Conclusion .....	82
5.2. Recommendations .....	84
<b>REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>92</b>



# List of Tables

<b>Table 1: Types of participation.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Table 2: population distribution of Afar region by administrative zones.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Table 3: Types of cooperatives, number of cooperatives and number of members in Afar region as of 2009 .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Table 4: Selected MP cooperatives and respondents in the sample .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Table 5: Livestock holding of respondents in TLU.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Table 6: Source of income of respondents.....</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Table 7: Total annual income of respondents .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Table 8: Annual expenditure for respondents .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Table 9: Distribution of respondents based on awareness about cooperative principles.....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Table 10: Distribution of Respondents' Access to Training .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Table 11: Duration of membership .....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Table 12: Distance of MPC office from respondents' residence.....</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Table 13: Women in decision making .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Table 14: Women in implementing decisions.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Table 15: Women in shouldering responsibility .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Table 16: Women participation rate in general assembly meeting .....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Table 17: women involvement rate in general assembly .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Table 18: Involvement of women in share purchasing .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Table 19: Leadership propensity of women .....</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Table 20: Household food supply of respondents before and after .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Table 21: credit availability of respondents .....</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Table 22: Income category of respondents before and after membership of cooperative .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Table 23: Annual income of respondents before and after.....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Table 24: Annual expenditure of respondents before and after.....</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Table 25: Total asset of respondents before and after .....</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Table 26: Distribution of sample of respondents by livestock holding in TLU before and after .....</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Table 27: Number of children of respondents at school before and after.....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Table 28: Educational costs of respondents before and after.....</b>	<b>71</b>

<b>Table 29: Disease prevalence and cost of health of respondents before and after.....</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Table 30: Clothing condition of respondents before and after.....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Table 31: Potable water accessibility of respondents before and after .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Table 32: Relationship b/n Independent variables and dependent variable.....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Table 33: Major factors perceived by respondents as constraints of women to participate in multipurpose cooperatives (N = 90).....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Table 34: Rank order of suggestions given for improving women participation in multipurpose cooperatives (N = 90).....</b>	<b>81</b>

# List of Figures

<b>Figure 1: Map of Afar region and Location of the Study Area .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by age.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by their level of Education .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by their religion.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Figure 5: Distribution of respondents by their marital status.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Figure 6: Family size of respondents .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Figure 7: House hold type of respondents .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Figure 8: Livestock ownership of respondents.....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Figure 9: Membership characteristics of respondents.....</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Figure 10: Position of women in the cooperative .....</b>	<b>62</b>

# List of Abbreviations

<b>ADB</b> .....	Africa Development Bank
<b>ADLI</b> .....	Agricultural development Led Industrialization
<b>AMREF</b> .....	Africa Medical Research Fund
<b>Coops</b> .....	Cooperatives
<b>Coop AFRICA</b> .....	The Cooperative Facility for Africa
<b>CSA</b> .....	Central Statistical Agency
<b>CTA</b> .....	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
<b>ECA</b> .....	Economic Commission for Africa
<b>FAO</b> .....	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation
<b>FARM Africa</b> .....	Food and Agriculture Research Management of Africa
<b>FCA</b> .....	Federal Cooperative Agency
<b>FGD</b> .....	Focused Group Discussion
<b>FDRE</b> .....	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>GAD</b> .....	Gender and Development
<b>GNP</b> .....	Gross National Product
<b>Ha</b> .....	Hectare
<b>HDI</b> .....	Human Development Index
<b>HTP</b> .....	Harmful Traditional Practice
<b>ICA</b> .....	International Cooperative alliance
<b>ILO</b> .....	International Labour Organization
<b>Km</b> .....	Kilometre
<b>m.a.s.l</b> .....	metre above sea level
<b>MDG</b> .....	Millennium Development Goal
<b>mm</b> .....	millimeter
<b>MOPED</b> .....	Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
<b>MPCs</b> .....	Multipurpose Cooperatives
<b>NGOS</b> .....	Nongovernmental Organization
<b>PARDB</b> .....	Pastoral Agriculture and Rural Development Bureau
<b>PASDEP</b> .....	Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty
<b>RPOs</b> .....	Rural Producer Organizations
<b>SDPRP</b> .....	Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program

**SNNPRS**..... Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples Regional state  
**SPSS**..... Statistical Package for Social Sciences  
**TGE**..... Transitional Government of Ethiopia  
**TLU**..... Tropical Livestock Unit  
**UN**..... United Nation  
**UNDP**..... United Nation Development Program  
**UNICEF**..... United Nation International Children Fund  
**UNIFEM**..... United Nation International Development Fund for Women  
**WAD**..... Women and development  
**WID**..... Women in development

# Abstract

## **Participation of women in multipurpose cooperatives in Gewane and Awash Fentale Woreda, Afar, Ethiopia**

*The study was conducted in Awash Fentale and Gewane Weredas, southern Afar, Ethiopia with the objectives: (1) To assess the extent of women participation in multipurpose cooperatives; (2) To investigate the economic and social contribution of multipurpose cooperatives to women in the study area; (3) To examine major factors influencing women participation in multipurpose cooperatives and (4) To recommend suggestions for enhancing the participation of women in multipurpose cooperative.*

*Data for the study were derived from 10 purposively selected MPCs in the area. All women members were selected from the selected MPCs. To address the objectives of the study, both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were used. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary data necessary for the quantitative study were collected through personal interviews from 90 women drawn purposefully from ten multipurpose cooperatives by conducting formal survey using structured interview schedule. Qualitative data were collected through; focus group discussion, observations, and informal discussion with key informants. Descriptive statistics with appropriate statistical tests, T test for significant and Karl Pearson's Correlation were used to analyse the data.*

*The findings of this study showed that women are conspicuously under-represented at decision making, implementing decisions, shouldering of responsibility, attending general meeting, involvement in share purchasing and leadership. Only 8.9%, 8.9%, 10%, 10%, 11.1%, 8.1% of women were actively participated in the above activities respectively.*

*The survey result showed that the majority of the respondents did not aware of the rule, the by-laws, principles, values, rights and obligation of members and how income is distributed. Only 14(15.6%) of the respondents know properly the principles and values of cooperatives, only 19(21.1%) of the respondents aware of the by-laws, rules and regulation of the cooperative, only 27(30%) of the respondents know the right, duties and obligation of*

*members in the cooperative, only 34(37.8%) of the respondents aware of how income is distributed.*

*The survey reveals that the majority of women derived appreciable economic and social benefit through their participation in the multipurpose cooperatives. Contribution to increase in income, assets, livestock holding, food supply, credit availability, education of children, health condition, potable water supply and clothing aspects are the prominent socio - economic benefits derived by women.*

*The output of Pearson correlation analysis indicated that age, duration of membership, livestock ownership, total income, distance, awareness about cooperative, training access, position of women, shows a significant relationship with participation.*

*Lack of awareness, culture, lack of access to information, work load in the house, lack of education, lack of capital, the negative attitude of the society towards women and mobility were the most important factors contributing to the inactive participation of women in MPCs in the study area.*

*Therefore cooperatives should focus on creating awareness, educating women, increasing training access to women and educating the society to bring attitudinal change on gender issue.*

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Women represent 50% of the world population, and play a vital role in food production and food security. The world's experiences show that food security encompassed a broad range of issues. All these issues are central to women. Agricultural development is a complex process and a challenging one as well (Trinh T. and Ha T., 2009). Women account for 70% of agricultural workers, 80% of food producers, and 100% of those who process basic foodstuffs and they undertake from 60% to 90% of the marketing (Fresco, 1998). It is often stated that women are responsible for more than half the world's food production. They are said to be "feeding the world". The role women play in agriculture and the rural society is fundamental to agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa (Ibid)

In Ethiopia agriculture is the mainstay of the economy accounts for about 40 percent of national GDP, 90 percent of exports, 85 percent of employment, and 90 percent of the poor (David J., 2008). Women are the backbone of the agricultural sector and the food production system (MOPED and UNICEF, 1994). The agricultural sector contributes to overall economic growth as well as providing the poor with opportunities for socio-economic development activities. Agriculture activities heavily relied on family labour and women played a key important role in farming and improving the quality of life in rural areas (World Bank, 2004 cited in Berhan, 2010). Out of the total subsistence agricultural production, they are responsible for about 50%. As some reports indicate women contribute around 65% of the labour-force in agriculture (TGE and UNICEF, 1993).

Although women's contribution to their households, food production and national economies is immense, it has not been translated in to better access to resources or decision-making powers. As a result, women remained to be the poorest of the poor constituting 70% of the global poor (Women affairs, 2004 cited in Berhan, 2010). Worldwide, outside of the



agricultural sector, in both developed and developing countries, women are still averaging slightly less than 78% of the wages given to men for the same work, a gap which refuses to close in even the most developed countries (Augusto L.C and Saadia Z., 2005). According to the UNDP Human Development Report, women in Africa represent 52 per cent of the total population, contribute approximately 75 percent of the agricultural work, and produce 60 to 80 percent of the food. Yet they earn only 10 percent of African incomes and own just 1 per cent of the continent's assets. These numbers indicate the tremendous challenges women face on their road to gender equality. Like many African countries, the majority of women in Ethiopia hold low status in the society. They have been denied equal access to education, training and gainful employment opportunities and their involvement in policy formulation and decision making processes have been minimal. Women play a vital role in the community by taking care of all social activities. However, they do not enjoy the fruits of their labor and suffer from political, economical, social and cultural marginalization (FDRE, 2006). The participation of women in qualified jobs and related fields is at its lowest level. For instance, the National Labor Force Survey (CSA, 1999) indicates that women account for only 23.9% in technical and professional fields. The majority of women perform tiresome, low paid and even unpaid jobs. The 1994 census on employment also shows that women represent only 27.3% of the total government employees and 93.2% of them are engaged in low-grade jobs (FDRE, 2006).

Countries that do not capitalize on the full potential of one half of their societies are misallocating their human resources and undermining their competitive potential. The economic participation of women their presence in the workforce in quantitative terms is important not only for lowering the disproportionate levels of poverty among women, but also as an important step toward raising household income and encouraging economic development in countries as a whole. Economic participation concerns not only the actual numbers of women participating in the labor force, but also their remuneration on an equal basis (Augusto L.C and Saadia Z., 2005).

Gender integration in cooperative development is also essential because active and equitable participation of members, both men and women, is a necessary condition for sustainable cooperative development. Active participation from cooperative context means that members

are involved in all the functions of cooperative, including social, economic, planning, decision making, implementation and financial and management control.

Women represent half of the world's human resources, cooperatives will benefit from this under-utilized human resources by enhancing women's productive capabilities. Many women have special skills in for instance, marketing and trading; while others have special knowledge and capabilities, which have been at all unacknowledged. The active involvement of women (the invisible work force) will make cooperatives economically and politically strong (Desalew, 2009).

Therefore, in today's fast changing socio economic and political climate and in an increasingly globalized world the need for innovative thinking and creative ideas is becoming exceedingly important, also for the cooperative sector. By involving more women in decision making and implementing within the cooperative movement, one will enhance the prospects of cooperatives, diversify activities and fortify the cooperative movement (Desalew, 2009). As shown by numerous studies which demonstrate that investing in women has high returns at both the level of the individual enterprise as well as at the macro level in terms of poverty reduction and development (Eva M., 2010). It is also significant that the involvement of more women in cooperatives will broaden the scope of cooperatives and improves their social role by empowering them to decision-making level (Ibid). A study undertaken by Yikdem showed that the participation of women in cooperative will empower women (Yikdem, 2009). A number of experiences have shown that initiatives taken by women in cooperatives have accelerated the progress and change of socio-economic situations both for women and the society at large (Daman P., 2003). Hence, this study tried to underline on extent of women participation and the influencing factors of their participation in primary multipurpose cooperatives.

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

Ethiopia is recognized as one of the most impoverished countries in the world characterized by persistence level of extreme poverty and inequality. It has a GNP per capita of approximately US\$ 100 (ADB, 2004) and ranks 170th out of 177 countries in the current Human Development Rankings (HDR, 2006). Women in Ethiopia comprise approximately 65% of the informal sector (ADB, 2004). Women operate about 65% of micro-enterprises

and 26% of small-scale manufacturing enterprises in the country (Anita Spring and Bob G., 2004). They are actively involved in all aspects of their society's life. Women are both producers and procreators and they are also active participants in the social, political, and cultural activities of their communities. However the varied and important roles they play have not always been recognized. The discriminatory political, economic and social rules and regulations prevailing in Ethiopia have barred women from enjoying the fruits of development. Without equal opportunities, they have lagged behind men in all fields of self-advancement (FDRE, 2006).

For example, Ethiopians performance on the gender gap in primary school enrolment and adult literacy and the representation of women in government is consistently below the average of the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank, 2002). Women also lack decision-making power in the household and community as well as access and control of productive resources. In addition, women continue to have fewer rights, lower education and health status, less income, and less access to resources and decision-making than men. Nevertheless, women's critical roles in food production, income generation, and management of natural resources, community organization and domestic responsibilities are essential for sustainable development particularly in the cooperative sector (Ibid). Experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local government bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in decision making process(Daman P., 2003).

Currently the government has placed a high priority on food security and food self-sufficiency. Cooperatives have gained prominence in Ethiopia's rural and agricultural development strategy, within the national macro-economic policy framework of Agricultural Development-Led Industrialization (ADLI) (Tesfaye, 2008). Ethiopia is one of the several African countries which intend to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Moreover, according to the Federal Cooperative Commission five-year plan (2005-2010) the aim is to provide cooperative services to 70% of the population and increasing women membership from its present level of 13 percent to 30 percent by 2010 (FCA, 2006). This cannot be attained without a concerted effort to enhance women participation and decision making. It is unrealistic to assume that cooperative movement without special consideration of women's active participation. According to ILO (2002) Promotion of Cooperatives

Recommendation 193 Article 7 of sub Article 3, “special consideration should be given to increasing women’s participation in the cooperative movement at all levels, particularly at management and leadership level”(Eva M., 2010). This will require strengthened management skills, transparency and accountability in public and private sectors alike. It is impossible to bring about real progress in the fight against poverty without women themselves being able to influence issues of policy and productivity through united and fortified efforts (Hilde F., 2003).

At present time while the government is claiming that it is politically trying to improve women participation in the socio-economic activities of the society, the proportion of women member in the cooperative society is too small that is highly dominated by men. For instance, Coop AFRICA research<sup>14</sup> revealed that in Ethiopia, only 18% of cooperative members are women (Eva M, 2010). A study conducted in Haro Coffee farmers cooperative showed that the participation of rural women in the cooperative management and control of the activities of the organization is very low. There is no woman member in the management and credit committee. The control and social affair committee of the cooperative have only one woman member which is 9.1% of the committee (Bikila, 2003). Findings from study revealed that less than 20 percent of women had access to the various training opportunities in cooperatives (Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute, 2006 cited in Desalew, 2009).

Modern cooperatives in Afar region as a whole had started when the Bureau of Cooperative Promotion was established in 2002. A lot of efforts have been made to develop modern cooperatives in the region after the establishment of the Bureau of Cooperative Promotion. And based on this a lot of member oriented cooperatives are organized in the region. However, no research has been conducted in women participation in agricultural cooperatives in Afar Region. On the basis of these realities and given the importance of cooperatives and their role set by the development policies and strategies of Ethiopia, this research was undertaken to address the following objectives:

## **1.3. Objective of the study**

### **1.3.1. General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to assess the overall participation of women in primary multipurpose cooperatives.

### **1.3.2. Specific Objectives:**

1. To see the extent of women participation in multipurpose cooperatives;
2. To investigate the economic and social contribution of multipurpose cooperatives to women in the study area;
3. To examine major factors influencing women participation in multipurpose cooperatives and
4. To recommend suggestions for enhancing the participation of women in multipurpose cooperative.

## **1.4. Research Questions**

- What is the extent of women participation in the multipurpose cooperative?
- What are the social and economic contributions of multipurpose cooperative to women?
- What are the major factors influencing women participation in multipurpose cooperative?

## **1.5. Scope of the Study**

This study is confined to multipurpose cooperatives with particular reference to primary multipurpose cooperatives. The study was undertaken at Gewane and Awash Fentale woredas of zone 3 of Afar region. In the study area there are 17 MPCs of which 10 were selected purposefully for this particular study. Therefore the study incorporates 10 multipurpose cooperatives, of which all women who are members of the multipurpose cooperatives were selected.

## **1.6. Significance of the Study**

Women are 50% of the total population in Ethiopia and their contribution to bring sustainable development is critically important. The participation of women in cooperative organization is equally important to bring economic development. A number of experience have shown that initiative taken by women in cooperative have accelerated progress and change of the socio-economic situation both for women and the society at large. However, little research has been undertaken in the country regarding the participation of women in cooperative organizations. Therefore, the result of this study would become a valuable source of information for policy makers, stakeholders, governments, NGOs and other concerned bodies to make sound decisions concerning the issues of women. This study would also give a room for other similar studies and would contribute for the abundance of literatures in the area. In general, the output of this research would be highly beneficial to cooperatives, government, nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) and other institution working on women and cooperative promotion for their further intervention for better economic, political and social participation of women.

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

Due to limitation of budget the study was conducted only at two woredas of zone 3. Since the numbers of women are very small, the researcher obliged to take all women members of the multipurpose cooperatives deliberately. Therefore, the sample size is too small to represent the whole women members in the region. As the study was conducted in afar regional state, the harsh environmental condition limited the researcher to collect data only at the morning time, so that there was an extension of time during data collection. Respondents were reluctant to give information when enumerators asked them very sensitive issues like number of livestock they have, income and asset. Even some respondents said “I do not give you any information without incentive” because NGOS working in the area pay the people whenever they need information, so that the society developed a habit of incentive. However, to minimize the error the researcher used focus group discussions (FGD) and key informants (KI) for triangulation purpose. The other limitation of this research is that the researcher couldn't find related empirical studies on women participation in cooperatives.

# **CHAPTER II**

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **2.1. Theoretical Concepts and Definitions**

#### **2.1.1. Concepts**

A cooperative enterprise is a group-based form of business which is owned and controlled by the same people who use it the services. Cooperative enterprises are directed by norms, values and cooperative principles. Cooperatives are able to promote economic and social development because they are commercial organizations that follow a broader set of values than those associated purely with profit orientation. This is because cooperatives are owned by those who use their services, the decisions taken by cooperatives balance the need for profitability with the wider interests of the community. They also foster economic fairness by ensuring equal access to markets and services for the membership base, which is open and voluntary (*Saikou E. Sanyang and Wen-Chi Huang , 2008*).

#### **2.1.2. Definition of Cooperatives**

The Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Cooperation, USA, defined cooperative as an “association of producers/ consumers who together can achieve some commercial objective more successfully than they can as individuals”.

A cooperative, as defined by ILO Recommendation No. 193 (2002) is “an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise” (Eva M., 2010)

Cooperatives are based on the values of self-help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. In the tradition of cooperative founders, members of coops believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.” Cooperatives put their values into practice through seven commonly accepted principles, the second of which is democratic member control. Cooperative members jointly set policies and

make decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) (UN, 2009).

### **2.1.3. Principles of Cooperatives**

One of the distinctive features of the co-operative business form is the promotion and adherence to a set of principles.

The seven principles that cooperatives subscribe to are: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community (UN, 2009).

**1. *Voluntary and Open Membership*** — Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political religious discrimination.

**2. *Democratic Member Control*** — Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Men and women serving as elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

**3. *Member Economic Participation*** — Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. They usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

**4. *Autonomy and Independence*** — Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

**5. *Education, Training and Information*** — Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. They inform the general public —



particularly young people and opinion leaders — about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

**6. Cooperation among Cooperatives** — Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**7. Concern for Community** — While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

## **2.2. Historical background of cooperatives in Ethiopia**

Traditional farmer's organizations have a long history in Ethiopia, in particular through work groups (Jige, Wonfel) and rotating credit groups (Iquib). However, starting forty years ago, modern RPOs have emerged and evolved under the impulse of the successive governments: during the imperial ruling period, cooperatives were created to support agricultural production for export purposes. Their members included farmers with large landholdings, while smallholders were excluded (Tanguy B. *et al*, 2006).

During the military era, the government established a wide network of cooperatives to organize the peasants, monitor agricultural prices, levy taxes, extend government control at the local level, and promote socialist ideology through forced participation. Soon, farmers came to view these cooperatives with board of directors and managers appointed by the ruling party as synonymous of government oppression. This system immediately collapsed after the government overthrow in 1991(Ibid).

Since 1994, the Federal government of Ethiopia has expressed renewed interest in cooperative development to support smallholder's participation to market. Three important features distinguish these cooperatives from their predecessors (cf. Proclamation 85/1994): (i) they should be based on "peasants' free will to organize"; (ii) they should have such power to fully participate in the free market; and (iii) they should be rid of the governmental interventions in their internal affairs. More recently, proclamation No. 147/1998 (extending the cooperative status to non-agricultural organizations) stated that "it has become necessary to establish cooperative societies which are formed of individuals on voluntary basis and who have similar needs for creating savings and mutual assistance among themselves by pooling their resources, knowledge and property; it has become necessary to enable cooperative societies to actively participate in the free market system".

This was later reaffirmed in the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP, 2002), in which one of the main measures proposed for the agricultural sector was “to organize, strengthen and diversify autonomous cooperatives to provide better marketing services and serve as bridge between small farmers (peasants) and the non-peasant private sector”. This thrust has continued into the current poverty reduction strategy, which explicitly emphasizes the need to support producer cooperatives as a means of strengthening and empowering smallholders’ market participation in the liberalized market environment (PASDEP, 2005). Cooperatives are also expected to “render vital services other than those related to agricultural marketing, including the following: (i) Expanding financial services in rural areas; (ii) Purchase of agricultural machinery, equipment and implements, and lease them to farmers; (iii) Setting up of small agro-processing industries where processed agricultural products with greater value added could be produced and (iv) Establishing various social institutions to provide different kinds of social services” (SDPRP, 2002).

In 2002 the federal Cooperatives Commission of Ethiopia was created to organize and promote cooperatives at the national level. As of today, its ambitious five year development plan (2005-2010) aims at providing cooperative services to 70% of the population by 2010, increasing the share of the cooperative input marketing up to 90%, and increasing the share in cooperative output marketing to 60%. It also targets to establish 500 new unions (from 100 at present), six federations and a cooperative league. Services in areas ranging from management training, to market information and HIV aids prevention should also be provided, along with the recruitment of several thousand cooperative managers. Finally, the federal cooperative commission aims to increase women participation from 13 to 30%, and youth participation from almost none to 25% by 2010.

### **2.3. Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies**

Multi-purpose cooperatives unlike single purpose cooperatives undertake diversified activities. Multi-purpose cooperatives which function on the basis of a fully integrated framework of activities, planned according to member's requirements identified at grass root level, taking the socioeconomic life of the farmer members in its totality.

Establishment of voluntary, market-oriented multi-purpose farmers cooperatives has shown progress in different regions, nearly 35% of the Peasant Associations (PAs) had at least one such type of organizations in year 2005, (Tanguy Bernard *et al* , 2006).

The trends of growth in organizing cooperatives between the years 2004 - 2006, the number of MPFCs increased by 29 % while membership increased in the same years by 13 %. Average numbers of members per MPFC were 823 and 722 in year 2004 and 2006 respectively. According to CSA about 74 % of the total farmers that is nearly 11 million farmers are engaged in mixed farming, of which 3.6 million ( 32%) of the total are members of MPFCs. These cooperatives play a significant role in input marketing, input credit service, and in output marketing (Ibid).

## **2.4. Concepts of Participation**

### **2.4.1. Participation**

FAO, (1991), People's participation implies the active involvement in development of the rural people, particularly disadvantaged groups that form the mass of the rural population.

Participation should be viewed as an active process in which people take initiatives and action that stimulated by their own thinking and deliberation and which they can effectively influence (Ibid). Active participation of rural people can only brought about through local community and membership-based self-help organizations whose primary aim is the pursuit of their members' social or economic objectives. According to UNDP (1993) participation refers to the close involvement of people in the economic, social cultural and political process that affect their lives. People may, in some cases, have complete and direct control over these processes- in other cases; the control may be partial or indirect. The important thing is that people have constant access to decision making and power. According to Chowdhry and Gilbert (1996) participation is a generic term covering a broad range of activities ranging from one-shot problem identification exercise (E.g.: Participatory rural Appraisal) to continuing association in which rural communities and individual farm families play more active role.

According to Narayanaswamy and Boraian (1998) the concept of community participation refers to the process by people who involve themselves in analysing the local situation, identifying major problems, formulating action plans, mobilising locally available resources,

and executing development projects in order to access the benefits extended to the community at large or specific target groups during a given point of time.

According to Mishra (1998), cited in Surendran, 2000, participation refers to the role of members of the public as distinguished from appointed officials, including civil servants in influencing the activities of the government or in providing directly for community needs. According to Rehman 1998, cited in, Surendran, 2000, defined participation as a process of learning and sharing. Participation process is a goal directed, objective focused on activity of an organization.

### **2.4.2. Members' Participation**

Members' participation is the act of taking part in any activity of the society by all members of the society. According to Selvaraj, in his book cooperative in the New Millennium, for effective functioning of the cooperative movement, enlightened members are the pole of the cooperative. These are members who are knowledgeable, about cooperatives and their ideals and philosophy. These members will make themselves aware of the problems and have the willingness to contribute to the progress of the cooperatives. Such membership ensures member participation in the business and managerial affairs of the cooperatives. Vigilant members prevent financial irregularities and the emergence of vested interest in cooperatives. Thus the health of cooperative improves. As against enlightened members, ignorant, sleepy, inactive, non-participative and indifferent members become a problem in themselves.

According to Marcus, 1988, as cited in Vishwanathan, 2000, in the recently ICA initiated debate on basic values of cooperatives; members' participation has been the first. In more practical terms, members' participation is viewed in terms of participation in management, decision making and control; in business activities and in capital. But with the growing size of the base level cooperative units, and emergence of vertical structures, decision making is gradually shifting away from the base level units. Consequently, ensuring members' direct participation in planning, decision making and control has become difficult, but none-the-less, it is a challenge, that needs and has to be met.

Members' participation in business and capital, in some way is related to the performance of a cooperative, but also to the kind of services that a cooperative offers and the degree of integration that is achieved between the cooperative and the members.

### 2.4.3. Typology of Participation

According to Pimbert and Pretty (1997), cited in, Surender, 2000, suggested seven levels of participation. Passive, participation to provide information; participate when they are needed for consulting, participation for materials supply, function based participation, interactive and self mobilizing.

**Table 1: Types of participation**

No.	Typology of participation	Description
1	Passive participation	People participate by being told what is going to happen or what has already happened. This tends to be a unilateral announcement and people's responses are not taken into account.
2	Participation in information Giving	People participate by answering questions designed by researchers and project managers. They do not have the opportunity to influence proceedings as the findings are neither shared nor checked for accuracy.
3	Participation by consultation	People participate by being consulted, and external agents listen to views. External agents define both problems and solutions, and may modify these in the light of people's responses. People do not share in decision making as their views may or may not be taken on board.
4	Participation for material incentive	People participate by providing resources (e.g., labor in return for food or cash). Such people are not involved in the experimentation and have no stake in maintaining activities when incentives end.
5	Functional participation	People participate by forming groups to leads to action plans and the formation of new local groups or the strengthening of existing ones. Groups take control over local decisions; thus, people have a stake in maintaining structures or practices.
6	Interactive participation	People participate in joint analysis, which leads to action plans and the formation of new local groups or the strengthening of existing ones. Groups take control over local decisions; thus, people have a stake in maintaining structures or practices.
7	Self mobilization	People participate by taking initiatives independent of external institutions to change systems. They may or may not challenge existing inequitable distribution of wealth and power.

## **2.4.4. Measurements of Participation**

According to Thomas and Charles (1998) cited in Kirub,2009 , Participation measures include attendance at meetings, serving on committees, serving as an elected officer, and recruiting other farmers to become members. According to USA, Department of Cooperative Service, Cooperative Information Report **1**, Section **7**, 1998, members participation or responsibilities includes, attending general meetings, utilization of services, building cooperative capital stock. According to FAO, members act as both users and owners in the development of cooperative organization through participation at three levels:- Participation in the provision of resources (capital, labor ...) , participation in the decision making process as a member in the general assembly, participation in the produced benefits (output participation), in the form of a patronage use of facilities and services.

## **2.4.5. Factors Affecting Participation**

Clark (1991) cited in Berhane G., 2008, identified the elements essential for securing active participation of farmers' groups such as: (1) small homogenous group; (2) supplementary income generation activities; (3) institutional credit; (4) group promoters; (5) training to group members; (6) group savings; (7) ready access to extension service; (8) participatory monitoring and evaluation; and (9) group self reliance. He also observed the indicators of self-reliance of farmers' groups as (1) regulatory of group meetings and level of attendance; (2) shared leadership and member participation in group decision making; (3) continuous growth in group savings; (4) high rates of loans repayment; (5) group problem solving; and (6) effective link with extension and other development services. Mukherjee (1997) cited in Berhane G, 2008 observed that the level of participation tends to fluctuate with passage of time. Sometimes it remains at a low key and then takes off and/or dissipates. While on other occasions, there emerges a high level community participation which slowly moderates itself and becomes steady.

Rehman and Rehman , 1998 cited in Berhane,2008 found out the factors which determine the nature of participation of the people in development programmes such as: (1) the willingness to participate; (2) the desirability to participate; (3) the representative nature of participants in conflict the local bodies in terms of society as a whole or classes and castes; (4) the asset distribution pattern among the participants and the resultant dynamics in inter-relationships;

and (5) the of interests between the stakeholders and direct beneficiaries of the development programme.

## **2.5. Overview of Policy Approaches to Women**

Throughout the Third World, particularly in the past 20 years, there has been a proliferation of policies, programmers, and projects designed to assist low-income women. This concern for low-income women's needs has coincided historically with recognition of their important role in development. Since the 1950's, many different intervention strategies have been formulated to address women's needs which reflect changes in macro-level economic and social policy approaches to Third World Development, as well as in state policy towards women. It is becoming increasingly realized that community development cannot separate itself from women. The UN decade for women (1976-1985) highlighted the importance of women in the development process, establishing that women perform two thirds of the world's work, receive only ten percent of the world's income, and own only one percent of the means of production (Mosser, 1993). Considering that three quarters of the world's population receives only about one fifth of the world's income, the magnitude of the dispossession of the world's poorest women comes into focus. Prior to 1970, development assumed to benefit women through a 'trickle-down' process of the benefits from economic growth. However, women have had relative powerlessness in decision making about development and in many cases workloads and problems have increased due to development activities (Gabriel, 1991).

The three distinctive models (WID, WAD and GAD) were well adapted in different times. These models seek to explain how development affects women and why women and men are affected by development differently.

### **2.5.1. Women in Development/WID/**

The concept of WID has emerged in 1970s and it was more concerned about women. The WID approach considered that women were being out of development. It began with uncritical acceptance of existing social structures and focused on how women could be better integrated into existing development initiatives (Boserup, 1970 cited in Wude Bekalu, 2006). The main focus of this approach is the economic independence of women (Ali Hassen, 2007). It underlies the important of women in development and argues that women should be the

targets for development (Ibid). However, it became clear that such an approach making women as the only target entity for development and could not guarantee the expected positive and sustainable development. This approach overlooked the immense relationship of men to women to bring the desired development. The WID approach saw the problem as the exclusion of women from development programmes and approaches that failed to address the systemic causes of gender inequality. As a result, this approach argued about the strategies on how to include women in development programmes WID concentrated only just the inequalities between men and women and overlooked the social, cultural, legal and economic factors that give mount to those inequalities in society; WID tended to focus on women almost exclusively and assumed that women were outside the mainstream of development. In general, WID fail to consider men. As a result of criticisms of the WID approach, the Women and Development (WAD) approach arose in the latter part of the 1970s(Boserup, 1970 cited in Wude Bekalu, 2006).

### **2.5.2. Women and Development/WAD/**

The focus of this approach was on women and they had always been part of the development processes. The feminist liberal proponents of WAD theories stressed the important recognition within Marxist theory of women's unpaid domestic work and reproductive services as critically important for capitalist employers. WAD asserts that women have always been important economic actors. Lucy 2002 cited in Wude, 2006) said that the work they do both inside and outside the household is critical to the maintenance of society.

Basically, the focus of WAD is on the interaction between women and development processes not on strategies to integrate women into development. WAD saw both women and men as not benefiting from the global economic structures because of disadvantages due to class and the way wealth is distributed and WAD also was very persuasive in raising the debate that women have a role not only in reproduction but in production as well. Therefore, she argued that for development to be meaningful both men's and women's roles have to be acknowledged. Though, WAD has been criticized for assuming that the position of women would improve when international structures become more equitable.



### **2.5.3. Gender and Development/Gender in Development**

Gender and development approach started in the mid 1980s and stated to be the influential approach. The approach is multifaceted and embraces environmental, ethical, cultural and other related development factors within it (Ali Hassen, 2007). This approach uses gender as a basis of analysis and underscores the issue of how women and men define their role to analyse the different roles of men and women in development activities. The approach makes a fundamental shift from purely economic to the social variables to incorporate gender issue in development activities. The approach established the centrality of women's role as fundamental tool for development. It also stresses that development should include the breaking down of the structure of gender inequality and subordination (Mosses, 1993).

The focus on gender rather than women makes it critical to look not only at the category 'women', since that is only half the story but at women in relation to men, and the way in which relationship between these categories are socially constructed. It also views men as potential supporters of women and doesn't assume that men are invariably wrongheaded or wicked. And it is not true that women are in some way unquestionably or unsuitably right in all forms of behaviour, in all their aims or objectives (Kate Young 1995 cited in Berhan, 2010).

This approach starts from a holistic perspective. That is, it looks at the totality of social organizations, economic and political life in order to understand the shaping of particular aspects of a society (Ibid). In reaction to the Women in Development (WID) approach, which in the 1970s encouraging treating women's issues as a separate concerns, the Gender and Development (GAD) approach argued for an integrated gender-planning perspective in all development work, concentrating on the power relations between women and men. As a result it doesn't focus on the roles of women like the triple roles of women, which were the focus in WID to understand the particular setting of women's lives. Rather it focuses on the fit between family, household or the domestic life and the organization of both political and economic spheres.

## 2.6. National women's policy in Ethiopia

There have been various policies concerning women directly or indirectly in Ethiopia. The Transitional Government of Ethiopia recognized lack of participation of women in the development activities and in political affairs of their society, there emerged a willingness on the part of the state to treat women's problems as worth noting. It also aspired to alleviating them out of poverty and introduced a National Policy on Ethiopian Women in 1993. The novelty of the policy lies on the fact that it follows rights based approach and thrives to mainstream gender in policies, laws and regulation; plans and activities of any sector. This is the major strategy pursued by the GAD. The policy challenged the long held gender inequality that was tolerated in the laws and institutions. This is reflected as primary part of its main objectives, which includes creating conducive legal and institutional atmosphere that promotes respect for human rights of women; ensuring their equality and enabling them to equally participate in the political, economic and social life of their society. The major function of the policy has been shortly summarized as follows.

*"The policy primarily aims to institutionalize the political, economic and social rights of women by creating appropriate structures within the government offices and institutions to establish equitable gender sensitive policies" (TGE, 1993).*

Gender equality forms the corner stone in the mainstreaming efforts along with the equal participation of women in any government organizations and structures that carry out developmental activities and to equally benefit from. So, as a result rural development is inconceivable without the active participation of women. So the matter calls for a reconsideration of rural development strategies, which must take into account the role of women in rural production and distribution in order to simultaneously ameliorate the working and living conditions of rural women and raise their productivity, thereby contributing to the overall development objectives. The National Policy in its introduction, which justifies the above statements summarized as follows:

*"...although women's contribution to economic development and the welfare of the society is both significant and multifaceted, the economic, political, and cultural bias against them has hindered women from enjoying the fruits of their contribution, unlike their male Peers (ibid)*

So the policy paper adds.

*"... it is essential to improve the level of income of women and to facilitate their labor at the appropriate place and benefit"*

Ensuring ownership rights of women, their activity participation and consequent benefits in the economic, social and political life of their society forms a major objective under the national policy.

Hence, one of the successful steps which aim to provide women with the condition for their economic independence and empowerment is allowing the poor and especially women with access to financial services.

## **2.7. Women and Food Security Issues**

The world's experiences show that food security is encompassed a broad range of issues: population growth, control and mobility, resource distribution, consumption patterns, agricultural patterns, climate change, environment degradation, socioeconomic status, development, trade relations, land ownership rights, access to microfinance and to health services (Trinh T. and Ha T., 2009). All these issues are central to women. Agricultural development is a complex process and a challenging one as well. Rural women farmers play a vital role in food production and food security. They account for 70% of agricultural workers, 80% of food producers, and 100% of those who process basic foodstuffs and they undertake from 60% to 90% of the marketing (Fresco, 1998). Four of ten agricultural workers in the world are women (UN, 1986). Women take part actively in farming activities and in processing farm products, in addition to their domestic and reproductive responsibilities. FAO (1998) asserts that women are the majority of the world's producers, playing important roles in fisheries and forestry as well as farming. In many places of the world, women are responsible for ensuring their family's food either by producing or purchasing. Moreover, they are also those who often prepare for their family's food. It is often stated that women are responsible for more than half the world's food production overall and produce up to 60 to 80% of basic foodstuff in Africa (Fresco, 1998).

The role women play in agriculture and the rural society is fundamental to agricultural and rural development in sub-Saharan Africa. The Technical Centre for Agriculture and rural cooperation (CTA, 1993) reported that women in Africa make up more than one third of the work force. In most African rural areas women work an average of 12 to 18 hours per day compared to an average of 8 to 12 hours per day by men. Sneyder and Tadesse (1995 cited in Journal of International Women Studies, 2002) comment on rural women who worked almost

90% of roadwork under the “Food-for-work” programme in Lesotho. They expressed that the role of rural women is not only central to social, but also to economic progress in their respective countries. They also recommended work done by rural women in Gabon and Tanzania during the 200 days in a year, saying that men worked only 1,800 hours compared to 2,600 hours by women in agriculture, and that rural women worked harder than anyone else in these countries. Women in South Africa’s rural areas are the ones who run the families, while their husbands are working in the cities. Traditionally, women in rural areas have been regarded as people who belong at home, expected to minister to their husbands and children, but when it comes to making decisions on economic and political issues, men take the lead (Ntomb’futhi Zondo, 1995 cited in Kongolo M.i and Bamgose O., 2002). In most African countries, rural women are the food farmers, and carry the burdens of life. Africa’s 100 million rural women grow almost 80 % of Africa’s food, including food for subsistence and food for markets. This amounts to food production of 3 metric tons each year per woman. Rural women do almost 80% of the work to provide the proper transport and storage of Africa’s food. They do almost 90% of the work to process Africa’s food, including the tasks such as threshing, drying, winnowing, peeling, grating, sieving, and pounding. They also do almost 60% of the work related to marketing Africa’s food. Yet they face gender-specific barriers in accessing financial services, and can receive less than 1% of the total credit to small farmers and 10% of the total credit to agriculture (Hunger Project, 1999).

Not only do women produce and process agricultural products but they are also responsible for much of the trade in these and other goods in many parts of the third world. In many parts of the world, women continue to play an important role as rural information sources and providers of food to urban areas (Daman P., 2003). This may involve food from the sea as well as from the land. Although women rarely work as fisher people they are often involved in net-making and the preparation and sale of the catch. Across much of the developing world, rural women provide most of the labour for farming, from soil preparation to harvest. After the harvest, they are almost entirely responsible for operations such as storage, handling, stocking, marketing and processing. Women in rural areas generally bear primary responsibility for the nutrition of their children, from gestation through weaning and throughout the critical period of growth. In addition, they are the principal food producers and preparers for the rest of the family (Ibid).

Ethiopian women are involved in the entire gamut of agricultural activities. They are involved in different activities like seed cleaning, land preparation, sowing, weeding, hoeing, scaring birds, harvesting, preparation of threshing field, collection and piling farm products, winnowing, transporting, storing, food preparation labour assistance in the field, crop storage container-making and care of stored seeds.

Wudnesh (1997) in her women and development study for Southern Nations and nationalities verified the fact that women in the study areas actually participated in crop and livestock production as they share 33 – 37% of crop production. Similarly they perform 70% of livestock production activities caring for animals around homestead, cutting grass, hay processing, getting water, inborn cleaning, processing dairy products, poultry keeping and marketing of animal products were indicated as major activities of women. On the other hand, it was noted that women contributed 15 – 25% of the labour needed in a forestation and soil conservation programs.

Similar studies undertaken by the above researcher in selected weredas of Tigray and Amhara regions have confirmed the fact that women actively participate in agricultural production. Their participation in crop production is mainly in seed cleaning, land preparation, weeding, harvesting, winnowing, manuring, transport and storage of harvest crop, watering, hoeing, threshing, ground preparation, and food preparation for people working in the field. In animal production women play major roles by feeding and caring for animals and in the processing of animal products and in poultry keeping. On the other hand they actively participate in a forestation and soil conservation programs. Women's role in livestock production was significant in the study weredas of both Tigray and Amhara regions. The study indicated that they spend major time caring for animals, fetching water, barn cleaning, dairy processing, poultry keeping, trekking animals to water points and vaccination centres.

Findings of similar study undertaken in Afar Region by ECA (1997) also indicated that all members of the household (men, women and youth) play important roles in animal husbandry. Camels are mainly looked by men; cattle, sheep and goats are herd by women, men and youth. Milking camel is exclusively done by men while milking cattle is done by men and women. Milk processing and marketing is done by women.

The role that women play in agriculture varies from region to region. Study made in three regions of Ethiopia (Amhara, Tigray and SNNPRS) showed that about 50 %, 47-58%, and 34% of the total labor and time inputs in crop production are contributed by women (Wudnesh, 2000 cited in Hiwot M, 2002). The study indicated that women make an important contribution to food

production through the long hours women spend on the farm in caring for household animals, selling farm products, and in processing food at home.

## **2.8. Women in Cooperatives**

Women are represented in various forms and in various types of cooperatives in the World. In most countries of the world women membership in mixed membership. In societies where culture restricts women's membership in cooperatives, women-only cooperatives proliferate. It is in women-only cooperatives that women feel freer and less restricted in their participation in cooperatives. According to Daman Parakash in countries like India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, women comprise just 7.5% as compared with men (92.5%) of the total membership. In Malaysia it is around 30.6%. In many of the Asian countries women's membership is low [ranging from 2 to 10.5%] in agricultural cooperatives. This reflects the age-old stereotype that men are the farmers and not the women, and the title of the farm property should be in the name of the man. This situation automatically prohibits women to be the members. Out of a total of 450,000 cooperatives with a total membership of 204.5 million in India, there were 8,171 women-only cooperatives with a total membership of 693,000(Daman P., 2003).

Women in Africa have a long tradition of participating in savings, production, and marketing and mutual-aid organizations. Many rural women rely on cooperatives and market groups as a way to pool resources, reduce their workload, and optimize limited income. Microcredit programme results have shown that women tend to be more prompt and reliable in their repayment of loans, and spend their increased earnings on children first, thereby improving nutrition, health and educational opportunities (Eva M., 2010).

While the advantages of the cooperative approach are clear, challenges persist. In cooperatives in the majority of African countries, women remain under-represented as both employees, members and in particular leaders. For instance, ICA data<sup>15</sup> from Kenya show that women comprise 40% of employees in agricultural cooperatives, only 26% of members, and a mere 9% of management (Ibid).. Achieving active and equal participation of women - being able to influence decision-making and shape the cooperative's agenda as leaders, or being able to access benefits such as services or education as members, for instance - which is not shown by statistics, is an even greater challenge, although the democratic nature of the

cooperative does mean women members, like men, can have a stronger voice in the cooperative's matters than in other types of enterprise (Ibid)..

In Ethiopia the proportion of women member in the cooperative society is too small that is highly dominated by men. For instance, Coop AFRICA research<sup>14</sup> reveals that in Ethiopia, only 18% of cooperative members are women (Eva M, 2010). The participation of the rural women in the cooperative management and control of the activities of the organization is very low. There is no woman member in the management and credit committee. The control and social affair committee of the cooperative have only one woman member which is 9.1% of the committee (Bikila, 2003). Findings from study revealed that less than 20 percent of women had access to the various training opportunities in cooperatives (Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute, 2006 cited in Desalew, 2009).

## **2.9. The Socio- Economic Contribution of Cooperatives to women**

According to FAO (2010), Cooperatives can provide a wide range of economic and social services to women in rural areas. These include access to input and output markets, as well as financial services such as credit and insurance. By acting collectively within cooperatives, women increase their bargaining power and income while reducing their transaction costs. In addition, cooperatives play an important role in job creation by directly supporting productive self-employment and generating additional employment opportunities. Ultimately, cooperatives can create a safe environment where women increase their self-confidence, identify their own challenges, make decisions and manage risks. Cooperatives can enable women to exercise political leadership and to learn about financial profitability and accounting. As a result, women are empowered and become active agents of change, entrepreneurs and promoters of social transformation who can improve their own lives and those of the community. Agricultural cooperatives also promote the participation of women in economic production, which, in turn helps in food production and rural development. Through cooperatives, women are able to unite in solidarity and provide a network of mutual support to overcome cultural restrictions to pursuing commercial or economic activities (UN, 2009). By enabling women and men farmers, or women only, to come together for purposes of acquiring inputs, production services, and the marketing of their produce, among others, agricultural cooperatives enhance productive capacity and give access to markets to those -

such as women small holders - who when operating individually would not be able to benefit from these opportunities due for instance to a low purchasing power, a lack of productive assets, or cultural barriers. While women's presence in agricultural cooperatives in Africa is limited (because of factors such as landownership patterns, the division of roles and types of jobs in agriculture), women are becoming increasingly cooperatively organized in agriculture, and there is solid evidence that cooperative membership enhances productivity, incomes and the quality of life for both the members as well as the community at wide.

Experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local government bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in decision making process(Daman P., 2003).

Cooperation offers not only economic benefit to members but also confers a number of benefits to the society. This is so because the object of cooperation is to transform the member's condition in such a way that he makes his social life richer and happier. The ultimate aim of cooperation is to develop men-men imbued with the spirit of self help and mutual help in order that individually they may rise to a full personal life and collectively to full social life (Dr.Fauquet cited in Desalew, 2009).

Moreover, Cooperatives, organized as business enterprises for the benefit of their members, offer a model of enterprise that is particularly relevant in difficult economic times and instances of market failures. As a self-help group, a cooperative organization is widely accessible, especially for the impoverished and the marginalized. Where private enterprise or government is weak, particularly in remote rural areas, cooperatives enable local people to organize and improve their conditions. Cooperatives promote and support entrepreneurial development, creating productive employment, raising incomes and helping to reduce poverty while enhancing social inclusion, social protection and community-building. Thus, while they directly benefit their members, they also offer positive externalities for the rest of society and have a transformational impact on the economy (Desalew, 2009).

Furthermore, apart from their economic potentials, cooperatives are also reported to offer their members socio-psychological benefits such as a sense of security and belonging, an awareness of personal influence and importance in the local organization (Saikou, et al., 2008). For member entrepreneurs, cooperatives provide the setting for collective problem-solving and articulation of strategic and basic needs. The support and mutual encouragement a group of entrepreneur can assist each other in order to maintain or boost their self-



confidence. Solidarity, social responsibility, equity and caring for others are among the core values on which genuine cooperatives are based (Ibid).

## **2.10. Factors affecting women participation in cooperative**

The world over, statistics show that women's participation in cooperatives is low, especially in rural cooperatives. In the developing world, cultural and religious factors are often hinder its movement: women's "inside" role, discretion, not speaking in front of men, traditions of men negotiating and handling money matters, illiteracy, family size supposed inferior abilities, and social pressures make it difficult for women to play an active and visible public role(Journal of International Women's Studies, 2002).

To date women's active involvement and leadership in agricultural cooperatives continue to be rather low. Beyond the social, political and economic constraints, women often face cultural barriers that restrict their involvement in public meetings or that place their domestic responsibilities before their economic or social involvement in agricultural cooperatives. In some countries, this is due to the basic fact that only owners and tenants of land, most often men, can become members of agricultural cooperatives or that the fee charged for cooperative membership is beyond the means of economically dependent rural women (FAO, 2010).

The reasons for the persisting gender inequality are numerous and complex, but include, among others factors, basic structural and socio-cultural issues beyond the control of the cooperative movement – such as inequalities in access to resources, education and training, unequal division of labour and use of time between women and men as well as stereotyped conceptions on the roles of women and men – as well as legal constraints stemming from cooperative law or, as is more of frequently the case, related legislation (property, land and inheritance rights) or cooperative by-laws(Eva M., 2010).

A research conducted on Socio-economic factors affecting the participation of women in agricultural co-operatives in Gwoza local government, Borno state, Nigeria revealed that cultural beliefs and low level of education were found to be the major problems militating against women participation in co-operatives (YL Idrisa, et al, 2007).

A study conducted by Paris Andreou the case of Libanon showed that women's participation in co-operatives and community development programmes has been constrained by many factors such as a false perception on the part of women of their role in society, family and political conflicts and lack of government interest in women's issues and programmes (Paris A.,2004).

# CHAPTER III

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 3.1. Description of the Afar Region

#### 3.1.1. Location

The Afar National Regional State is one of the regional states in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia which is located in the Northeast part of the country. It is geographically located between 39° 34' and 42° 28' East Longitude and 8° 49' and 14° 30' North Latitude. The Region shares common boundaries with Tigray in the northwest, Amhara in south west, Oromiya in south and in southeast Somalia Regions and has two International boundaries in east Djibouti and northeast Eritrea. The Region covers an area of 195,238 square kilometers which is 17.15% of the country. At present the region is divided in 5 administrative zones, 32 weredas, and 358 kebeles (Afar atlas, 2006)

#### 3.1.2 Population Size and Distribution

In 2008 CSA statistical abstract, the total population size of the region is 1,411,092 of which 786,338 are male and 624,754 are female and out of this 90% reside in rural area and 10% in urban area. The spatial distribution varies from zone to zone i.e. 29.85%, 19.62%, 13.32%, 11.33% and 25.27% lives in the zone One, Two, Three, Four and Five respectively.

**Table 2: population distribution of Afar region by administrative zones**

Total population			
Zones	Female	Male	Total
Zone 1	191,217	230,573	421,790
Zone 2	155,294	196,137	351,431
Zone 3	89,725	108,903	198,628
Zone 4	110,071	145,471	255,542
Zone 5	78,447	105,254	183,701
<b>Total</b>	<b>624,754</b>	<b>786,338</b>	<b>1,411,092</b>

*Source:* CSA, 2008

### **3.1.3 Temperature of the Region**

The regions' temperature is usually high and ranges from 12<sup>o</sup> c to 48<sup>o</sup> c, May, June and July being the hottest months, and January and February the coldest months. (The Afar Depression, part of the East African Rift system, is the site of a trip junction where three tectonic plates of the earth's crust are moving away from each other, and is therefore the site of much past and present volcanic activity(Afar atlas, 2006).

### **3.1.4. Rainfall**

The amount of annual rainfall of the region varies, in different seasons. This seasonal amount of rainfall basically depends on a strong air flow from the south west to the north east that is caused by a deep low pressure zone over the Arabian Sea and the northern Indian Ocean. The region is highly characterized by low rainfall zone. The rainfall of the region is highly associated with altitude and vegetation cover of the area. Relatively high altitude area such as western part of zone five, zone one and four receives >900 mm of rain. These area covers 0.88% of the region area. Whereas most part of zone one and zone two receives < 300mm. It covers 51.33% of the region (Afar atlas, 2006).

### **3.1.5. Livelihoods**

The dominant source of livelihoods in the region is pastoralism, with limited levels of crop cultivation and other activities. Afar pastoralists raise mixed species of primary livestock, including camels and cattle, and keep supplementary herds of goats and sheep, usually for commercial purposes. They manage their livestock under an extensive mobile system; with natural pasturage being the main source of livestock feed (Bekele H. and Martina P., 2008).

Pastoralists are predominantly nomadic with approximately 80 % practicing transhumant pastoralism. Pastoral livelihoods have evolved over many centuries and are a rational response to a rainfall regime with low and erratic rainfall. Human and animal mobility ensure maximum sustainable use of the marginal grazing resource. The agro-pastorals in Afar region are located mainly in the woredas adjacent to the neighbouring highland regions, specifically in Argoba, Dulecha, Fursee, Semu robi, Abala and Afambo woredas. Livelihood of agro-pastoralists is based on crop production (Sorghum, maize, Teff and cotton), honey production and livestock production (Joanne P, et. al, 2005)

### **3.1.6. Cooperative Activities in the Region**

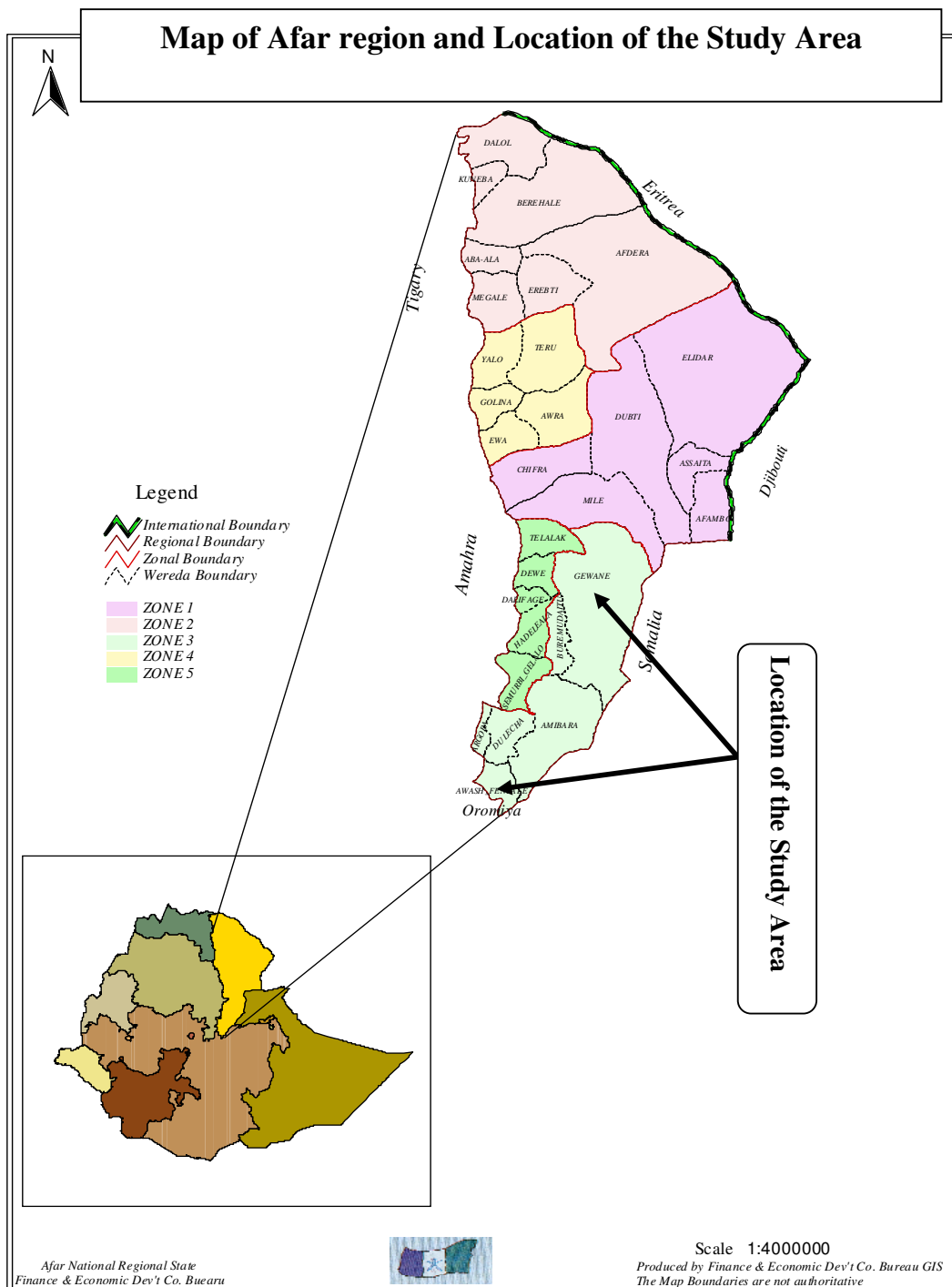
At present, the Ethiopian government gives due emphasis for the development of the cooperative sector and has enacted Cooperatives Proclamation. The required human resource has been assigned starting from the woreda to federal level. There is even a plan to assign cooperative extension workers at kebele level which is the basic political structure of the government. Today the environment is conducive for the development of self reliant and autonomous cooperatives. Due to the favorable conditions created by the Federal Government of Ethiopia member oriented cooperatives have been established in the region. Based on these different types of cooperatives have been organized and operational in the region. Most of these cooperatives are participating in multisectoral activities (multi-purpose cooperatives) and irrigation development; and still some others are participated in salt marketing, milk and milk products marketing, livestock marketing, saving and credit activities(Afar Atlas, 2006).

Modern cooperatives in the region had started when the Bureau of cooperative Promotion were established in 2002. Most cooperatives in Afar region are at infant stage and are not well functioning; even no cooperative is organized at the union (secondary) level. Information from Bureau of Pastoral Agriculture and Rural Development of Afar region shows that currently 239 primary cooperatives have been organized and made operational in the region. Among these, 113 are multipurpose cooperatives which are organized in the region, out of these 17 multipurpose cooperatives are situated in Awash Fentale and Gewane Woreda. They are playing great role in production, marketing, supplying of input and provision of credit (Afar Region PARDB, 2009)

**Table 3: Types of cooperatives, number of cooperatives and number of members in Afar region as of 2009**

S/n	Types of cooperative	Number of coop	Number of members	
			No of male	No of female
1	Multipurpose cooperatives	113	2874	1063
2	Irrigation cooperative	19	1835	1361
3	Salt producers cooperative	3	971	81
4	Livestock marketing cooperative	19	351	40
5	Saving and credit cooperative	31	301	447
6	Dairy cooperative	8	0	187
7	Electric cooperative	1	76	29
8	Animal drug suppliers cooperative	4	99	11
9	Consumer cooperative	14	299	47
10	Metal workers cooperative	7	120	29
11	Transport cooperative	1	122	8
12	Animal feed producers cooperative	3	29	8
13	Housing cooperative	1	24	1
14	Others	15	293	245
<b>Total</b>		<b>239</b>	<b>7394</b>	<b>3557</b>

*Source:* Afar Region BPARD, 2009



**Figure 1: Map of Afar region and Location of the Study Area**

*Source:* Afar Atlas 2009

## **3.2. Description of the Study Weredas**

### **3.2.1. Gewane Wereda**

Gewane wereda is located some 365 Kms from Addis Ababa towards east along the main road that connects Addis Ababa with the port of Djibouti. It is also located 207 kms south of Semera, the capital of the region. The Wereda is administratively divided between 7 rural and 3 urban kebeles/PAs. The total area of Gewane Woreda is 59640 ha. Gewane is Part of the Administrative of Zone 3.

#### **3.2.1.1. Human Population**

According to the 2008 Ethiopian central statistical authority report the Woreda has an estimated total population of 31,313 of whom 17,167 are males and 14, 146 are females (CSA, 2008)

#### **3.2.1.2. Livestock population**

The major types of livestock reared in the wereda include: Cattle, Goat, Sheep, Camel, and donkeys. In general, there are 408,492 live stocks in the wereda of which 132,142 or 32 %, 118,720 or 29%, 85,000 or 21%, 72,000 or 18%, 630 or 0% are Goat, cattle, sheep, camel and donkey respectively (Afar livelihood Survey, 2009). Be the above as it may, according to the regional atlas prepared in Coordination with Bureau of Finance and Economic Development in the year 2006, Gewane has the least density of livestock in the region with an average of less than 50 livestock per one square kilometer of land /50 per km<sup>2</sup>/. The composition of the animals as indicated above goat is the top livestock production, which is followed by cattle and sheep as the second and third respectively in the herd composition. Then follow camels and donkey in their order of importance in the herd composition.

#### **3.2.1.3. Climate**

Gewane is characterized as semi-arid climatic zone, with average annual rainfall of about 500mm (regional annual report, 2005). The rainfall has a bimodal distribution pattern with the main rains locally (Karma) from mid-July to mid-September and the small rains locally (Sugum) from March to April. There is always uncertainty with the occurrence of rainfall, which makes condition unsuitable for crop production using a rainfall to an extent that it is very difficult or impossible at all (Yirgalem, 2001). As the wereda is semi-arid the temperature level is falls between 28 and 42 °c / with an average temperature of 35°c/.



Seasonal variations reveal that the temperature is moderate in the months between September and November (locally known as Gilal), and also in the months of December through January (locally Sugum). The highest temperature is in the months between March and May (Hagay). It is generally low from June through August.

#### **3.2.1.4. Soil**

The Physiography is mostly plains and undulating side-slopes with 0-8% slopes. The soil types are eutric Fluvisols, Vertisols, orthic Solonchaks, eutric Regosols and vertic Cambisols with moderately deep to deep, loam to loamy sand texture and moderately well drainage class. Among the factors responsible for the nature and distribution of soils in the region, climate, geology and topography are the dominant ones (MoA, 1997). Owing to the low-lying topography a number of both perennial and intermittent streams drain into the region, Awash and Mille, which carry the top-fertile soil materials from the highlands and deposit in the region. The prevailing hot climate encourages soil moisture loss through evaporation and concomitant accumulation of salts on the soil surface. Some part of the arable land is abandoned due to soil salinity because of inappropriate irrigation practice around Awash River, and high evapo-transpiration potential of the area. The dominant soils are sandy in texture developed from alluvial deposits resulting from flood coming from nearby upland areas. Exposed rocks and gravel dominate most of the hills and ridges. Deposits of silt and fine sand particles occur in the plain, flat areas where cultivation is practiced (Anonymous, undated).

#### **3.2.1.5. Vegetation**

Vegetation type composed of woods or bushes found along the major perennial rivers, mainly the Awash River, which cover a total area of 145,000 hectares, which is about 1.58% of the total regional area. Gewane Wereda constitutes 63,771 hectares, which is about 43% of the total reverie woodland or bush land cover. The vegetation in the Wereda is evergreen due to continuous water supply from the Awash River and is browsed by the livestock (Camels and Goats) during the dry season (Abdurahman, 2004). When we look at the distribution of the total land size of the Wereda for different purposes and types we find that 6.64% of the total land area of the Wereda is cultivated land while 35% of the land is allocated for grazing pasture. 25% of the land and 15% of the land is covered by forest and bush, and arable lands respectively. The rest 18.36 % are either barren or rocky and for settlement (Afar livelihood Survey, 2007).

### **3.2.1.6. Livelihood**

The livelihood of inhabitants in Gewane wereda is predominantly pastoralism, although agro-pastoralism is increasingly practiced. Furthermore, charcoal production, petty-trade and employment in local government and NGOs also constitute the means of living mainly for urban dwellers. In general, the main source of food in the weredas is own production of livestock and livestock products and cereal crops, production. A significant proportion of the population also depends on purchased food from the market. The entire community livelihood in the rural areas is based on livestock production. Livestock represents the most important economic activity in the wereda and the sector provides a significant proportion of the overall livelihoods asset base and activities of the inhabitants in the wereda, although there are some indications of farming activities by individual and groups and associations in some pocket areas (Afar livelihood Survey, 2007).

### **3.2.2. Awash Fentale Wereda**

Awash Fentale is found in middle awash rift valley some 225 Kms from Addis Ababa towards east along the main road that connects Addis Ababa to Djibouti road and Addis Ababa to Dire Dawa- Harar road.it is situated in Zone 3 of the afar national regional State. The woreda is bordered by Dulecha Woreda to the North, Amibara woreda to the East of Afar region, Amhara National Regional State to the North West, Oromia National Regional State to the South and Awash National Park to the West. The altitude ranges between 750 - 1050 m.a.s.l. Awash Fentale covers a total area of 180,000 hectares, which is characterized by flat plain and a few prominent peak. The most conspicuous of all the peak is the Fentale Mountain with a sharp rise to 2000 m.a.s.l. (Kidane-wolde Y., 1991). Administratively, the woreda is divided into six administrative structural kebeles.

#### **3.2.2.1. Human Population**

The population is estimated to 29775 of which males constitute 15471 while females constitute 14304(CSA, 2008).

#### **3.2.2.2. Livestock**

The livestock population of the woreda is estimated to be 101,157 (cattle 38,213, goat 51,508, Camel 10,091 and pack animals 1,345(CSA, 2001).

### **3.2.2.3. Climate**

The arid climatic condition is prevailing in the woreda. The temperatures vary from mean monthly minimum of 11.6<sup>0</sup>c and 24.90<sup>0</sup>c to mean monthly maximum of 33<sup>0</sup>c and 40<sup>0</sup>c in December and June respectively. The mean annual rainfall is 450 mm, which is based on the 24 years mean rainfall data of the area (Were Agro metrological station). (Kidane-wolde Y., 1991).

### **3.2.2.4. Soils**

Alluvial deposits are found in irrigated land and outside the flood plain (drier areas) is dominated by rocky and thin soil cover.

The soils of the area consist of various types and formation patterns including an extensive original under layer of dense welded tuff. A thin coating of fine, windblown dust of lacustrine origin, thick layers of alluvial and /or colluvial deposite or dense layer of ash or volcanic debris have covered the tuff. The soil types of the area include those of volcanic origin (e.g. base of Mt. Fentalle ), Ancient alluvial and colluvial soil and also recent alluvial soils that are found along the banks of the Awash, kesem and kebena river.

### **3.2.2.5. Vegetation**

Vegetation cover varies between open rock or soil, often the result of more recent periods of volcanic activity, through open grassland plains, to dense canopy Acacia or Ficus woodland found in riverine areas. The type of vegetation found varies according to the base soils and climatic conditions found in the area, and to an extent by the height variable on Fantale Mountain. The varied vegetation cover is an essential element for maintaining the diverse mammal/ungulate population.

### **3.2.2.6. Livelihood**

The major source of house hold economy is based on livestock rearing and 85% of the total populations are pastoralist and the others 15% are agro-pastoralist. Administratively, the woreda is divided into six admintrative structural kebeles.

### 3.3. Research Method

#### 3.3.1. Sampling Technique

From the Afar region of Ethiopia, zone 3 was selected purposively because of the existence of larger number of multipurpose cooperatives with good potential. Then two woredas namely Gewane and Awash Fentale Woredas were selected randomly out of 6 woredas. In the study Woredas there are 17 MPCs. All multipurpose cooperatives within the woredas were included except male only multipurpose cooperatives and multipurpose cooperatives which are organized in a few months ago and which are infant and not functioning well. Accordingly a total of 10 MPC were selected purposefully. For this particular study all women members in the multipurpose cooperatives were included. Therefore the study employed a total of 90 women respondents.

Here, table 5 illustrates the selected sample woredas and number of multipurpose cooperatives with their respective sample size.

**Table 4: Selected MP cooperatives and respondents in the sample**

S.N	Woreda	Total No of MPC	No of MPC selected	Members		Census/all female
				Male	Female	
1	Awash Fentale	10	6	275	55	55
2	Gewane	7	4	175	35	35
3	Total	17	10	450	90	90

*Source:* Primary data collected through field survey (March, 2010)

In addition, a sample size of 10 experts were selected from each woredas; four from Woreda pastoral development bureaus, three from Woreda cooperative promotion bureau and three women from Woreda women affair bureau for the purpose of conducting the Focus group discussion. Therefore, a total of 110 respondents were sampled for the study.

### **3.3.2. Data Collection Procedures and Sources**

For the purpose of attaining the research objectives, both quantitative and qualitative data were collected through primary and secondary sources.

### **3.3.3. Primary Data**

Primary data were collected from women member of the multipurpose cooperative by using structured interview schedule, including all relevant variables for the study. The interview schedule was developed only after a thorough review of literature, a pilot study and discussion with experts. The interview schedule was pretested and suitable modifications were made to revise ambiguous and complex statements. The questionnaire was pretested before conducting the interview by interviewing five individuals found in the area. Then some modifications were made regarding unnecessary questions to save time and to avoid redundancy. Data collections from respondents were done by the researcher and enumerators selected for this purpose. Appropriate training, including field practice, was given to the enumerators to develop their understanding regarding the objectives of the study, the content of the interview schedule, how to approach the respondents and conduct the interview. Pre-testing of the interview schedule was carried out and depending on the results some modification was made on the final version of the interview schedule. In addition to conducting individual interviews with women members, focused group discussion was conducted with Woreda pastoral development office bearers, Woreda cooperative promotion office bearers, Woreda women affair office bearers to have more information about the issue. Moreover, personal observations and informal discussions with experts were held.

### **3.3.4. Secondary Data**

Secondary data were gathered to support the information collected from primary sources. These were collected from reports and records of the cooperative societies, regional and woreda agriculture and rural development bureaus, women affair department of the region and the woreda, the statistics authority regional office, books, journals, websites, articles, and other researches related to this study.

## **3.4. Methods of Data Analysis**

Proper data analysis is important for achieving the predetermined research objectives. The nature of the study, the focus of the research question and the curiosity of the researcher

pretty will determine what analytical strategies (level) should be followed (Stake, 1995). Several levels (strategies) of analysis are possible ranging from developing of descriptive account of the finding to developing categories, themes or other concept that interpret the meaning of the data in a more abstract form (Merriam: 1998). The role of statistics in research is to function as a tool in analysing the data and drawing conclusions there from. Only after this, we can adopt the process of generalization from small groups (i.e., sample) to population. Depending on the objective of a given study and nature of the data available, analysis to be made require different approaches.

The study was undertaken in the month of February and March, 2010. Both qualitative and quantitative analytical methods were used to realize the objectives of this research. SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 17 was used for data analysis. Besides, Objectives (1) and (2) were realized through simple descriptive statistics such as mean, standard deviation, test of significance(T-test), percentages, figure and tables.

Correlation analysis was also employed to identify the association of some independent variables with the dependent variable. In addition to analyze the qualitative data focused group discussions, personal observations, key informants were used to support the quantitative data.

### **3.4.1. Paired Sample T-Test**

Paired sample t- test is a way to test for comparing two related sample. For a paired t-test, it is necessary that the observation in the two samples be collected in the form of what is called matched pairs i.e., “each observation in the one sample must be paired with an observation in the other sample in such a manner that these observations are somehow “matched” or related, in an attempt to eliminate extraneous factors which are not of interest in test.” Such a test is generally considered appropriate in a before and after treatment study. To apply this test, first work out the difference score for each matched pair. And then find out the average of such difference. Assuming the said difference to be normally distributed and independent, it can apply for judging the significant of mean of difference and work out the test statistics.

### **3.4.2. Karl Pearson’s Coefficient Of Correlation**

Among the measures of correlation, Karl Pearson’s Coefficient of Correlation( $r$ ) was applied to analyse the data. The degree of association or correlation between two variables X and Y is answered by the use of correlation analysis (Gomez and Gomez, 1984; Kothari, 2003).

$$r = \frac{\text{Cov}(X \text{ and } Y)}{\text{SD}(X) \text{SD}(Y)}$$

Where r = Correlation Coefficient

Cov(X, Y) = Covariance between variables of X and Y

SD(X) and SD(Y) = Standard Deviation of variables X and Y respectively

Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation(r) is also known as the Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. The value of 'r' lies between +1 and -1. Positive values of 'r' indicate positive Correlation between the two variables (i.e., changes in both variables take place in the same direction), whereas negative values of 'r' indicate negative correlation (i.e., changes in the two variables taking place in the opposite directions). A zero value of 'r' indicates that there is no association between the two variables. When r = (+) 1, it indicates perfect positive correlation and when it is (-) 1, it indicates perfect negative correlation. The value of 'r' nearer to +1 or -1 indicates high degree of correlation between the two variables (Kothari, 2003). The existence of a significantly high correlation between two variables tells us nothing about why the correlation exists. In particular, the correlation does not tell us that one variable is the cause and the other is the effect (Brown and Starr, 1983).

## 3.5. Operationalization of Variables

### 3.5.1. Dependent Variable

This study focuses specifically on women participation in MPCs as dependent variable.

**Women Participation:** - refers to the act of taking part in the basic MPCs activities which includes: women involvement in **decision making, implementing decisions, shouldering responsibility, promptness and attending general meeting, leadership**, as well as women involvement in building the capital of the MPCs through share **purchasing**.

### 3.5.2. Independent Variables

In this study a total of eleven variables, are hypothesized to explain the dependent variable of the study. Independent variables may be (demographic) characteristics, socio-economic characteristics, situational and personal beliefs. The selections of independent variables were based on review of literature related to the study and discussion with experts.

Hence, in this study, its operational definition is as follows:

**Age:** is measured in terms of number of years of age of the respondents. The age of an individual influences his/her decision-making in socioeconomic issues and involvement. Normally older people refused new ideas; they want to keep what they knew already. On the contrary, young and middle aged groups due to long-term plan and ambition they are expected to undertake risks. Therefore age has a negative relationship with participation.

**Family size:** is the size of the family of the respondent measured in terms of the number of members in the family. Higher number of family members leads women to have more burden of task in the family. Therefore, as family size increases the tendency of women participation in the cooperative will decrease. In this study, family size was assumed to have negative relation to participation.

**Livestock holding (TLU):** livestock holding refers to the total number of livestock holding of the household measured in tropical livestock units (TLU). Livestock in the study area are the life of the inhabitants. It was assumed that as the number of livestock increases participation of women will decrease as women are concentrated towards the management of livestock.

**Educational level:** Education refers to the level of formal and non-formal education and measured in terms of enrolment in primary, junior, secondary schools or above. It is assumed that education increases members' ability to search out, process and use information. Education has been shown to be positively correlated with members' participation in cooperatives. As the farmer / a member acquired better education he could easily understand the advantages of cooperatives, differentiate cooperative and investor owned business. Moreover, he could identify the current and future benefits of doing business with cooperative. Therefore, education has a positive role in the decision to participate in cooperatives more actively.

**Duration of membership:** It refers to the number of years that women being as a member of cooperative. Several studies revealed the duration of membership has consistent association with number of other indicators of which participation with cooperative management, extent



of utilization of services of cooperatives (ojha 1990, shah 1990, Bhople 1990, pathania 1998 cited in Kirub, 2009). Therefore, it can be assumed that the extent of participation influenced positively by duration of membership with cooperatives.

**Distance from office of cooperative to women resident:** This factor refers to the time a member may needs to walk to reach where cooperative services are available. The faraway of the cooperative service centre is located from member's residence the less likely that a member will have access to cooperative services he may seek services from other options. As a member nearby the cooperative office, there may be a chance to be a member and involve more in the activities of the cooperative. Therefore, this variable has inverse relationship with women participation in cooperatives.

**Membership with more than one cooperative society:** it refers to whether the respondents are members only in one cooperative or more than one, because it is known that some are members of other cooperative. Therefore, this variable has a positive relation with participation.

**Awareness about cooperatives:** This refers to the level of understanding and knowledge of the respondents about cooperatives principles and values, and by - laws. And will be measured in yes or no question type. As there is high awareness, there is high probability of getting information and willing to participate. Therefore, is assumed to have a positive relationship with participation.

**Family annual income:** Income is operationally defined as income obtained from off-farm and on-farm activities that are expressed in Birr per year. From the very nature of cooperative organizations, people who form cooperatives are those people who are economically weak sections of the society. Ingalsbe; Rhodes and Schrader cited in Kirub, 2009 noted that a primary motivation for people to form and participate in agricultural cooperatives is to increase their income and to improve their living standards. As people have a relatively better income they tend to run their own business rather than joining cooperative form of business. Therefore, gross income is anticipated to have negative relationship with people's participation in cooperatives.

**Training access:** Member education and training is the continuous process in cooperatives by which members see the connection between their individual interest and group interest, which enable members to increase their knowledge and improve their skills about cooperatives. Therefore, cooperative training is expected to be correlated positively and significantly with the levels of participation in cooperatives.

**Position of women:** refers to the specific responsibility given to women in the multipurpose cooperatives. As women have a certain responsibility in the cooperative they have the tendency to participate in every affair of the activities of the cooperative. Therefore, position of women has highly related to participation.

# **CHAPTER 4**

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

In this chapter the findings on the four objectives of the study are discussed in detail based on survey results. This chapter is divided into five sections. The first section deals with background information about the sample of respondents. The remaining four sections address the specific objectives of the study.

### **4.1. Background Information**

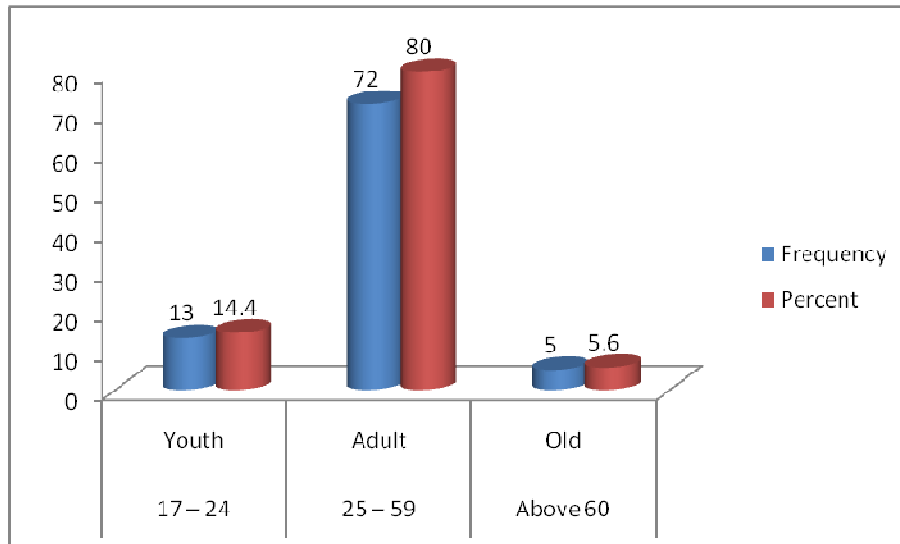
#### **4.1.1. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

In this section descriptions of personal/demographic characteristics of the sample respondents is presented and discussed in detail. Personal/demographic characteristics are variables which are related to personal characteristics such as age, gender, marital status, level of education, family size, household type and religion.

##### **4.1.1.1. Age**

All the respondents were female. The figure below indicates that out of the total 90 respondents 13 (14.4%) were in the youth age category [17-24], 72 (80%) were in the adult age category [25-59] and the rest 5 respondents who account for 5.6 percent were in old age category [>60]. The average age of respondents was 35.7 with minimum age 17 years and maximum age 70 years. The age distribution of the respondents was skewed towards the adult age group indicating that there were a relatively high proportion of middle age respondents, with strong desire to work and with optimistic future. The finding indicates that women may not easily want to participate in cooperative societies at a very young age; rather they want to join the cooperative at adult/middle age class.

**Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by age**



*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

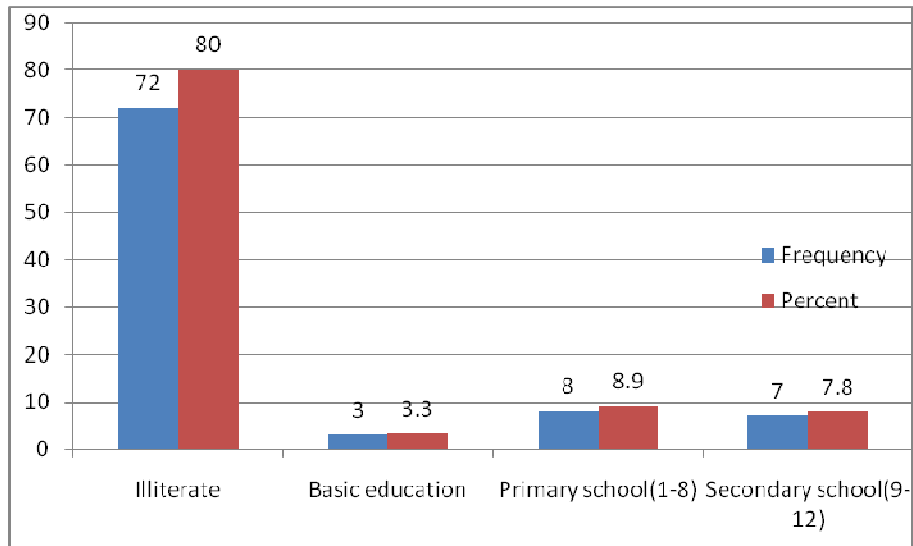
#### **4.1.1.2. Level of Education**

Education equips individuals with the necessary knowledge of how to make a living. Literate individuals are very ambitious to get information and use it. The same thing holds true for the cooperative, as women are more educated they are eager to participate in every activities of the cooperative.

With respect to the educational status, the highest proportion 72(80%) of the sample of respondents were illiterate, 3 (3.3%) attended basic education (can read and write), 8 (8.9%) of them were at the primary level or [1- 8] and the remaining 7 (7.8%) were at the secondary level of education or [9-12].

It was observed that among those respondents with primary and secondary education, many did not even complete the levels required. As a consequence, this has led to a higher illiteracy rate among women of the study area. This implies that they had no opportunities to attend formal education. Educational level is an important tool, and is needed to stimulate, create, achieve and enhance active participation of rural women in development. The rate of women’s participation in development initiatives is strongly influenced by their educational levels. The higher a woman is educated, the greater the likelihood she would be included in the labour force, and the lower the likelihood she would be unemployed (Kriefer, 1985; Browne and Barrett, 1991 cited in Journal of International Women Studies, 2002).

**Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by their level of Education**

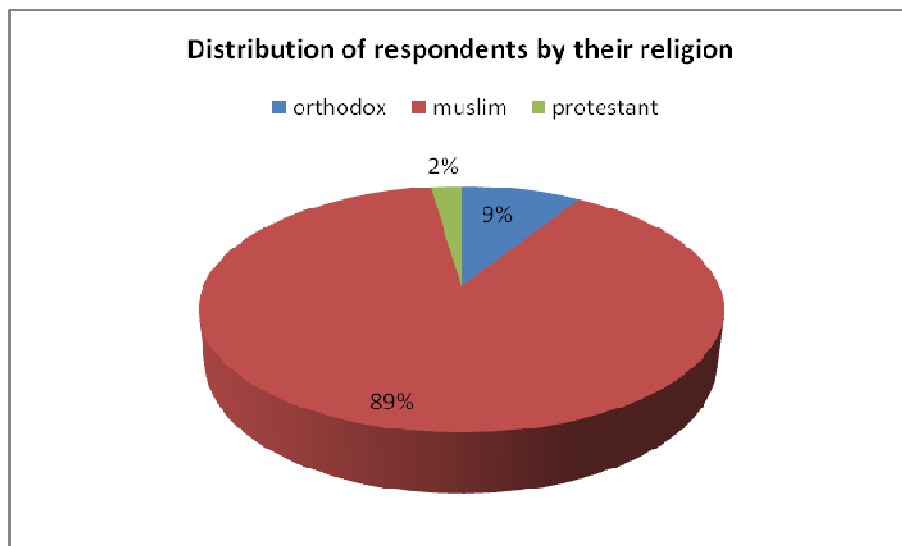


*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.1.3. Religion

The respondents were categorized under 3 religious categories. As shown in figure 4 the majority of respondents 80(88.9%) are Muslim, 8 (8.9%) of the respondents are followers of Orthodox Christianity, whereas 2 (2.2%) of the respondents belong to protestant religion group.

**Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by their religion**



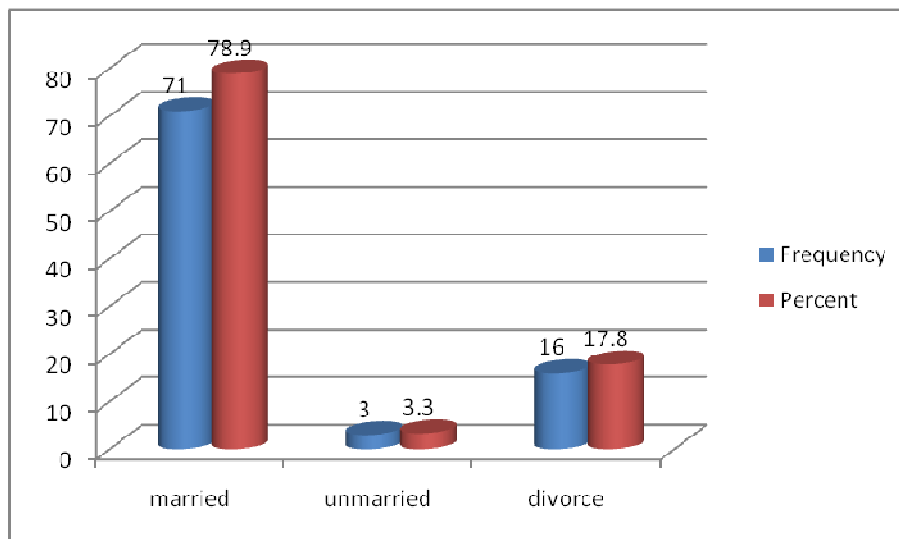
*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.1.4. Marital Status

Figure 5 presents the marital status of the respondents. Its results suggest that all the respondents are characterized by single, married and divorced women.

Following this figure, the greater majority of respondents, about 71(78.9%) was married. The number of unmarried (single) women accounts to be only 3 (3.3%) of the total sample taken. while the remaining 16(17.8%) are divorced. This shows that married women are more participated in cooperatives than single and divorced. This is because those who are married have children and therefore need to increase their income levels by means of joining a cooperative kind of business in order to sustain their family.

**Figure 5: Distribution of respondents by their marital status**

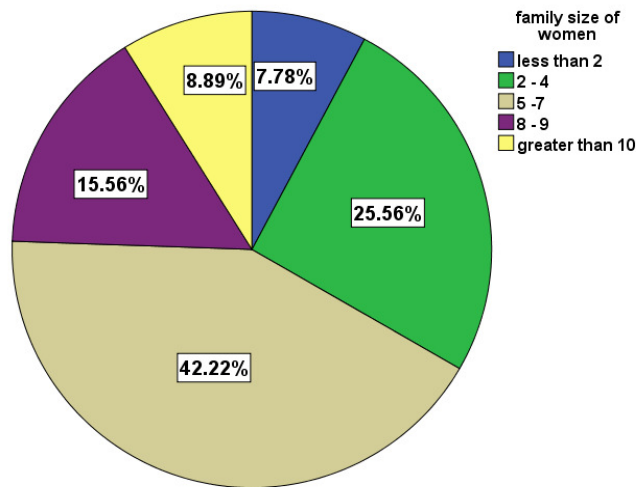


*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.1.5. Family size:

As shown in figure 6 below, 7(7.8%) of the respondents had family size of less than 2, which indicates that respondents were either unmarried, or had no children; 23 (25.6%) of the respondents had family size in between 2 - 4, 38(42.2%) had family size of 5 -7, 14(15.6%) of the respondents had family size in between 8 -9 and the remaining 8(8.9%) had family size of greater than 10. The average family size of the respondents was 5.5 with minimum 1 and maximum 12 family members.

**Figure 6: Family size of respondents**

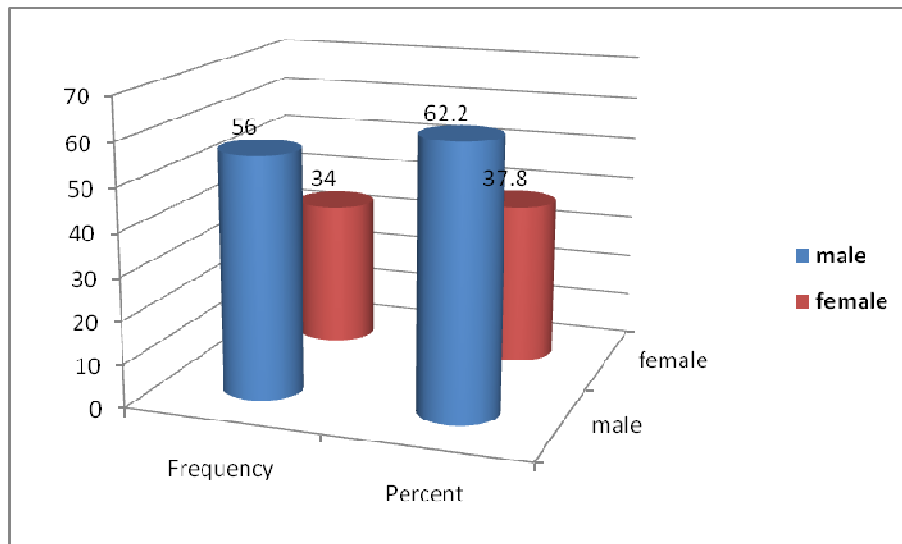


*Source:* Own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.1.6. Household Type

Out of the total 90 respondents 56(62.2%) were found to be male headed and the remaining 34(37.8%) of the respondents were female headed. Male headed households were those in which a husband was present and was the final decision maker in the important issues pertaining to the household. Female headed households were those that were managed by widow, divorced or single women without the mediation of a husband.

**Figure 7: House hold type of respondents**



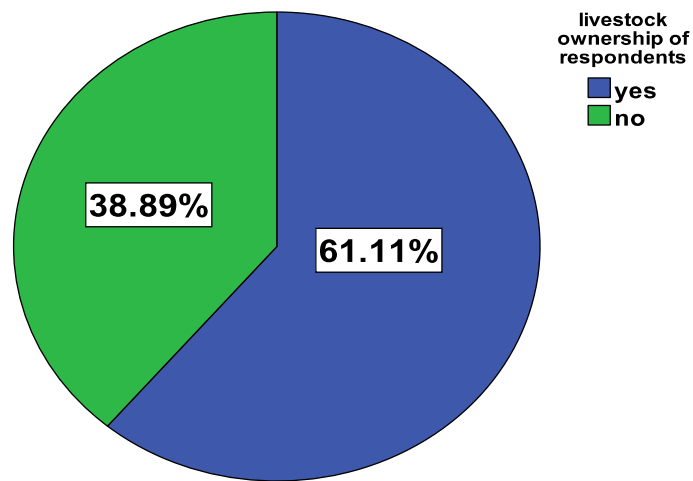
*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

## 4.1.2. Description of economic factors of the sample respondents

### 4.1.2.1. Size of livestock holding of respondents

Livestock holding refers to the total number of livestock holding of respondents measured in tropical livestock units (TLU). As indicated in the figure below 55(61.1%) of the respondents have their own livestock while the rest 35(38.8%) of the respondents did not have livestock. Livestock owned by the sample respondents include cattle, sheep and goats, donkeys and camels. The maximum and minimum number of TLU was 43.65 and 0 respectively and the average holding was 5.86 TLU with a standard deviation of 8 TLU. This shows that there exists a great variation of livestock holding among the respondents.

**Figure 8: Livestock ownership of respondents**



*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

**Table 5: Livestock holding of respondents in TLU**

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.Deviation
90	0	43.65	5.86	8

*Source:* Own survey data, March 2010



#### 4.1.2.2. Sources of household income

All respondents were asked to provide the the kind of jobs, occupations, employment, or economic activities involved in as income generating ventures. An analysis of the various kinds of these income sources is presented in table 7.

Sale of livestock, sale of vegetables, nonfarm incomes (small trade and handicraft), employment, remittance and dividend from the cooperative are the main sources of income of the respondents. In this study multiple response analysis was applied to determine the major source of income for respondents, as multiple response analysis show more than one source of income if a particular respondent have more than one source of income. The multiple analysis table 6 shows that nonfarm income is the major source of income for respondents which accounts about 31.4% ,dividend from the multipurpose cooperative is considered to be the second source of income for respondents and accounts for about 28.2% . Sale of livestock is the third source of income for the respondents, which account for about 20.4% from 245 responses.

**Table 6: Source of income of respondents**

Source of income	Responses		Percent of cases
	No of respondents	Percent	
Sale of livestock	50	20.4%	55.6%
Sale vegetables	1	.4%	1.1%
Non farm incomes	77	31.4%	85.6%
Employee	23	9.4%	25.6%
Remittance	25	10.2%	27.8%
Dividend	69	28.2%	76.7%
Total	*245	100.0%	272.2%

*Source:* own survey data, March 2010

**Multiple response analysis**

*Note* \* stands for total number of responses

### 4.1.2.3. Annual income of respondents

Total annual income is an important variable explaining the economic characteristics of respondents. As indicated in Table 7 the average total annual income of the respondents was Birr 8567 with standard deviation of Birr 4443. The minimum and maximum annual income was Birr 2850 and Birr 25500 respectively. This shows a great variation among income of respondents.

**Table 7: Total annual income of respondents**

N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std.Deviation
90	2850	25500	8567	4443

*Source:* Own survey data, March 2010

### 4.1.2.4. Annual expenditure of the respondents

As shown in the table 8, the average annual total expenditure for consumption was birr 5429 with a standard deviation of 1162. The minimum and maximum expenditure for consumption was birr 2450 and birr 8350 respectively. The average annual total expenditure for clothing was 1003 birr with a standard deviation of 651 birr. The average annual total expenditure for schooling was 342 birr with a standard deviation of 417 birr. The average annual total expenditure for health was about 503 with a standard deviation of 273 birr. The average annual total expenditure for social ceremony/holidays, funeral, wedding, etc/ was about 797 birr with a standard deviation of 380 birr. The average annual total expense for the purchase of input was 390 with a standard deviation of 314.

**Table 8: Annual expenditure for respondents**

Description	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std.Deviation
Yearly expense for consumption	90	2450	8350	5429	1162
Yearly expense for clothing	90	200	4000	1003	651
Yearly expense for schooling	90	0	2400	342	417
Yearly expense for health	90	0	1500	503	273
Yearly expense for input	90	0	2500	390	314
Yearly expense for social cerem.	90	0	2000	797	380
Total yearly expense	90	3650	15150	8464	2358

*Source:* Own survey data, March 2010

### 4.1.3. Description of awareness factors of the sample respondents

#### 4.1.3.1. Awareness of respondents about principles, by-laws, rules and regulation about MPCs

In this study awareness refers to respondent's knowledge about the values, principles, rules and regulation of the cooperative. It plays a great role in cooperative societies by doing things pursuant to the knowledge that is built about cooperatives.

As indicated in the table 9 of the cooperative. On the other hand, only 14(15.6%) of the respondents know the principles and values of cooperative, the majority 76(84.4%) of the respondents did not know the basic principles and values of the cooperative. Regarding members right and obligation in the multipurpose cooperative, only 27(30%) of the respondents know their rights and obligation, where as the rest 67(70%) of the respondents did not know their rights and obligation. This shows that cooperatives should work much on creating awareness about cooperatives to women in order to involve more women.

**Table 9: Distribution of respondents based on awareness about cooperative principles**

Attributes	N	%
<b>Are you aware of the bye-laws, rules, and regulations of the cooperative?</b>		
Yes	19	21.1
No	71	78.9
Total	90	100
<b>Do you know the value and principles of cooperatives?</b>		
Yes	14	15.6
No	76	84.4
Total	90	100
<b>Do you know the rights, duties and obligation of members?</b>		
Yes	27	30
No	63	70

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.4. Respondents' Access to Training

Training is making sure that all those who are associated with cooperatives have the skill they require in order to carry out their responsibilities. Cooperatives provide training for employees, managers and for committee members i.e., control, credit, and management and for ordinary members. It is believed that training has a positive relation with participation. Table 10 below depicts that only 30(33.3%) of the respondents had attended training where as the remaining 60 (66.7%) of respondent did not receive any type of training from the cooperative. The nature of training includes general issue related to cooperatives, principles, advantages and members role in cooperative, financial management, marketing and others. The training was mainly conducted by the Woreda cooperative promoters and organizers of the Afar Region.

**Table 10: Distribution of Respondents' Access to Training**

Have you ever got any training?	N	%
Yes	30	33.3
No	60	66.7
Total	90	100

*Source:* Own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.5. Membership characteristics of the respondents

Several studies revealed that duration of membership with cooperative has a consistent association with number of other indicators such as knowledge about cooperation, participation in cooperative management, nature and extent of utilization of services of the cooperative etc (ojha, 1990shah, 1990,Pathania ,1998 cited in B Subbaraj,2002).

Table 11 below indicates year of membership of the respondents in their multipurpose cooperatives. 12(13.3%) of the respondents have 1 - 2 years of stay in the multipurpose cooperative, 34(37.8%) of the respondents have stayed in the multipurpose cooperative 3 – 4 years, the rest 44(48.9%) which is the majority of the respondents have stayed for about 5 -7 years. Number of years in cooperatives has its own impact on respondents to participate and be elected in different committees within the multipurpose cooperatives. Hence, the extent of economic impact on a member is influenced by the duration of membership with the cooperative.

Majority of the respondents (85.6%) joined the cooperative by their own self interest; others became a member of the cooperative due to government enforcement, neighbours and through media. According to the opinion of the respondents the main reasons for joining the cooperatives were to increase farm production and productivity, to earn additional income sources, to get credit facilities, to increase market access and to increase bargaining power.

**Table 11: Duration of membership**

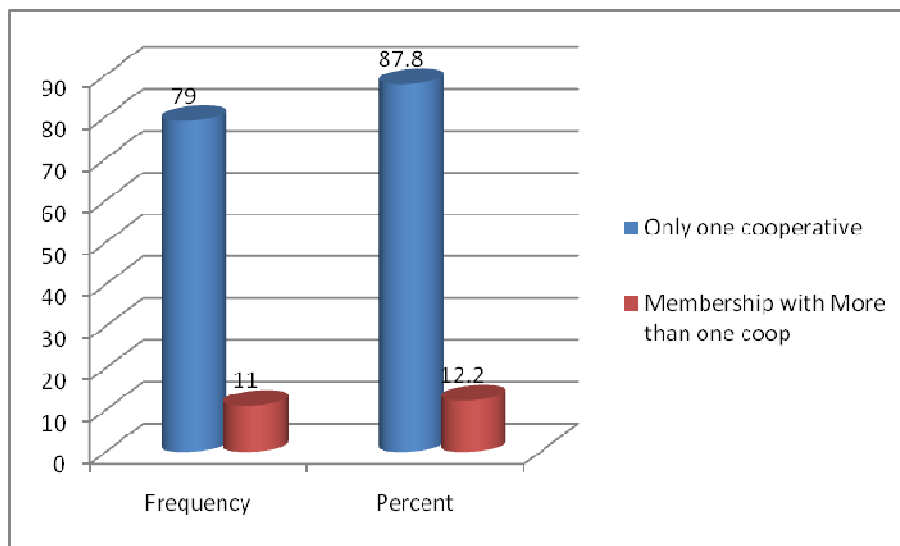
No of years	N	%
1 - 2	12	13.3
3 - 4	34	37.8
5 - 7	44	48.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.1.6. Membership in more number of cooperatives

In the figure below, 79 (87.8%) of the respondents are members only in the multipurpose cooperative, whereas the remaining 11 (12.2%) are members both in the multipurpose cooperative and other cooperative. Membership in different cooperatives has its own impact on the participation of the members in their MPCs.

**Figure 9: Membership characteristics of respondents**



*Source:* Own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.1.7. Distance of MPC office from respondents' residence**

Distance from multipurpose cooperative office to respondents home was measured by kilometres. As shown in the table 12 the average distance from women respondents to their home was recorded as 16.5km, with minimum distant of 0.5km and a maximum distant of 42km.

**Table 12: Distance of MPC office from respondents' residence**

<b>N</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Deviation</b>
90	0.5	42	16.5	15.5

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

## **4.2. Extent of women participation in multipurpose cooperatives**

This part of the discussion focused on the extent of women participation in multipurpose cooperatives in the study area.

### **4.2.1. Nature of participation**

#### **4.2.1.1. Women involvement in decision making**

Decision making refers to the involvement of women in generation of ideas, evaluation of options and making choice from among options. Decision making in the cooperative involves setting the objective of the cooperative and participation in short, medium and long term planning of the cooperative. As depicted from the table among the total women respondents only 8(8.9%) always participating in decision making of the cooperative, 33(36.7%) of the respondents participating sometimes in decision making of the cooperative and the majority 49(54.4%) of the respondents never participate in decision making of the cooperative. This shows the majority of women were not participating in decision making regarding the affair of their MPCs.

The opinion of some respondents revealed that the reasons for the non participation of women in decision making is that “those who are participated in decision making process in the cooperative are those who are shared responsibilities in the MPCs; since most women in the MPCs have no position within the MPCs they are not involved in decision making process. The second reason for the non participation of women in decision making process is the underestimate of women ideas and feelings because other members/male/ perceive women ideas as not important even though they forward important ideas.

**Table 13: Women in decision making**

<b>Attributes</b>		
<b>Participation in decision making</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Never	49	54.4
Sometimes	33	36.7
Always	8	8.9

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.2.1.2. Women participation in implementing decisions**

Implementing decision refers to the extent of physical and moral presence, involvement in physical work by the member in the MPC activities. As shown in table below only 8(8.9%) of the respondents participate always in implementing decision of the group, 45(50%) of the respondents participate sometimes in implementing decision of the group, where as the rest 37(41.1%) of respondents never participate in implementing decision of the group.

**Table 14: Women in implementing decisions**

<b>Attributes</b>		
<b>Implementing decisions</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Never	37	41.1
Sometimes	45	50
Always	8	8.9

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

### 4.2.1.3. Women participation in shouldering responsibilities

Shouldering responsibility refers to the processes involved such as voluntarism and capability potentiality considerations in sharing and accepting of responsibilities by the member in the cooperative. As depicted in the table only 9(10%) of the respondents strongly agree to share and accept responsibility with in the cooperative, 24(26.7%) of the respondents agreed to share and accept responsibility, 23(25.6%) of the respondents undecided to share and accept responsibility, 24(26.7%) of the respondents disagree to share and accept responsibility, where as the remaining 10(11.1%) of the respondents strongly disagree to share and accept responsibility in the cooperative.

The opinion of respondents during field survey indicated that the reasons for respondents to disagree or strongly disagree to share and accept responsibility in the MPCs include: women work load in the household. Since Women in the study area has a multiple burden of household chores, so that they don't want to share responsibilities within the cooperative. The other reason is that women themselves perceived themselves as unable and weak to share and accept responsibility.

**Table 15: Women in shouldering responsibility**

Attributes	N	%
Sharing and accepting responsibility		
Strongly disagree	10	11.1
Disagree	24	26.7
Undecided	23	25.6
Agree	24	26.7
Strongly agree	9	10

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

### 4.2.1.4. Promptness and regularity in attending general assembly meeting

General assembly is the totality of all members of the cooperative society and is the supreme organ. Every type of society from primary level to the apex level has its own general assembly. The general assembly of a society shall meet at least once in a year. The power and duties of the general assembly is passing decision after evaluating the general activities of the society, approve and amend the by- laws and internal regulation of the society, elect and



dismiss the member of management committee, control committee and other committee, determine the amount of share, decided on how the annual profit of the society is distributed, give decision on audit report, hear work report and give proper decision, decide that a society either be amalgamated or divided, approve the annual work plan and budget, and decide any issue submitted by the management committee and other committee(proclamation 147/98 article 20).

As depicted in the table 16 only 15 (16.7%) of women regularly participating in the meeting of the general assembly, 43(47.8%) of women participating sometimes in the meeting of the general assembly, whereas the rest 32(35.6%) of the respondents have never participated in the general assembly meeting. The opinion of respondents during survey revealed that the reasons for respondents not participating in the general assembly are work load in the home and time of general assembly is not well announced. The survey result revealed that 45.6% of the respondents replied that work in the home is the reasons for not participating in meetings, and 16.7% of the respondents said that the reasons for not participating in general assembly is due to time of general assembly is not well announced.

**Table 16: Women participation rate in general assembly meeting**

<b>Attributes</b>		
<b>Participation rate in general assembly meetings</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Never	32	35.6
Sometimes	43	47.8
Always	15	16.7

**Source:** Computed from own survey data, March 2010

The involvement rate during discussion of the general meeting only 9(10%) of them freely/actively forward their ideas, 28(31.1%) of women forward their ideas occasionally, the majority 53(58.9%) of women never forward their ideas during general assembly meeting.

The opinion of respondents during focus group discussion showed that women’s involvement during discussion in general meeting is very low this is because of cultural constraint. The culture inhibits Afar women from speaking in front of men; even some respondents said that Afar women are not allowed to have meals with their husbands.

**Table 17: women involvement rate in general assembly**

Attributes	N	%
<b>Involvement rate in general assembly meetings</b>		
Never forward ideas	53	58.9
Occasionally forward ideas	28	31.1
Actively forward ideas	9	10

**Source:** Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.2.1.5. Participation of women in share purchasing**

Share capital is one of the primary sources of fund for MPCs. Share capital is categorized under owned fund. Share capital of the society is sold during the establishment period and at the time of capital deficit. On average MPCs in the study area sold additional shares for the existing members three times from the beginning of their establishment. The result of the survey revealed that the maximum shares purchased by the respondents' were three and the minimum is one.

As depicted in the table only 10(11.1%) of women always participated in building capital of the cooperative through share purchasing, 64(71.1%) of the respondents participate sometimes in share purchasing, where as the rest 16(17.8%) of the respondents never participating in building capital of the cooperative through share purchasing.

The opinion of key informants during focused group discussion revealed that the reasons for respondents not participating in share purchasing are lack of capital and lack of awareness about share.

**Table 18: Involvement of women in share purchasing**

Attributes	N	%
<b>Participation in share purchasing</b>		
Never	16	17.8
Sometimes	64	71.1
Always(three times)	10	11.1

**Source:** Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.2.1.6. Leadership propensity of women in the MPCs

Leadership propensity refers to the degree of ability of the member to influence and lead others in the group in deciding and implementing group activities. As depicted in the table out of the total of 90 women respondents only 3(3.3%) of them actively participated in leading group meetings and discussions, 21(23.3%) of the respondents participated sometimes in leading group meetings and discussions, where as the majority 66 (73.3%) of the respondents did not participate in leading group discussions and meetings.

Only 6(6.7%) of the respondents actively participated in influencing members in taking decisions, 13(14.4%) of the respondents sometimes guide and influence in taking decisions , the rest of the respondents(78.9%) have never guide and influence group members in taking decisions.

**Table 19: Leadership propensity of women**

Attributes	N	%
<b>Can you lead meetings and discussions?</b>		
Never	66	73.3
Sometimes	21	23.3
Always	3	3.3
<b>Can you guide and influence members in taking decisions?</b>		
Never	71	78.9
Sometimes	13	14.4
Always	6	6.7

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.2.2. Position of women in the multipurpose cooperatives

Position in this study refers to the type of responsibilities that women have in the multipurpose cooperative.

##### 4.2.2.1. Women participation in management committee

Every society shall have management committee which is accountable to the GA and whose member and manner of election to be determined in the bye-law of the society. The power and duties of the management committee shall be, maintain the minute of a meeting in

writing, maintain the document, and books of account of the society, prepare the annual work program and budget of the society, implement up on implementation, submit report to the GA on the activities of the society (proclamation 147/98 article 23 and 24). The Societies has its own management committee (FDRE, 1998).

As figure 10 shows only 4(4.4%) of the total women were a member of management committee. This shows that few women are members of management committee with in the MPCs.

#### **4.2.2.2. Women participation in control committee**

Every society shall have a control committee which is accountable to the GA and the number of which shall be specified by the by law of the society. The term office of the member of the Committee shall be three years; no member of the control committee shall be elected for more than two consecutive terms. The power and duties of the committee are: follow up that the management committee is carrying out its responsibility properly, follow up that the fund and property of the society is properly utilized, control that the various activities of the society are carried out in pursuant to the by-law and internal regulation of the society (proclamation 147/98 article 25 and 26). The Societies has its own control committee (FDRE, 1998). Figure 10 below revealed that out of the total 90 women only 5(5.6%) were members of control committee.

#### **4.2.2.3. Women participation in credit committee**

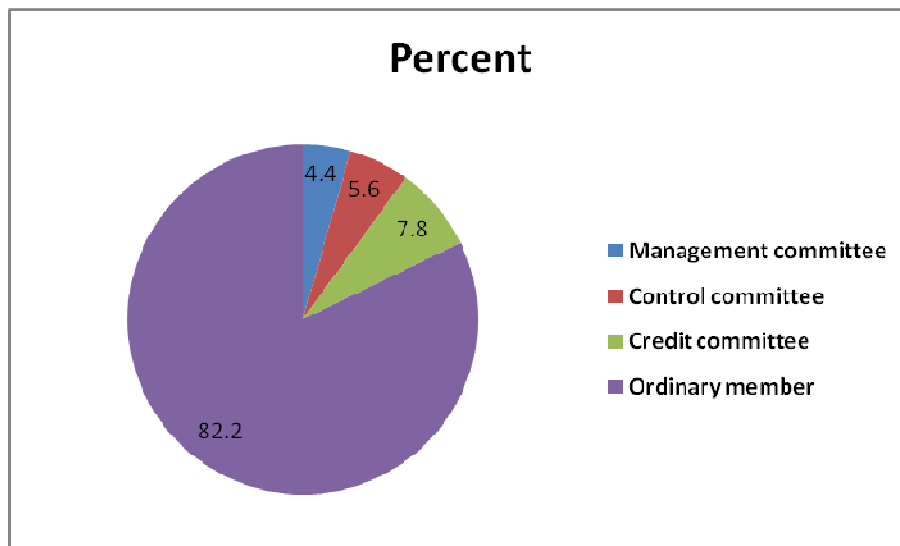
Cooperative based on their nature of business transaction and service delivery can establish various type of committee. According to article 27 in proclamation no 141/97, cooperative has a full power to establish sub - committee based on their importance and requirement. Accordingly MPCs in the study area have their own credit committees with responsibilities of determining the amount of credit, how much capital is needed during a specific period, determining amount of interest rate, following up repayment of loan on time/ follow up the collection of debts and prepare financial performance of cooperative Out of the total of 90 respondents only 7(7.8%) were members of credit committee.

The opinion of experts during focus group discussion and the opinion of key informants during informal discussion revealed that being virtually absent from most meetings as a result

of their reproductive roles, women stand little chance of influencing decisions, and even less of being elected to Boards or other posts.

The above findings are approaches to that of the findings of Desalew *on the role of cooperative in gender equality* i.e. the participation of rural women in the cooperative management and control of the activities of the organization is very low. The result of this finding is also similar to that of the findings of Bikila; on participation of rural women in coffee farmers cooperative, the case of Haro coffee farmers cooperative showed that the participation of rural women in the cooperative management and control of the activities of the organization is very low. There is no woman member in the management and credit committee. The control and social affair committee of the cooperative have only one woman member which is 9.1% of the committee.

**Figure 10: Position of women in the cooperative**



*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

### **4.3. Socio-Economic Contribution of MPCs to Women**

This part of the discussion tried to explain the economic and social contribution of multipurpose cooperatives to women in the study area.

### **4.3.1. Economic contribution**

People form cooperatives primarily to find solutions to their economic problem. They come together by applying the principles and philosophies of cooperation and run the cooperatives with the objective of solving their common problems (B.Subburaj, 2003). The concern of development in recent years has shifted from economic growth to human development. In the process of enlarging people's choices, the most critical ones relate to leading a long and healthy life, acquiring education, and enjoying a decent standard of living (Mishra 1998). Standard of living increases when investment on nutrition, education, health facilities, entertainment, etc., increases (Ibid). A research conducted on Socio-economic factors affecting the participation of women in agricultural co-operatives in Gwoza local government, Borno state, Nigeria revealed that the major benefits derived by members included access to loans ,input provision and product marketing (*YL Idrisa, et al,2007*).

#### **4.3.1.1. Food supply**

In the study area food shortage is a common phenomenon due to the frequent drought occurred; so that most of the time people are prone to food shortage. However, there have been changes in the food supply among respondents especially after participating in the MPCs.

As shown in the table 20 only 5(5.6%) of women respondents able to feed their family before participating in the multipurpose cooperatives, while the remaining 85(94.4%) of women respondents were prone to food shortage before participating in the multipurpose cooperative. However after participating in the multipurpose cooperative the number of women who feed their families increased from 5.6% to 50% and the number of women who were prone to food shortage was decreased from 94.4% to 50%. Only 11.1% of women could feed their family three times a day before; however 57.8% of the respondents can feed their family three times a day after participation. On the other hand the quality of food eaten in the family is increased from 3.3% to 38.9% before and after participation respectively. Due to food shortage 75 (83.3%) of women households sold their productive assets to purchase food for the family before, while only 49 (54.4%) of the respondents sold their productive assets to purchase food for the family after.

**Table 20: Household food supply of respondents before and after**

<b>Food supply</b>					
<b>Attributes</b>	<b>Responses</b>	<b>Before</b>		<b>After</b>	
		<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
Can you feed your family adequately?	Yes	5	5.6	45	50
	No	85	94.4	45	50
Have you ever sold your productive assets to purchase food?	Yes	75	83.3	49	54.4
	No	15	16.7	41	45.6
Is the quality of food eaten in the family improved?	Yes	3	3.3	35	38.9
	No	87	96.7	55	61.1
Number of meals per day	2 times	80	88.9	38	42.2
	3 times	10	11.1	52	57.8

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.3.1.2. Credit availability**

In the study area there are no formal institutions which provide credit to the society; and therefore women were suffered as a result of shortage of capital to engage themselves in income generating activities. However, there has been shown progress in women's access to credit after joining the multipurpose cooperatives.

As shown in table 21 below, 47(52.2%) of the respondents had got credit from the cooperative. Whereas the rest 43(47.8%) of the respondents had not got credit from the cooperative by different reasons. Among the reasons, 20(22.2%) of the respondents replied that we don't want to borrow money because we afraid the risk associated with the use of money, others 23(25.5%) of the respondents replied that the cooperative did not provide credit to members.

During field survey respondents were also asked the reasons for borrowing money from the cooperative. Among the 47 women who had got credit from the cooperative 28(59.6%) of them used credit for income generating activities, 15(31.9%) of them used credit to solve their immediate household problems, the rest 4(8.5%) of them used the credit for the purchase of household assets.

The issue was also discussed thoroughly with key informants and experts during focus group discussion, as they replied women have shown progress in their livelihoods after the provision of credit from the cooperative because women are involved in some income generating activities such as shops, small restaurants, balitina, charcoal, and the like. Therefore, women in the study area are contributing much for the increasing income of the household.

**Table 21: credit availability of respondents**

Attributes	N	%
<b>Does the cooperative provide credit services?</b>		
Yes	47	52.2
No	43	47.8

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.3.1.3. Income of respondents before and after**

This sub section brings out the economic impact of multipurpose cooperatives in the context of their contribution to income increase among women members. In an attempt to examine the change in income levels of the women associated with the cooperative, they were asked about the amount of their annual household income both before and after joining the cooperative.

Table 22 revealed that, before joining the cooperative 12.2% of the respondents received very low income, but after joining the cooperative no respondents received very low income. Before joining the cooperative 80% of the respondents received low income, whereas, after joining the cooperative 57.8% of the respondents received low income. Before joining the cooperative only 7.8% of the respondents received an income above the average, however after joining the cooperative 33.3% of the respondents received an income above the average. Before joining the cooperative no respondents received high income, but after joining the cooperative 8.9% of the respondents received very high income.

As shown in table 23 before joining the cooperative the total average annual income was 5280 birr with a standard deviation of 2566 birr but after joining the cooperative their annual total average income was raised to 8567 birr with a standard deviation of 4443 birr This shows that multipurpose cooperatives contribute a significant increase in annual income of



women in the study area. The test of significance also shows that the family mean annual income of women after being a member of the multipurpose cooperative is significantly higher than before.

The opinion of some respondents during FGD indicated that the increase in income of respondents after participating in the MPCs is that some women are engaged in income generating activities through credit obtained in the cooperative and dividends received in the MPCs. Studies by Apte, 1996, Patel, 1997 and Suresh, 1998 cited in B. subburaj, 2002 establish that cooperatives have contributed for income generation.

**Table 22: Income category of respondents before and after membership of cooperative**

Income category of respondents	Before membership		After membership	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
0 – 2831	11	12.2	-	-
2832 - 8494	72	80	52	57.8
8495 – 14, 156.5	7	7.8	30	33.3
14,157 - 19819	-	-	6	6.7
>19819	-	-	2	2.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Computed from own survey data, March 2010

**Table 23: Annual income of respondents before and after**

	N	Mean	Std, Deviation	T - value
Income before	90	5280	2566	-9.416(***)
Income after	90	8567	4443	

Note \*\*\* significant at 1%

Source: Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.3.1.4. Annual expenditure of respondents before and after

The average annual expense for consumption of respondents was 3834 birr before joining the cooperative with a standard deviation of 1074birr; however their income was increased to 5429 birr with a standard deviation of 1162 after joining the cooperative. This shows that there a significant increase in the consumption expense among respondents after participation

at 1% level of significant i.e. the average annual household expenditure for consumption after joining the cooperative is significantly greater than before joining the cooperative.

The annual average expense of respondents for clothing before joining the cooperative was only 626.7 birr with a standard deviation of 463.5 birr but, after joining the cooperative annual expense for clothing was raised to 1003 birr with a standard deviation of 650.7 birr. This indicates that there is an increase in the expenditure of respondents for clothing. The average annual household expenditure for clothing after joining the cooperative is significantly greater than that of before the cooperative.

The annual average expense for education was increased from 96.8 to 341.9 before and after participation respectively. The average medical expense of the respondents was about 273.6 Birr per annum before joining the cooperative. But after joining in the MPCs the average medical expense was 502.9 birr per annum. There is also a tremendous change of expenditure of respondents for inputs, as depicted in table below the annual average expense for input before joining the cooperative was 202.9 birr with a standard deviation of 176 birr, while after joining in the multipurpose cooperative this number is raised to 390 birr with a standard deviation of 313.8 birr. The average annual expense for social ceremonies were 409 birr with a standard deviation of 211.5 birr before participation, but after participating the average annual expense for respondents for social ceremonies was found out to be 797.2 birr with a standard deviation of 380. When we compare the total income and expense before joining the cooperative, the annual average income of respondents was 5280 birr with annual average expense of 5443 birr. This shows that the total expense exceeded total income before joining the cooperative, while annual average income after joining the cooperative was 8567 birr with annual average expense of 8464.4 birr. This shows that the total income exceeded total expense after participation. The T – test for significant also shows that there is a significant change in expenditure of respondents after participating in the MPCs. Therefore, women's participation in cooperative result in increased household income, with consequent increase in house hold expenditure in general.

**Table 24: Annual expenditure of respondents before and after.**

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value
Yearly expense for consumption B	90	3834	1074	-31.128(***)
Yearly expense for consumption A	90	5429	1162	
Yearly expense for clothing Before	90	626.6667	463.51127	-16.088(***)
Yearly expense for clothing After	90	1003.3333	650.74719	
Yearly expense for education before	90	96.7778	199.24480	-8.087(***)
Yearly expense for education after	90	341.8667	416.62408	
Yearly expense for health before	90	273.5556	178.33381	-17.774(***)
Yearly expense for health after	90	502.8889	273.01580	
Yearly expense for input Before	90	202.8889	176.24832	-8.583(***)
Yearly expense for input After	90	390.3333	313.78605	
Yearly expense for social ceremony B	90	409.2444	211.49709	-16.778(***)
Yearly expense for social ceremony A	90	797.2111	380.00880	
Total yearly expense before	90	5442.9111	1717.89631	-32.709(***)
Total yearly expense after	90	8464.4111	2357.79572	

Note \*\*\* significant at 1%

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.3.1.5. Total asset of respondents before and after participation**

This sub section presents the contribution of multipurpose cooperatives to increase in assets of the household.

One dimension which is used to measure the economic condition of respondents is the total asset they have. As shown in the table below the mean value of asset of respondents was considered to be 11,449.5 Birr with a standard deviation of 18,709.5 before. And the mean values of asset for respondents after participating in the multipurpose cooperative was 18,455.9 birr with a standard deviation of 22,283.6 at 1% significant level.

The survey revealed that multipurpose cooperatives have brought a significant increase in assets among respondents. The test of significance shows that ownership of asset after participation is significantly higher than before participation.

**Table 25: Total asset of respondents before and after**

	N	Mean	Std, Deviation	T - value
Asset before	90	11,449.5	18,709.5	-6.715 (***)
Asset after	90	18,455.9	22,283.6	

*Note \*\*\* significant at 1%*

**Source:** Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### **4.3.1.6. Livestock holding of respondents before and after**

Livestock holding is one of the main economic measures of respondents, for which livestock are sources for generating income. The other important of livestock in the study area are they serve as a measure of wealth and prestige. Therefore, farmers used to rear different types of livestock such as cow, ox, sheep, goats, donkey and camels.

Accordingly keeping the standardization of analysis, the livestock number was converted to Tropical Livestock Unit (TLU). The table below shows the distribution of sample respondents by livestock holding in TLU. Thus the study revealed that on average a household had owned 5.28 TLU before and owned 5.86 TLU on average after. This shows that there is an increase in the number of livestock holding of the household after participation. The t- test for significant also shows that there is a significant increase in the number of livestock of the household after joining the cooperative.

**Table 26: Distribution of sample of respondents by livestock holding in TLU before and after**

N = 90	Mean	Std.deviation	T value
TLU of cow before	2.51	5.10	
TLU of cow after	3.11	5.16	-4.994(***)
TLU of ox before	0.53	1.09	
TLU of ox after	0.73	1.33	-4.420(***)
TLU of sheep before	0.28	0.48	
TLU of sheep after	0.37	0.61	-4.317(**)
TLU of goat before	0.65	1.05	
TLU of goat after	0.84	1.12	-4.821(***)
TLU of camel before	.84	1.70	
TLU of camel after	1.1	2.86	3.179(*)
TLU of donkey before	0.21	0.52	
TLU of donkey after	0.35	0.68	-3.624(*)
TLU of calve before	0.10	0.21	
TLU of calve after	0.20	0.33	-4.700(***)
Total TLU before	5.28	8.70	
Total TLU after	5.86	8	-1.664(*)

**Source:** Computed from own survey data, March 2010

\*\*\* Significant at 1%

\*\* Significant at 5%

\* Significant at 10%

### 4.3.2. Social contribution of MPCs to women

Cooperation offers not only economic benefit to members but also offers a number of benefits to the society. This is because the objective of cooperation is to transform the member's condition in such a way that he makes his social life richer and happier. The ultimate aim of cooperation is to develop men-men imbued with the spirit of self help and mutual help in order that individually they may rise to a full personal life and collectively to full social life (Desalew, 2009). The social purpose of cooperation is more diverse than economic purpose.

### 4.3.2.1. Educational aspects

When we come to education of children by respondents the average number of children who attended school were 0.67 with a standard deviation of 1.16 before, but the average number of children who attended school were 2.08 with a standard deviation of 2.01 after at 1% significant level, the average number of children who dropped out from school were 0.08 with a standard deviation of 0.40 before, while the average number of children who dropped out from school were 0.01 with a standard deviation of 0.11 after participation at 10% significant level. Therefore, the number of children who attended school were significantly higher after joining the cooperative than before.

**Table 27: Number of children of respondents at school before and after**

	N	Mean	Std.Dev.	T - score
Number of children at school before	90	0.7	1.2	8.678(***)
Number of children at school after	90	2.1	2	
Children dropped out from school before	90	0.08	0.4	-1.752(*)
Children dropped out from school after	90	0.01	0.1	

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

As far as the respondents purchasing power of educational material for their children is concerned only 2.8% of the respondent could able to purchase educational materials for their children before, this percent is raised to 53.5 after joining the cooperative. The same percent is registered for the ability of respondents to pay for educational costs before and after respectively.

**Table 28: Educational costs of respondents before and after**

Questions	Responses		Before		After	
		N	%	N	%	
Can you buy educational materials for your children?	Yes	2	2.8	38	53.5	
	No	69	97.2	33	46.5	
Can you afford to pay educational costs?	Yes	2	2.8	38	53.5	
	No	69	97.2	33	46.5	

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

### 4.3.2.2. Health conditions

As shown in table below the main disease affecting the families were malaria, typhoid and atet. Before joining the cooperative 50% of the respondents were affected by malaria, 22.2% of the respondents were affected by atet and 27.8% of the respondents were affected by typhoid. But after joining the cooperative only 5.6%, 13.3% and 11.1% of the respondents were affected by the above diseases respectively.

All respondents replied that there is no change in the prevalence of the disease among their family before, while 70% of the respondents replied that there is a change in the prevalence of the disease among their family after participation. Only 2.2% of the respondents were able to pay for health for their family before, while 46.7% of the respondents were able to pay for health for their family after participation.

**Table 29: Disease prevalence and cost of health of respondents before and after**

Attributes	Before		After		
	N	%	N	%	
What are the main disease affecting your family?	Malaria	45	50	5	5.6
	Atet	20	22.2	12	13.3
	Typhoid	25	27.8	10	11.1
Is there any change in the prevalence of the diseases?	Yes	0	0	63	70
	No	90	100	27	30
Can you afford to pay for medical treatment at health centre?	Yes	2	2.2	48	53.3
	No	88	97.8	42	46.7

**Source:** Computed from own survey data, March 2010

### 4.3.2.3. Clothing

As table 30 shows only 2.2% of family members have adequate clothing before participation, but after participating in the multipurpose cooperative 45.6% of women family members have got adequate clothing for their family. This shows that there is a significant improvement in the clothing of the households after joining the cooperative.

**Table 30: Clothing condition of respondents before and after**

Questions	Responses	Before		After	
		N	%	N	%
Did your family have adequate day clothing	Yes	2	97.8	41	45.6
	No	88	2.2	49	54.4

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010

#### 4.3.2.4. Source of drinking Water

As shown in table below the major sources of drinking water of respondents were river, pond and pipe. Before they are participating in the multipurpose cooperative 85.6% of the respondents have got drinking water from river and after participating in the MPCs this number is down to 47.8%. Before joining the cooperative only 13.3% of the respondents got drinking water from pipe and this percent is raised to 50% after participating. This shows that the number of respondents who had got potable water for their family was only 12(13.3%) before and the number of women respondents who had got potable water for their family is 45(50%) after participation. This shows that potable water accessibility of the respondents was increased after joining the cooperative.

**Table 31: Potable water accessibility of respondents before and after**

Questions	Responses	Before		After	
		N	%	N	%
Where did the source of drinking water?	River	77	85.6	43	47.8
	Pond	1	1.1	2	2.2
	Pipe	12	13.3	45	50
Does your family get clean water?	Yes	12	13.3	45	50
	No	78	86.7	45	50

*Source:* Computed from own survey data, March 2010



#### 4.4. Relationship between Participation and factors affecting participation

To know the degree of association of dependent and independent variables, Pearson's coefficient of correlation was used to analyze the results obtained from respondents in the field using SPSS 17. The result of the analysis is shown in table below:

**Table 32: Relationship b/n Independent variables and dependent variable**

No	Independent variables	Pearson Correlation(r)	Significance(P) (2-tailed)	N
1	Age	-.328**	.002	90
2	Educational status	.081	.448	90
3	Family size	-.143	.178	90
4	Duration of membership	.261*	.013	90
5	Membership in more than one coop	-.129	.226	90
6	Total TLU	-.298**	.004	90
7	Total income	-.427**	.001	90
8	Distance	-.587**	.000	90
9	Awareness	.779*	.030	90
10	Training	.359**	.001	90
11	Position	.339**	.001	90

*Source:* Pearson correlation in SPSS

\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The output of Pearson correlation analysis in Table 32 indicates that, out of 11 independent variables, a total of 8 variables are associated with the dependent variable at different levels of significance.

Educational status, duration of membership, awareness about cooperative, training access and position shows positive relationship with participation, although educational status is not statistically significant. The rest age, family size, membership with more than one cooperative, Total TLU, total income and distance shows negative relation with participation,

even though , family size and membership with more than one cooperatives are not statistically significant.

Statistical analysis of Pearson correlation of field data shows that there is positive relationship between duration of membership and participation at 5% significant level. The positive and significant relationship exists between duration of membership and participation was that people who stayed a long period have developed more experience and were more aware of the cooperatives than those who join the cooperative at recent year. As duration of membership increases, members could have right perception with positive attitude towards cooperatives. Several studies state that duration of membership with cooperative has a consistent association with other indicators such as participation with cooperative management, nature and extent of utilization of services of cooperatives.

It could be observed from Table 32, that, there was significant correlation at 1% level of significance and positive relationship between awareness of cooperation and level of participation. This implies that as the awareness of the respondent's increases, their participation also increases. The probable reason might be that as women are aware of the principles, by-laws and rules and regulations regarding the MPCs, their participation will be increases.

Statistical analysis using Pearson correlation coefficient revealed that there was significant and positive relationship between participation and access of respondents to training at 1% level of significance. This implies the level of participation of the respondents' increases with increase in access to training. The probable reason might be those respondents with relatively higher access to training have more access to new ideas and in turn may expose them to new information and increases their participation.

There was significant and positive relationship between position of women and level of participation. The positive relationship between position and level of participation implies that as women have authority in the MPCs their level of participation will be increases, as they are responsible for a particular issue.

The output of Pearson correlation revealed that there exist a significant and weak association between age of respondents and participation. The probable reason might be as age of women

increases the probability of participation in the MPCs will decrease indicating that as the age of women increased, they could not participate in the programme effectively.

As shown in Table 32, there is a negative, significant and weak relationship between participation and livestock holding of the respondents. This might be due to the fact that, as livestock raising are the main economic activities of the people in the study area, so that when the household has more number of livestock women are more concentrated to the management of and caring their livestock instead of participating in the main activities of the cooperative.

There was a negative and significant relationship between income and participation. The probable reasons for the negative relationship exists between income and participation was that, since from the very nature of cooperative is that people who engage in cooperative are weak section of the society, they intend to form a cooperative kind of business by pooling their resources together so as to increase their income and improve their livelihoods. Therefore as income increases participation will be decreases, as income decreases participation will be increases. Because as respondents have relatively better income they tend to operate their own business than joining a cooperative kind of business. The output this research is similar to the findings of M. Anjugam and C. Ramasamy (2007) on Determinants of Women's Participation in Self-Help Group the case of Tamil Nadu district in India revealed that social backwardness of the households had the significant positive relationship with the probability of participation of women. It indicated that socially backward people were more likely to participate in the programme because of lower income and asset position.

The result of the findings revealed that, there is a negative and significant relationship between participation and distance of the cooperative office to respondents home. The relation was at 1% level of significant. The negative relationship between distance and participation could be as distance increases women participation will be decreases. Indicating that as the cooperative service centre is far away from the respondents home the probability of women participation is low.

## **4.5. Constraints which hinder women participation in multipurpose cooperatives**

To identify list of constraints in this study, experts' suggestions and respondents concern or way of responding to indicate the constraints that inhibit women from participation in MPCs, during the pilot study were considered. Respondents were asked to put the list of constraints in rank order by assuming the first rank is considered as the most important constraint. The researcher identified constraints as most important, important and not important.

The rank orders of the constraints were identified through using score values of the constraints. The list of constraint included were eight items and among these, the constraints given by the respondents as first constraint was given 262 scores and the second 260 points like this the last constraint had 195 scores. After doing all these, the constraint that got the highest score value was taken as the most important constraint that limits rural women from participation in MPCs.

Therefore, as depicted in the table 33 Lack of awareness about principles, Values and the by-laws of cooperatives ranked as the first problem, Culture , Lack of access to information , Work load in the house hold ranked from the second to fourth problem respectively.

Lack of education and lack of capital score the same result so that both are ranked at the fifth problem. The low perception of the society towards women and mobility ranked the sixth and seventh problem of women respectively.

The issue was also discussed thoroughly with experts during focus group discussion which was held with the Woreda PARDB officers, Woreda cooperative promotion officers and Woreda women affair department. They pointed out that lack of awareness about the values principles, rules and regulation about the cooperative, work load, lack of education, cultural barriers, little attention given to women participation in cooperatives , lack of capital and lack access to information were the major factors which inhibits Afar women from participating in cooperatives in general and MPCs in particular.

During focus group discussion representative of women affair department of the woreda said that Afar Women have multifaceted problems which inhibited them from participating from any development activities particularly in cooperatives. One major constraint is lack of education. Since most women have no access to education they did not recognise the advantage of some development interventions so that they are reluctant to accept something

which is new for them. The second major constraint which inhibits women to participate in cooperative is work load in the house. Women did not have sufficient time that could help them to search for information or to attend different meetings, trainings, etc. The other important constraint is culture. The culture of Afar did not encourage women to participate in any activities like men. Because the culture restricted them to act freely and forward their feelings easily.

Opinion from experts of the Woreda cooperative promotion bureau during focus group discussion revealed that cooperatives are still infant in Afar Region so that the people in general and women in particular are not aware of the cooperative principles and values. Therefore lack of awareness about cooperative is one major constraint which inhibits Afar women from participating in cooperatives. The other problem is lack of capital. To start a cooperative type of business members should contribute a certain amount of capital as initial capital. Since women in Afar Region lack access to major economic resources, they have no capital to pay for their membership.

Opinion of the Woreda PARDB officers during focus group discussion revealed that lack of awareness about women's role in the community and mobility are the major factors inhibiting women participation in cooperatives. Afar women constitute almost half of the total population of Afar and contributed a lot to the community. However, the society did not recognise the contributions of women. The same implication is given to the participation of women in cooperatives, i.e., whether they participate or not they did not bring anything.

**Table 33: Major factors perceived by respondents as constraints of women to participate in multipurpose cooperatives (N = 90)**

S/n	Attributes	Relative importance of the attribute						Score	Rank
		Most Important (3)		Important (2)		Not Important(1)			
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
1	Lack of awareness about cooperatives.	82	91.1	8	8.9	0	0	262	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Culture	80	88.9	10	11.1	0	0	260	2 <sup>nd</sup>
3	Lack of access to information	78	86.7	10	11.1	2	2.2	256	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Work load in the house hold	75	83.3	11	12.2	4	4.4	251	4 <sup>rd</sup>
5	Lack of education	60	66.7	20	22.2	10	11.1	230	5 <sup>th</sup>
6	Lack of capital	60	66.7	20	22.2	10	11.1	230	5 <sup>th</sup>
7	The perception of the people towards women	50	55.5	15	16.7	25	27.8	202	6 <sup>th</sup>
8	Mobility	45	50	15	16.7	30	33.3	195	7 <sup>th</sup>

#### **4.6. Suggestions for improving women participation MPCs**

Suggestions which women respondents thought as helpful for the improvement of their participation in their MPCs were given at the time of collecting primary data from members. The given suggestions are presented in table 34 with their scores and ranks followed by the discussion of the results.

As indicated in Table 34, among the nine suggestions, respondents agreed that Continuous education of women about the principle, values and by-laws about cooperatives in order to develop awareness is the most important suggestion for improving women' participation in their MPCs in the study area, and it was given the 1<sup>st</sup> rank for its score.

Followed by Educating the society about the issue of gender and development, the government should interfere in increasing women participation especially in providing capital as most women lack the necessary initial capital to pay, and minimizing the work load of

women by means of division of work in the family ranking from 2nd to 4th respectively. But Education of women so as to develop their ability and to have confidence on their action and the Woreda cooperative promotion bureau initiates the cooperative societies to involve women members ranking from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> respectively. And Women in leadership position in cooperative encourage other women to be a member and to be active participants and the women affair department of the Woreda and those who are working on women should empower those women who are members through capacity building scored the same rank which is the 7<sup>th</sup> place. Lastly, changing the ways of life of pastoral women from movable nature of life to sedentary way of life was given the last rank.

The issue was also discussed thoroughly with the selected weredas experts during focus group discussion. Accordingly, to enhance women participation in the area the main task to do is continuous education, awareness creation, training and providing relevant information. According to the opinion of experts' educational activities, training, awareness creation, and giving relevant information in relation to the cooperative equips women with the necessary knowledge and they can identify the advantage and disadvantage of cooperatives. Therefore, cooperatives in the area should target on continuous education, awareness creation, training and providing information.

Moreover, as the major problem faced by women in the study area are multiple burden of responsibilities in the household, cooperatives should consider to design and implement training, family dialog, community conversation programs that bring attitudinal change in men so that they share the household responsibilities, since these are deep-routed cultural issues that need more awareness and behavioural changes.

Since lack of capital is another constraint which hinders women participation in cooperatives, according to the experts' suggestion during focus group discussion; government interference is a must in areas of operating credit access to women in the area so as to enhance their participation.

**Table 34: Rank order of suggestions given for improving women participation in multipurpose cooperatives (N = 90)**

S/n	Attributes	Relative importance of the attribute						Score	Rank
		Most Important (3)		Important (2)		Not Important(1)			
		N	%	N	%	N	%		
1	Continuous education of women about the principle, values and by-laws about cooperatives in order to develop awareness.	85	94.4	5	5.6	0	0	265	1 <sup>st</sup>
2	Educating the society about the issue of gender and development.	80	88.8	7	7.8	3	3.4	257	2 <sup>th</sup>
3	The government should interfere in increasing women participation especially in providing capital as most women lack the necessary initial capital to pay.	78	86.6	7	7.8	5	5.6	253	3 <sup>rd</sup>
4	Minimizing the work load of women by means of division of work in the family.	75	83.3	11	12.2	4	4.4	251	4 <sup>rd</sup>
5	Education of women so as to develop their ability and to have confidence on their action.	70	77.8	12	13.3	8	8.9	242	5 <sup>th</sup>
6	The Woreda cooperative promotion bureau initiates the cooperative societies to involve women members.	60	66.7	20	22.2	10	11.1	230	6 <sup>th</sup>
7	Women in leadership position in cooperative encourage other women to be a member and to be active participants.	55	61.1	27	30	8	8.9	227	7 <sup>th</sup>
8	Changing the ways of life of pastoral women from movable nature of life to sedentary way of life.	45	50	30	33.3	15	16.7	210	8 <sup>th</sup>



# CHAPTER V

## Conclusion and Recommendation

### 5.1. Conclusion

In Ethiopia women constitute half of the total population. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy and women are the backbone of the food production system. The agricultural sector contributes to overall economic growth as well as providing the poor with opportunities for socio-economic development activities. Agriculture activities heavily relied on family labours and women played a key important role in farming and improving the quality of life in rural areas. Out of the total subsistence agricultural production, they are responsible for about 50%. As some reports indicate women contribute around 65% of the labour-force in agriculture.

Women involvement in the cooperative sector is equally important for economic development of the country. A number of experiences and experiments made in different parts of the world clearly indicate that women's participation in cooperatives and other local government bodies not only provides them an opportunity to articulate their problems but it also helps them to be an active partner in decision making process. Moreover, initiatives taken by women in cooperatives have accelerated the progress and change of socio-economic situations both for women and the society at large.

So far, there has not been conducted any research in Afar region on the participation of women in multipurpose cooperatives. Therefore, this study was intended to assess the extent of women participation in primary multipurpose cooperatives, to investigate the economic and social contribution of multipurpose cooperatives to women in the study area, to examine major factors influencing women participation in primary multipurpose cooperatives and to suggest interventions and recommendations for enhancing the participation of women in multipurpose cooperative.

To address the objectives of the study, both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were used. Data were collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary data necessary for the quantitative study were collected through personal interviews from 90 women drawn

purposefully from ten multipurpose cooperatives by conducting formal survey using structured interview schedule. Qualitative data were collected through; focus group discussion, observations, and informal discussion with key informants. Descriptive statistics with appropriate statistical tests, Karl Pearson's Correlation and other relevant tests were used to analyse the data.

The findings of this study showed that women's participation in cooperatives is generally low. Women are also conspicuously under-represented at decision making, implementing decisions, shouldering of responsibility, attending general meeting, involvement in share purchasing and leadership. Only 8.9%, 8.9%, 10%, 10%, 11.1%, 8.1% of women were actively participated in the above activities respectively.

The result of the study revealed that only few women are members of different committees within the MPCs. Only 4.4%, 5.6%, 7.8% of the total women are members of management committee, control committee and credit committee respectively.

The survey result showed that the majority of the respondents did not aware of the rule, the by-laws, principles, values; rights and obligation of members. Only 15.6% of the respondents know properly the principles and values of cooperatives, only 21.1% of the respondents aware of the by-laws, rules and regulation of the cooperative, only 30% of the respondents know the right, duties and obligation of members in the cooperative.

The result of this study showed women access to different type of training is very low, only 33.3% of the respondents have access to training.

The study revealed that off farm activity, dividend from the cooperative and sale of livestock are the major source of income of respondents in the study area, which contributes 31.4%, 28.2%, and 20.4% of the total income of the household respectively.

The survey reveals that the majority of women derived appreciable economic and social benefit through their participation in the multipurpose cooperatives. Contribution to increase in income, assets, livestock holding, food supply, credit availability, education of children,

health condition, potable water supply and clothing aspects are the prominent socio-economic benefits derived by women.

The output of Pearson correlation analysis indicated that age, duration of membership, livestock ownership, total income, distance, awareness about cooperative, training access, position of women, shows a significant relationship with participation.

The constraints that inhibit women from participating in multipurpose cooperatives were identified through ranking the score values of the constraints obtained from the respondents. Lack of awareness, culture, Lack of access to information, work load in the house, lack of education, lack of capital, the negative attitude of the society towards women and mobility were the most important factors contributing to the inactive participation of women in multipurpose cooperatives in the study area.

## **5.2. Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study the researcher would like to recommend the following:

Through awareness creation, training and educational programmes which are sensitive to women needs, cooperatives can help strengthen women's capacities and capabilities, resulting in their increased self-confidence and enabling them to participate more fully in decision-making and assume leadership positions. Because Women cannot assume leadership roles unless they have had access to education and training programmes. Experience has shown that women in leadership positions are more likely to address gender issues and safeguard the interests of women. As the cooperative organization incorporates so many women (yet few in management positions), it is important that more women are integrated into the system. Therefore cooperatives should target on continuous education, training and information to all members in general and women members in particular.

Active, equitable participation of members, both men and women, is a necessity for sustainable cooperative development. Active participation in the cooperative context means that members are involved in all the functions of cooperatives including planning, decision-making, implementation and financial and management control. Therefore, in order to

enhance sustainable development, special consideration should be given to increasing women's participation in the cooperative movement at all levels.

The result of the study revealed that MPCs have a multiple contributions to women in the study area. However, still the majority of women in the study area are not members of the cooperative and only a few women are benefiting from the services of the cooperative organizations. Therefore, cooperative should work more on improving the services of the organization in terms of credit availability, input provision, marketing of products on time, etc. Moreover, cooperatives should strengthen and expand the involvement of more women in the cooperative sector in order to improve their livelihood.

As the major problem faced by women in the study area are multiple burden of responsibilities in the household, cooperatives should consider to design and implement training, family dialog, community conversation programs that bring attitudinal change in men so that they share the household responsibilities, since these are deep-routed cultural issues that need more awareness and behavioural changes.

Cooperative promoters at the Federal, Regional, Zonal and Woreda level should enforce the cooperative societies to incorporate women members as a precondition for the functioning of the cooperative organization.

Cooperatives should review their policies and plans periodically to ensure that they are gender-sensitive.

The further research: deeper and larger scale research should be undertaken at country level in order to drive rigorous conclusions and policy recommendations on women's participation in cooperative in general.

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix I

Mekelle University  
School of Graduate Studies  
College of Business and Economics  
Department of cooperative studies  
Women participation in Multipurpose Cooperatives in Gewane and Awash  
Fentale Woreda, Afar, Ethiopia

### INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

#### **Instructions to enumerators**

- Make brief introduction to each farmer before starting any question, get introduced to the farmers, (greet them in the local way) get his /her name; tell them yours, the institutions you are working for, and make clear the purpose and objective of your questions.
- Please ask each question so clearly and patiently until the farmer understands (gets your point).
- Please fill up the questionnaire according to the farmers reply (do not put own opinion).
- Please do not try to use technical terms while discussing with farmer and do not forget the local unit.

#### **A. General information**

1. Name of the enumerator \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name of the kebele \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name of the multipurpose cooperative \_\_\_\_\_
5. Distance of the cooperative from the respondent (Kms) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name of the respondent \_\_\_\_\_
7. Signature of the enumerator \_\_\_\_\_

#### **B. Household information**

1. Age \_\_\_\_\_ (years)
2. Head of the household
  - a. Male
  - b. Female
3. Marital Status
  - a. Married
  - b. Single
  - c. Divorced
  - d. Widowed

4. Educational level

- a. Illiterate      b. Basic education (Religion based)
- c. Primary education, number of years \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Secondary education, number of years \_\_\_\_\_

5. Religion

- a. Orthodox    b. Muslim    c. Protestant    d. Others/specify \_\_\_\_\_

6. Size of the family /husband + wife + children/

S.No.	Family size
a	< 2
b	2 to 4
c	5 to 7
d	8 to 9
e	> 10

**C. Economic Aspect**

1. Do you own livestock? a. Yes      b. No

2. If yes, indicate the number of livestock owned before and after you participate in the cooperative.

No	Type of livestock	Number owned	
		Before	After
1	Cow		
2	Ox		
3	Sheep		
4	Goat		
5	camel		
6	Mule		
7	Donkey		
8	Horse		
9	Calf		
10	Others specify		

3. What is your major source of income?

- a. sale of livestock      b. sale vegetables and crops    c. employment    d. Self business

e. remittances f. dividend f. Others specify

4. Household assets before and after participation

No	Type of assets	Before participation		After participation	
		No	Value	No	Value
1	Cow				
2	Farm ox				
3	Bull				
4	Heifer				
5	Calves				
6	Sheep and goat				
7	Pack animals				
8	Chickens				
9	Sprayer knapsack				
10	Water pump				
11	Plough				
12	Sickle				
13	Axes				
14	Hoe				
15	Mobilephone				
16	Sewing machine				
17	Ponds				
18	Beehive				
19	Bed				
20	Matresses				
21	Sleeping mats				
22	Blanket				
23	Bed sheets				
24	Mosquito nets				
24	Tables				
26	Chairs				

27	Cooking pan				
28	Cups				
29	Glasses				
30	Water jerricans				
31	Plates				
32	Sofas				
33	Shelves				
34	Tv				
35	Radio				
36	Tape recorder				
37	Watch				
38	Gottera				
39	Golden/Silver earrings				
40	Golden/silves rings				
41	Fuel saving stove				
42	Permos				

5. Family annual income (approximately tell me the total annual cash income of the family)

No	Income source	Before	After
1	Sales of vegetables and fruits		
2	Nonfarm activity		
	Petty trade		
	Daily labour		
	Handicrafts		
	Sale of firewood		
	Sale of charcoal		
3	Dividends		
4	Sales of livestock		
5	Sales of livestock products		
6	Remittances		
7	Others specify		

6. Would you tell me the total annual expenditure in the family?

No	Expenditure	Before	After
1	Staple food per month		
2	Non staple food per month		
3	Clothing per year		
4	Education per year		
5	Health per year		
6	Transportation per month		
7	Purchase of input/fert,seed,livfeed,chemicals/		
8	Construction of house		
9	Drug for livestock per year		
10	Social ceremonies/wedding,funerals,etc/per year		
11	Voluntary per year		
12	Fuel for house hold consumption per month		
13	Tax		
14	Social contributions/equib,edir/		

7. Is there any improvement in your livelihood/welfare indicators?

**i. Housing**

No	Description	Before		After	
1	What material is your house is made up of				
2	What material is the roof made up				
3	What material is the floor made up of				
4	How many house do you have				
5	Area of your house				
6	Have you separate bed rooms	Yes	No	Yes	No
7	Have you latrine	Yes	No	yes	No
8	Have you a separate cooking room	yes	No	Yes	No

**ii. Education**

No	Description	Before	After
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1	How many children are in the school		
2	How many of your children dropped out from school		
3	Can you buy adequate educational materials for your children	Yes no	Yes No
4	Can you afford to pay educational costs	Yes no	Yes No

### iii. Health

No	Indicators	Before	After
1	What are the main disease affecting your family		
2	Is there any change in prevalence of these diseases among your family	Yes No	Yes No
3	Can you afford to pay for treatment at health centre	Yes No	YesNo

### iv. Food supply and nutrition

No	Indicators	Before	After
1	Can you feed your family adequately	Yes No	Yes No
2	Have you ever sold your productive assets to purchase food	Yes No	Yes No
3	Is the quality of food eaten in the family improved or deteriorated		
4	Is food stocks improved or deteriorated over time		
5	Number of meals per day		

### v. Clothing

No	Indicators	Before	After
1	Did your family have adequate day clothing	Yes No	Yes No
2	Did your family adequate shoes	Yes No	Yes No

### vi. Water

No	Indicators	Before	After
1	Where did the source of drinking water		
2	Have your family got clean water?	Yes No	Yes No



**D. Social Aspects**

1. Have you ever got any training?
  - a. Yes            b. No
2. What organization the training was organized?
  - a. The Woreda cooperative promoters and organizers
  - b. regional cooperative promotion
  - c. NGO such as VOCA
  - d. Others/ specify\_\_\_\_\_
3. On what points it gave you education/ training?
  - a. General issues related with cooperative
  - b. Principles, benefits and members role in the cooperative
  - c. Financial management
  - d. Income generation activities
  - e. Marketing
  - f. Others/specify\_\_\_\_\_
4. Does the cooperative provide community service activities?
  1. Yes            2.No
5. If yes to Q4, do you participate in the activities?
  1. Yes            2.No
6. If no to Q4 what is the reason

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7. What are the major problems that hinder women participation that you perceived ?

S.No.	Problems	Very important	Important	Less important
a				
b				
c				
d				
e				
f				
g				

8. What are your suggestions to improve women participation in multipurpose cooperatives?

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**E. Involvement in decision making**

- 1. What is your position in the cooperative?  
a. Chairman b. social affair committee c. Control committee d. Mgt committee e. Ordinary mbr
- 2. Who make decision in the cooperative?  
a. board b. management c. G.assembly d. members
- 3. Are you participated in decision making practice in your cooperative?  
3. Always 2. Sometimes 1. never
- 4. Are you involved in setting the objective of the cooperative?  
3. Always 2. Some times 1. never

**F. Involvement in implementing decisions**

- 1. Are you actively involved in achieving the objectives of the cooperative?  
3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never
- 2. Do you implement the decisions of the group?  
3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never

**G. Sharing of responsibility**

- 1. Do you share responsibility with respect to the accomplishment of any activity in the cooperative?  
1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Undecided 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree
- 2. Are you ready to accept any responsibility entrusted to you by the cooperative?  
1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Undecided 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree

**H. promptness and regularity in attending general meetings**

- 1. Participation rate in general assembly meetings. 3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never
- 2. Your involvement rate in discussion of general assembly meetings. 3. Actively  
2. Occasionally forward ideas 1. Chances are less to forward ideas
- 3. Reasons for not participating in general assembly meetings:

- A. Time of general assembly meeting not announced well. B. Personal problem/work load  
C. Not interested

5. Have you elected for management body position? A. Yes B. No

6. Are u participated in election process: A. yes B. no

**I. Involvement in share purchasing**

7. Are u participated in building capital of cooperative through share purchasing:

3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never

8. Have you received participation patronage? A. Yes B. No

9 Utilizations of patronage fund;

a. Reinvest in cooperative as deposit

b. Reinvest in cooperative as extra share holding. c. used for personal purpose

**J. Leadership propensity**

1. Do you lead group meetings and discussions?

3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never

2. Do you guide and influence the group members in taking decisions?

3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never

3. Do you think that you can change the attitude of others in the group?

3. always 2. Sometimes 1. Never

**k. Awareness about cooperation**

1. When did you become a member of the multipurpose cooperative?

(Year)\_\_\_\_\_

2. How many years have you been? (Duration) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is your membership in one cooperative only? a. Yes b. No

4 . If **Q10** is no, in how many cooperatives you are a member and why?

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5. How did you become member?

- a. Self interest  
b. Government enforcement  
c. Nongovernmental organizations help  
d. neighbour  
e. media

6. where did you get the information about the cooperative?

a. Woreda coop promotion bureau

b. neighbour c. Radio

7. Did you get any benefit from your participation? 1. Yes 2. No

If yes what benefit \_\_\_\_\_

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8. If Q14 is No, specify the reasons why you didn't get any benefit?

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you aware of the bye-laws, rules, and regulations of the cooperative?

Yes b. No

10. Do you know the value and principles of cooperatives? a. Yes b. No

11. Do you know the rights, duties and obligation of members? a. Yes b. No

12. Do you know how surplus income is allocated? A. Yes b. No

13. Do you know the terms of conducting general meeting? A. Yes b. No

14. Do you know the purpose of convening the general body? a. Yes b. No

15. Do you know the duties of the chief executive of your cooperative? a. Yes b. No

19. Do you know the importance of working together? A. yes b. No

### **M. Economic Role of Women in Cooperative**

1. Are you interested to contribute money to the cooperative if there is a need?

a. yes b. No

2. How many shares do you have?

3. Have you utilized effectively all the service of cooperative? a. Yes b. No

4. Have the cooperative provide credit services to you? a. Yes b. No

5. If yes to Q4 how often did you borrow money from the cooperative?

6. Are you benefited from the loan? a. Yes b. No

7. Did you repay the loan on time? a. Yes b. No.

8. If No to Q7 what is the reason?

## Appendix II

### Checklist of Focused Group Discussion

1. In view of you what are the factors which hinder women participation in cooperatives in the area?

S.No.	Constraints	Very important	Important	Less important
a				
b				
c				
d				
e				
f				
g				

2. In view of you, what are the social contributions of multipurpose cooperative to women?

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3. In view of you what are the economic contributions of multipurpose cooperative to women?

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4. How do you see women participation in cooperatives in your area?

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5. Do you encourage women to organize themselves in cooperative? If yes in what aspect?

6. What measures to be taken to enhance women participation in cooperatives in the area?

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### Appendix III

#### Conversion Factors to Estimate Tropical Livestock Unit equivalents

Animal Category	TLU	Animal Category	TLU
Calf	0.25	Donkey (young)	0.35
Weaned Calf	0.34	Camel	1.25
Heifer	0.75	Sheep and Goat (adult)	0.13
Cow and Ox	1.00	Sheep and Goat (young)	0.06
Horse	1.10	Chicken	0.013
Donkey (adult)	0.70		

**Source:** Source: Storck, *et al.* (1991)