TO ASSESS THE SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE WOMAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PUBLIC SPHERES IN JIGJIGA TOWN IN THE CASE OF GARABASE SUB CITY

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Abstract

The main objectives of the study were to assess the socio-cultural factors that influence woman's participation in the public spheres in Jigjiga town in the case of garabase Sub city both quantitative and qualitative approach was employed, the study used Cross sectional research design. The researcher conducted the study by obtaining both primary and secondary data. In this study questionnaires, focus group discussion and interview was used to gather data 55 sample size of the respondents were chosen through purposive sampling techniques, Majority of the respondents were female (65.5%) and (34.5%) were men. The majority of the respondents on the study were the age between (26-30) years. From the result shown, majority of respondent with (43.6 %) reported that religious beliefs and (30.9%) of cultural attitudes was hinder mostly their participation of women's in the public sphere. Thus, as per to the respondent's idea religious beliefs and cultural beliefs were the two factors which highly influence women's participation in public sphere. All such kind like, the impacts of cultural beliefs, religious thinking and social attitude were the main problems which hinders and influence the participation of women in the public sphere as stated by the respondent. Based the result of the study, some recommendation was forwarded to stock holder like; Community mobilization works should do to aware the community about the participation of women in public sphere. The community and particularly the religious leaders should be given awareness creation to the women's less participation in the

public spheres and government should ensure equal opportunity and empowering of women in participation of any public sphere.

Key words: women, participation, public, socio-cultural.

Introduction

In most patriarchic societies, females are regarded as the inferior of the species part of the community, and the women are denied access to both honored and utilitarian role open only to males. The construction of the society is not new who have been working on gender issue; although; there is cross- cultural generalities in the gender based division of labor. Culture takes biological differences and associates them with certain activities, behavior and ideas. Male domination in society pervades every aspect of life; economic, political or institutions (kottak 2002). According to WB (1998), although women constitutes two third of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food and above all, bear and rear children, women continue to suffer from all forms of discrimination and from the absence of adequate protection against violence

Women's low decision making power, particularly in developing countries, is more pronounced at household level. In the study conducted by (Visaria, 1993) in Gujarat, Western India, about 50% of the women stated that they do not feel free to take a sick child to a doctor without the approval of their husband, and 70% of the women do not make decisions regarding the purchase of their own or their children's clothing.

According to Meaza(2009), Ethiopia is party to all major human right treaties including the most important women's conventions, i.e., CEDAW which calls for equal participation of women in public decision making, Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action (BDPA),which requires governments to attain a 30% benchmark for women's representation in all public decision making positions). Moreover, various literatures argue that as compared to prior decades, the participations women in decision making throughout the world are somehow increasing. But, in spite of the incremental progress towards women's participation in public spheres, it is generally recognized that women have largely remained outside of formal leadership roles due to various factors. Accordingly, as it was stated that the main factors which have contributed for such disparities include: structural barriers, unequal socio-economical opportunities, and inadequate access to mentors and support networks (Meaza, 2009).

Ethiopia is a patriarchal society that keeps women in subordinate positions (Haregawoy in and Emebet, 2003). The socialization process, which determine gender role is partly responsible for the subjugation of women in the country. The differences in the ways in which individuals are treated through the socialization process mainly due to their sex status leads to the development of real psychological and personality difference between males and females (Almaz, 1991). Women constitute 71.3% in the clerical and fiscal type of jobs in federal government employment list. Women representations in administrative and professional jobs category

is only 25% and 18%respectively, which clearly indicates middle and upper management positions overwhelmingly dominated by men (Federal Civil Service Commission, 2005).

In the case of Jig jiga town, women's participation in political spheres and decision making role is still very low. As the data obtained from Jigjig town administration office, human resource department, many public organizations in the zone are dominated by male managers (Jigjiga citty Office of the mayor, 2012).

2. Statement of the problem

Women's participation and playing role in the public sphere had been low and less recognized and still this problem existing in the modern industrial world, there is what is called separate ideology that what should be done and who should be in the community, the separate ideology sphere dictates that men based primarily on the biological makes up as well as the will of god, inhabit the public sphere- the world politics, economy, commerce and trading and the making of the community while women's property according to this ideology is the private realm of domestic life child rearing housekeeping and religious education while rearing the children, (Ashly,2003). Women's confinement to the private spheres was reinforced by cultural and legal arrangement such as, women's lack of suffrage, legal prohibition against the women's undertaking professions like, medicine and law and discouragement from obtaining higher education. Although women's had been created space for women's academic and professional advancement, the separation sphere also provided an excuse for keeping women out of field not specifically marked as female (Kim , 2003).

Women's confinement to the private sphere had been supported by different groups of people and strongest support comes from the anti suffragists, who relied on the notion of inherent sexual difference to argue that women were not fit for political and social participation (Susan E.1986).

The separation between female and male based sphere activities had been heavily influenced by biological determinism (Grana, 2010).

In Ethiopia many research have been focusing and discussing the gender disparities and inequality among the women and men and the attitude of the community toward these, while other research have focusing on the gender based work activities; for example research undertaken by Gelgelo Liben in 2015 at Ambo university was intended to assess attitude of the community toward gender equality in the case of ambo district, on the other hand research another research had been under taken by Gudeta ChalaJune, 2014 in Haramaya University had also been focusing on the impact of gender based division labor on the socio-economic performance of women. In addition to these another research undertaken by Endale Alemu in 2014 at Jimma University was also focusing on factors effecting women's participation in leadership and decision making position which is partially focusing in the public spheres in other word these researched had been focusing

only one dimension of the public, but this study is focusing on women's participation in the public spheres not only one part rather than by addressing different aspects and dimensions of the public sphere.

Cognizant to all this existing gap the researcher examine and tried to assess how women's less participation in the public spheres affect the women and what are the socio-cultural factors that are influencing women's participation in the public spheres.

3. Objectives of study

General objectives of the study

The overall objective of this study was to assess the socio-cultural factors that influence women's participation in the public spheres in Jigjiga town in the case of Garabase sub city.

Specific objectives

- ➢ To identify the socio-cultural factors that leads women's less participation and performance in the public spheres in the study community.
- ➢ To assess the misconception of the societies towards the women's participation in the public spheres.
- ➢ To investigate the consequence of women's less participation in the public spheres in the community in general and women in particularly.
- ➢ To examine the attitude of the community toward women's participation in the public spheres.
- ➢ To examine how the policies and institution of the community looks like in relation to the women's participation on the spheres.

4. Significance of the study

This article will also serve as an input for different policies and strategies drafted by the government to intervene to this problem. Furthermore, this article will be used as an input for different nongovernmental and governmental organizations who wants to do a farther study on this topic. In addition to this, this research will serve as a written documents {literature reviews} for the researchers who wants to conduct study on the similar issue.

In other words, this article come up with a good recommendation that tries to alleviate and reduce cultural influence on women's participation in the public spheres of the community, and affecting their social relationships with other peoples through creating awareness among the community.

5. Literature Review

The public sphere comes from German word (offentlichkeit) which means; "publicans" or "publicity", (Hagerman 1962), is an area in social where individuals can come together to freely discus and identify societal problem and through that discussion influence, political action, communication scholar Gerard Hauser has defined it as; discursive space in which individuals and groups associate to discuss matter of mutual interest and, where possible to reach a common judgment about them(Hauser1999).

Women's right-public and private sphere divides

Because women's right are defined in most human right instrument in terms of their child-bearing and familial responsibility, and because the family, which is the site of violence and oppression for many women, continues to be described as the primary unit of society, there are severe limitation on the possibility of cording equal treatment to women within the existing human right regime. The division between the public and private spheres constitutes for all forms discrimination against women. In the so-called private arena the equal treatment of women remains extremely controversial. The primarily of women's biological and reproductive role in the identity and her role in society reinforced by social and cultural norms the world over.

Gender inequality in Ethiopia

Gender is asocial category a lived relationship between male and women. This structures every aspect of our daily lives. It is both cultural and material. Male are able to control women not only by marginalizing them in discourse, But by exercise of political, economic, social and physical power. Gender is also a" script" we have to do genders. That is behaving in gender appropriate ways. All gender behavior is an act, a performance (Beck, 1992).

The Ethiopian society is socialized in such a way that girls are held inferior to boys. In the process of upbringing, boys are expected to learn and become self-reliant, major bread winners, and responsible in different activities, while girls are brought up to conform, be obedient and dependent, and specialize in indoor activities like cooking, washing clothes, fetching water, caring for children, etc. (Haregewoin and Emebet, 2003; Hirut, 2004).

5.1 Theoretical framework - Liberal Feminism

The Author has selected these liberal feminism theories because these theory focuses on slight change on the current social structure or at least some societal restructuring on women's point of view, these theory doesn't advocate revolutionary change of social structure rather it mainly proposes a evolutionary change should happen through time, unlike that of radical and socialist feminism these doesn't oppose the current social world which these other feminism theories believe that it's a male created world and patriarchal dominated

system that women were dominated and oppressed by male, rather these states that some issues should be restructured but it should be all existing systems. Thus this research was led by these theory and its assumptions are more important to these research.

6. Research Methodology

In order to collect relevant data, the Author employed both qualitative and quantitative type of research approach, but the researcher was more focusing on the qualitative part, because qualitative approach helps to explore perspective, views, and values of respondents through interviewing. In this study the Author used both quantitative research design, cross –sectional research design which helped the researcher to study a number of individual of different age who has the same characteristic of interest at single case with a single time and the qualitative research design, a case study research design that helped the author to do study in a deeply manner. Both to conduct the author primary and secondary data

Survey method of data collection had been used for this, different tools of data collection was also used, questionnaire was used as a one of data collection instrument due to its convenience to collect adequate data from a large number of respondents, Two Focus group discussion (FGD) with each six participants 4 female and 2 males had been also conducted for better understanding of the situation, in addition to this In-depth Interview were the research had unstructured with respondents, the interviews that seem more like conversations with the respondent in order to understand their views and idea in relation to the problem.

In this article the researcher employed non-probability sampling methods. Due to large number of people available to give detail information about the study specifically purposive sampling technique was used because the non probability sampling was applied by the judgment of the researcher, 55 respondents were purposively selected due to their knowledge in the area were the author has been studying.

Furthermore, the Author used both quantitative and qualitative data analyzing technique, the qualitative data was analyzed by methods of critical reading and textual analyzing and quantitative data was analyzed by using SPPS quantitative data analyze, and then the data was interpreted.

7. Discussion and Findings

According to (Chap man) 2000, supported that Subordination of women given low status by male for their work, they did not try to eagerly participant in social life as that of male and this in turn create on them a sense of dependency and being subordinate on male. Majority of the respondents 41% of were indicated that poor value to women's work by male affect women in different ways. Giving poor value (low recognition) for women's work is highly rampant in our society and this adversely affects the performance of women participation. There is some correlation on socio-cultural factors, minimize the participation of women's, in

public sphere, in which on the above table as shown 49.6% of the respondents reported that lack of power to decision and dependence on men were among the problems faced when women's no participate in the sphere of public. Whereas the other to the same extent if women's not participate in the women's public sphere they become, as the respondents states; poor access of education and feeling subordination. So that, if women's not participate in any sphere of public issues majority women's become dependence to men. So the researcher argued with Chapman idea that giving poor value (low recognition) for women's work is highly rampant in our society and this adversely affects the performance of women participation. . However   the   researchers   want to indicate that if the women's involve in participation of any public sphere they   will be benefited and reduce the dependency of women's on men.

According survey of (Desalegn) 2013, women are highly participating in domestic activities mostly ,participating in nature activities which is most of the time done by male and which assigned by the society to female. 33%of them stated that, their reproductive household activities are child bearing and rearing. Beside.26% of them mentioned that their role is processing and preparing food. The current study confirms household activities are considered by the society attitude as women's work. As the result of finding shows, 56.4% of women's roles in the house hold was food preparing where as 18.2% of women's role in the house hold was child bearing. In addition to this cleaning and care other family like mother and ground father was additional work or role of women's in the house hold. Due to this, majority of women's in the participation of public sphere was affected. This out finding confirmed with Desalegn survey 2013, in which majority of women's participation of affected duo to most of house hold activity were women's work. On the other hand research another research had been under taken by (Gudeta) 2014 in Haramaya University had also been focusing on the impact of gender based division labor on the

Socio-economic performance of women and the major factors that are responsible for gender in equalities is the socio-cultural norms of the society. The research revealed that the level of participation by male in domestic work was very poor, on the other hand, the level of participation by women domestic work is very high or almost all the responsibility to carry out domestic work is given to women and female children of the house hold.

According to Gudeta research the main impact of gender based division of labor is feeling of being subordination. As a result of this women are economically dependent, have low educational back ground as well as other public services. According to the research findings shows that reproductive activities are considered as the responsibility of women's. This is due to the attitude of the society towards women's performances is low and the society as well as, cultural norms of a given society shaped the attitude of the society. The research agree with these research there are some socio-cultural factors that influencing women's activities from the finding of these research   majority of respondent with 43.6%% reported that religious beliefs was hinder mostly their participation of women's in the public sphere.

Research undertaken by Endale Alemu in 2014, at Jimma University was also focusing on factors effecting women's participation in leadership and decision making position. As Endale states cultural attitudes and religion view of community have great impacts on socio-economic participation of women in leadership. The out finding of this study reveals that current impacts of the result such of problems created due to cultural believes, religion thinking and social attitude were the main problems which hinders and influence the participation of women's in the public sphere.

8. Conclusion

Women have different role in community and they socially constructed with community in different way. Based on the result of the study, women's roles can change over-time and vary according to cultural thinking, religion and social context. So, as the finding of the research shows that the majority of the respondents get low attitude by the society for the participation of women's in the public sphere. The main cause of women's participation factor that influences were religion believes and cultural thinking was the main problems. Majority of the respondents of were indicated that poor value to women's work by male affect women in different ways. Giving poor value (low recognition) for women's work is highly rampant in our society and this adversely affects the performance of women participation. There is some correlation on socio-cultural factors, minimize the participation of women's, in public sphere. Due to this, Women have low status in the society and the society is not equal recognition for what they did and participates in any public sphere. The major factors that are responsible for gender in equalities are the socio-cultural norms of the society.

 The research revealed that the level of participation by male in domestic work s very poor, on the other hand, the level of participation by women domestic work is very high or almost all the responsibility to carry out domestic work is given to women and female children of the house hold. As a result of this women have low participation, no empowered and economically dependent, have low educational back ground as well as other public sphere. the out finding of the study reveal with the current impacts of the result such of problems created due to cultural believes, religion thinking and social attitude were the main problems which hinders and influence the participation of women's in the public sphere. Finally, the research findings shows that with this study, there are different factor which affect the participation of women in the various productive and reproductive activities in the public sphere, these are lack of power to make decision, the work of women are undermined by male, attitude of considering women as house servant.

9. Recommendation

From the main finding, as recommendations, the following should be taken for improvement of women participation in the public sphere.

- ➤ Government should empower for decision making power and participation of women's by encouraging women's in the community by undertaking community workshops in relation to the issue.
- ➤ Community mobilization works have to be done to aware the community about the participation of women in public sphere.
- ➤ Husband and house hold members should give awareness to the women's by minimizing their negative and cultural believes with religion view to give up the attitude of community positively which makes the women's participation in any public sphere levels.
- ➤ In order to enhance the process of strengthening women's participation effort should be made to empower women to exercise their right and responsibilities like to other members of the society.
- ➤ The government should ensure equal access to education encourage, job opportunity and empower the women to take responsibility for participation in any public sphere.
- ➤ In the study area women took a subordinate position and all things considered by men. As a result of this women's are economically dependent, lack of access to education and other public services. To reduce or solve this problem the government should facilitate access to any participation and empowering for women by fully engaging women in every activity.
- ➤ According to the majority of the respondent indicated that poor value to women's work by male affects women in different ways. This creates them a sense dependency and being subordinate on male. So, the government must be done on this issue to reduce the impact of cultural believes, relational and division of labor on socio-cultural performance of women's.

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