# Korodegaga site-specific topic: gender relations

## Economic empowerment

### Rights to land

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: All the land owners (male and female headed) have right on their land which is measured and registered on their names. However, it was not yet certified to assure their owners’.

MEN’S VIEWS: Rights to land have changed in the kebele. Women could get land being organized under cooperatives like men and youth could do. Women could also share land from her husband in case of divorce.

#### New laws being implemented?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Concerning on land, females could able to share land and other properties with their brothers or husbands. These are in practice in the community; however, some young males refused it.

MEN’S VIEWS: Women land inheritance of their parents is recently implemented and considerable women are benefited by getting their parents land after they have passed. Refer detail on module4 under gender law and policies.

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: People who were harmed from this intervention resisted or opposed and the reverse is true, that beneficiaries feel happy. Generally, as a whole the community feel ok.

MEN’S VIEWS: Men started to respect women’s’ rights and consider them equal to men. Most men oppose the implementation of women land inheritance saying that it could result in conflict in the society.

### Farm and off-farm work opportunities

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: All could able to participate on farm land whether land owner or landless. Generally participation on farm is good link with irrigation work. They develop the work skill from the investors.

MEN’S VIEWS: Women have equal work opportunities to men. They work on investors farms as men do to earn money and could participate in cooperatives to get both farm and non-farm opportunities. They also get credit to do businesses they want to run and could accumulate their own assets.

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: The attitudes towards farm work become changed. Currently everybody are struggling on agricultural work than before. For instance, some people rented their land to others, but now they struggling on their own farm land.

MEN’S VIEWS: Men also form cooperatives with women respecting their rights.

## Personal and social empowerment – personal relations with men

### Abduction and rape

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Currently there is no abduction, except volunteer abduction. It is difficult to say rape is abolished, because it is happened depending on the environmental circumstances (place, time, etc). For instance, FFHs are harmed on this as some of them were told me.

MEN’S VIEWS: Abduction and rape are very low and/or nonexistent in the society.

#### New laws being implemented?

MEN’S VIEWS: None

#### Attitudes changing?

MEN’S VIEWS: Men consider abduction and rape as crime and ready to take before law anybody coming across while raping or found committing abduction.

### Extra-marital pregnancy and abortion and polygamy

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Generally, the pace of polygamy marriage is decreased on economic, social and political impact. The rate of pregnancy (birth rate was not change), some single young females aborted unwanted pregnancy.

MEN’S VIEWS: The awareness for contraception use is increasing that decreased pre-marital pregnancy and abortion. Moreover the awareness about HIV increase has reduced pre-marital pregnancy and abortion.

#### New laws being implemented?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Males couldn’t marry more than one as they want. If to do this his wife should agree or he should share her properties and assets before that. E.g., the one was married second wife without the recognition of first wife. Then she accused him at wereda, where she stayed there on her house. Finally the community elders resolve the problem with shared her properties/assets.

MEN’S VIEWS: None

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: The community awared about women’s legal right and they faired to do so. They said that; ‘zizaw yenesu new, yin mengist yeset new’. That directly or indirectly they accepted.

MEN’S VIEWS: Yes, people’s awareness about HIV has changed attitude.

### Choice of marriage partner

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Now, almost more than half of youngsters are married by their own choice of their partner. Some of the rich daughter’s doesn’t get opportunity to choose her partner.

MEN’S VIEWS: Unless a girl or woman preferred or agreed to marry, she would not be forced to get married to a person she do not want. She could appeal to kebele official or wereda in case her parents forced her to marry without her consent. Parents of a girl student agreed to parents of a man who is going to marry her and finally she heard and appealed to a school director. The director told to wereda police and the police warned her family not to do so and the marriage program was cancelled. Finally she agreed and married to the same person.

#### New laws being implemented?

MEN’S VIEWS: None

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Youths’ policy is forbidden to force them on unwanted marriage. The male youths couldn’t accept parents’ choice of marriage partner.

MEN’S VIEWS: None

### Child and early marriage

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: I didn’t found early marriage at the kebele.

MEN’S VIEWS: Early marriage is not culturally common and no much change observed.

#### New laws being implemented?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: They know well about it and its consequence on social impact. New policy was implemented on mother and child.

MEN’S VIEWS: None

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: It link with the right of choice own partner, there is no early marriage. This condition forced them to accept the intervention.

MEN’S VIEWS: None

### Male violence towards women

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: It is not abolished completely; the problem is solved by elders.

MEN’S VIEWS: Male violence towards women has reduced as the awareness increased among both men and women. Neighbors discourage and degrade those husbands fighting with their wives knowing the act being sign of backwardness. Previously kicking a wife was considered as a sign of love and old people remember it time of being fool.

#### New laws being implemented?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: They know, there is policy which is forbidden physical punishment.

MEN’S VIEWS: None

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: There is a big change compared to with before. In the past without any reason they hit their wives, e.g. if he quarrelled with others outside or was upset on something, etc., he hit his wife. But now, there is no such kinds of things, except do so their own problems.

## Political empowerment

### Women’s voice in community decisions

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Yes, women have in almost all committee organisation and participate on decisions related to community issues.

Women have equal right with man to participate on local politics. This is clearly seen in the community as current situation. That the proportions of female participant are equal with male. This was partially inapplicable to young females. The current policies are encouraging to females and youth to take leadership position. Currently, women could able to participate on community issues at kebele or wereda level. The attitudes of the community would change. Husbands were nothing to say when their wives came who spent the night at wereda.

MEN’S VIEWS: Women are participating in all community and political decisions. Of the three members of the social court in the kebele, one of them is a woman. The representation of at least one woman in any committee is mandatory. Moreover, 50% of the kebele council members are women. In all their participations they could exercise power by raising issues and deciding and/or voting to their interest.

### Exercise of women’s voice

WOMEN’S VIEWS: With regard to local politics, they participate equally with males in their number. For instance, one male and one female for kebele councilor as well as wereda, and 50% females were selected for wereda participant.

MEN’S VIEWS: See above