# Turufe site-specific topic: gender relations

## Economic empowerment

### Rights to land

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Efforts have been made to promote women’s land rights. Accordingly, in a case of marital conflict or/and dispute over land related to sharecropping and contracting women who were the landowners become the winners. Hence, their landholding right is becoming practical. In general the land measurements have contributed to protecting the rights of land owners.

MEN’S VIEWS: The rights to land are becoming more practical to both the male and female owners as well as inheritors irrespective of their sex.

#### New laws being implemented?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: To avoid disputes over land new rules are being implementing where in the case of a contract the time is limited up to a maximum of 3 years and there should be a written agreement letter submitted to the Kebele.

MEN’S VIEWS: The new family law is being implemented. The evidence: A married daughter has come back from Assela after her father passed away and asked for her share of the land. The family refused and she went to wereda court and won the case and got her share of land.

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Formerly a married woman was not expected to inherit the land of her parents. But now the community becomes aware of such women’s land rights so there is an attitudinal change towards land rights.

MEN’S VIEWS: The attitudes of the community are positively changing. Prior to the application of the new family law (1997) parents allowed only the male, especially the elder son, to inherit land. Women and especially those who are married are left out of the list. Those girls at home were entrusted to the elder son to bring them up as a father could do. But now every child born to the household has equal rights to inherit land and other property equally. This has been accepted among the community.

### Farm and off-farm work opportunities

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: The actual farm work in the field is still done by the man. Women also help in farm activities and engage in farming activities in the home garden. With regard to off-farm activities males engage in some activities when they are free. These activities include buying and selling grains. Women also engage in these activities. In addition, some women have been engaged in the preparation and selling of local drinks (*Areke).* The capital for these activities come from local iddirs, Arsi development organisation and private microfinance institute (Busa Gonofa), which highly empower women to engage in income-generating activities.

MEN’S VIEWS: Both males and females whose parents own land have equal work opportunities on farm land. But the on-farm work may differ according to their gender. The boys plough the land while the females pull out the weeds, but both have work opportunities. As to off-farm opportunities both boys and girls have opportunities. As the boys go away from their community and work as daily labourers, the girls also go to a flower farm in Ziway and construction sites like Shashemene and work.

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Generating income by themselves has changed the attitude of men towards woman as dependent; it empowers women economically on various aspects like control and decisions over assets.

MEN’S VIEWS: The attitude of the community is changing a lot.

## Personal and social empowerment – personal relations with men

### Abduction and rape

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Nowadays through the continuous awareness education provided by different actors against HTPs (early marriage, abduction, rape, FGM, etc.) both male and female become aware of its impact . Abduction, early and rape is not prevalent. But some servants face problem of rape in the house where they are hired to work as a domestic worker. Due to fear they do not report the case to responsible body on time.

MEN’S VIEWS: Abduction and rape are becoming history in the community. Since the 1997 enforcement of the family law abduction and rape have not been practised. On the other hand elopement is practised in the community. This is done mostly to avoid the bridewealth. The two parties who fall in love elope and later send elders to bring the two families together.

#### New laws being implemented?

MEN’S VIEWS: The new family law and new civil code are implemented. There is a perpetrator, who abducted a girl and then drugged her, who was brought to the wereda court and after witnesses were heard he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

#### Attitudes changing?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Due to the awareness education, the campaign organised, and information got from the media both male and female have developed attitudinal change against different harmful traditional practices.

Those who attended the advocacy taught the community and the peoples’ understanding about gender equality have been improving. In general, there is attitudinal change on HTPs and gender equality.

MEN’S VIEWS: The attitude of the people is changing. The community has started to expose and hand-over the perpetrators to law enforcing bodies.

### Extra-marital pregnancy and abortion

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: With regard to marriage couples get married by their interest. Parental arranged marriage is not prevalent.

Overtime having premarital sexual relationship and exposure to unwanted/unplanned adolescent pregnancy is a bit increasing. First the couple reach a mutual agreement to form a special friendship. However, when the girls become pregnant the males deny it and the girl is forced to drop out of school and faces many challenges. Despite this challenge rather than abort their child they deliver and stay with their parent being dependent. To overcome this condition now efforts are made to advise girls to avoid unnecessary relationship or use FP.

MEN’S VIEWS: Extra-marital pregnancy is not practised in the community, but abortion is practised due to health problems and with the consent of the spouse.

#### New laws being implemented?

MEN’S VIEWS: The family law and the women’s rights are implemented.

#### Attitudes changing?

MEN’S VIEWS: Attitudes to extra-marital pregnancy are not changing. The community from the very beginning used to condemn extra-marital sex as well as pregnancy and this attitude remains the same.

### Choice of marriage partner

#### Generally?

MEN’S VIEWS: Earlier the community used to give high value to marriage which was conducted through the agreement of the two parents. Elderly men used to go to the parents of the girl and ask their willingness and blessing to marry her to the boy whose parents sent them. If the parents (family) of the girl are not willing to give their girl they can reject the proposal. This way the marriage partner is chosen by the parents. Nowadays the two couples inform their parents after reaching an agreement just for their information. Most of the parents in the community aren’t involved in choosing marriage partners for their daughters.

#### New laws being implemented?

MEN’S VIEWS: The new family law and girls and women’s rights

#### Attitudes changing?

MEN’S VIEWS: The attitude of the community is changing.

### Child and early marriage and FGM

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Nowadays through the continuous awareness education provided by different actors against HTPs (early marriage, abduction, rape, FGM, etc.) both male and female become aware of its impact. FGM is not practised. However, it is not possible to generalise that FGM is stopped in total since the respondent mentioned that there is still a rumour that there are some who circumcise their daughters secretly.

MEN’S VIEWS: There are no child or early marriages in the community.

#### New laws being implemented?

MEN’S VIEWS: Mentioned above.

#### Attitudes changing?

MEN’S VIEWS: The attitude of the community has been good on this matter from the very beginning.

### Male violence towards women

#### Generally?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Male violence towards women has diminished. Males are aware of the rights of women to be free from violence. Generating income by itself empowers women socially as well as personally. Hence, males have started to value the role of women in the living conditions in general.

MEN’S VIEWS: Before the enforcement of the new family law male violence towards women was practised a lot. Currently the male violence towards women has decreased because the women began to appeal to the public court and to the Woreda court and the men are fined and imprisoned. But this doesn’t mean that there is no male violence towards women and there are men who instigate violence towards women, especially at home.

#### New laws being implemented?

WOMEN’S VIEWS: In 1997 a legal advisors committee (comprised of five persons) was established. The committee receives report of rights violations, handles marital conflict and other issues related to women like women rights.

The committee has an office in the kebele office. They provide service every Monday and Thursday for needy clients. In 1998 the committee also became the HTPs prevention committee. So, they have been providing awareness education on the impact of HTPS, women and children’s right, following and accusing persons who commit HTPs, violating the rights of a child and women.

In 1997 there was campaign of gender equality in the wereda. People from 32 kebeles participated. Turufe with 6 other kebeles were organised and participated in the campaign together. For this campaign from Turufe 7 persons (community leaders, including Kebele officials, elders from each clan etc.) attended the campaign. In this campaign gender equality and the fight against HTPS was promoted.

MEN’S VIEWS: Women’s’ and girls rights and the family law.

#### Attitudes changing?

MEN’S VIEWS: The attitude of the community is changing positively and male violence towards women is decreasing.

## Political empowerment

### Women’s voice in community decisions

WOMEN’S VIEWS: The participation of women in various decisions in the community has reduced. The reason is that mostly females/women restrict themselves from participating in different activities or meetings.

MEN’S VIEWS: The government is working towards increasing women’s voice in decisions relating to the community. But when we see what has happened on the ground practically the women’s voices have not increased. This is because 1) the women don’t struggle for their rights collectively which may come out of a lack of consciousness and a lack of knowledge of their rights. 2) Women are not willing to take responsibility and refuse when nominated for a post. 3) Quota is not given for the women representation. Because of all these reasons the women’s voice in decisions relating to the community has not increased as it could have.

### Exercise of women’s voice

WOMEN’S VIEWS: Even though women are encouraged to participate in political activities their participation is minimal like sometimes attending public meetings and taking election cards.

MEN’S VIEWS: One woman (HEW) is present in the Kebele cabinet and she is present because the government structure asks health worker to be present in the cabinet. Other than that there are no women in other committees except the women’s association. So they are not exercising their decision making voice in the community.