GENDER DYNAMICS IN DECISION MAKING ON FOOD SECURITY IN KENYAN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS: A CASE OF LUGARI DISTRICT

BY

FRANCIS, O. BARASA

A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology, Department of Sociology and Psychology, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University

2014
Declaration by the Candidate

This Thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a degree in any other University. No part of this Thesis may be reproduced without prior written permission of the author and/or of Moi University.

Francis O. Barasa ........................................Date..............................................
Declaration by Supervisors

This Thesis has been submitted for examination with our approval as Moi University Supervisors.

Supervisor: Dr. Jamin M. Masinde………………………………………Date…………..
Senior Lecturer of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Psychology, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya

Supervisor: Professor Anne Nangulu…………………………… …….Date…………..
Professor of History, Department of History, Political Science and Public Administration, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Moi University, Eldoret, Kenya
Dedication

To all those who suffer and die because of lack of food
Abstract

Food availability in households is dependent on how decision-making processes along the production chain are managed between male and female spouses. Food production chain starts from land preparation, purchase of inputs, planting, weeding, harvesting, storing, management, consumption and selling of harvested foodstuffs. However, in most rural households in Kenya, and Lugari district in particular, decision-making along this household food chain is influenced by gender dynamics on socio-cultural factors which shape the way such decisions are made. The objective of this study was therefore to assess these dynamics in relation to decision-making on food security at the household level. In particular, it sought to investigate gender manifestations on socio-cultural factors and the way they influence decision-making processes on the entire food production chain; management, storage and consumption in rural households. Using Gender differences, Human Capital and Elite power theories, the study examined how decision-making process on food security at the household level was influenced by gender dynamics. It investigated gender dynamics in decision-making using social-cultural factors amongst them education, income, leadership and how they influenced decision-making process on food security in rural households. The study was significant because of its benefits both males and females including policy makers. It used a survey design to collect data which was obtained by use of interview schedules from a sample of 260 respondents drawn from a frame of desegregated households selected from a population of rural households using proportionate and systematic sampling procedures. Data collected was analysed using SPPS Computer Programme and presented in form of descriptive statistics which included tables, frequencies and percentages. The study established that food security at the household level was affected by gender dynamics on socio-cultural factors which shaped the decision making. The study recommends the establishment of a gender specific education policy on household food production and management to be incorporated in the university, research institutions, tertiary and secondary school's curricula as a guide for studying and understanding gender dynamics on food production and management at the household level in Lugari district and Kenya as a whole. This curricula should be done through the Ministries handling Agriculture, Gender, Children and Sports and used as a guide in workshops to empower rural households in decision-making on food production at the household level.
Table of Contents

Title..............................................................................................................................................

Declaration by the Candidate..................................................................................................i

Declaration by Supervisors....................................................................................................ii

Dedication .............................................................................................................................iii

Abstract......................................................................................................................................iv

Table of Contents......................................................................................................................v

List of Tables..............................................................................................................................x

List of Figures...............................................................................................................................xiii

List of Plates...............................................................................................................................xiv

List of Case Histories..................................................................................................................xv

List of Abbreviations...................................................................................................................xv

Acknowledgements.......................................................................................................................xvi

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Introduction...............................................................................................................................1

1.1.1 Background of the Study............................................................................................1

1.1.2 Gender and Food Security from a Global Perspective..............................................6

1.1.3 Gender and Food Production from Africa Region Perspective...............................6

1.1.4 Operationalizing Household in Relation to Food Production in Africa.................7

1.1.5 Patriarchy in Household Decision-Making Process.................................................9

1.1.6 Food Policy and Food Security.................................................................................11

1.1.7 External Interventions and Food Aid Situation in Kenya.......................................13
CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Introduction........................................................................................................................................23

2.1 Literature Review.........................................................................................................................23
2.1.2 Education and Gender Dynamics in Decision-Making on Food Security.........................27
2.1.3 Land Ownership and Gender Dynamics in Decision-Making on Food Security..............36
2.1.4 Income and Gender Dynamics in Decision Making on Food Security.........................46
2.1.5 Leadership and Gender Dynamics in Decision-Making on Food Security...............51
2.1.6 Societal Attitudes in relation to socio-cultural factors and Gender Dynamics in Decision-Making on Food Security.................................................................54
2.1.7 Summary and Concluding Remarks on Literature Review.............................................60

2.2 Theoretical Framework...............................................................................................................62
2.2.1 Theory of Gender Differences...............................................................................................64
2.2.2 The Power Elite Theory.........................................................................................................67
2.2.3 Human Capital Theory.........................................................................................................72
CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction............................................................................................................80

3.1 Research Design................................................................................................80

3.2 Research Site...................................................................................................81

3.2.1 The Settlement Patterns..............................................................................84

3.2.2 Agriculture and Land use...........................................................................84

3.3 Target Population.............................................................................................87

3.4 Selection of Sample Size................................................................................88

3.4.1 Sampling Procedure.................................................................................89

3.4.2 Selection of Key Informants.....................................................................91

3.5 Methods of Data Collection..........................................................................92

3.5.1 Primary Data...............................................................................................93

3.5.2 Secondary Data..........................................................................................96

3.6 Methods of Data Analysis.............................................................................97

3.7 Ethical Considerations....................................................................................98

3.8 Conclusion.......................................................................................................99

CHAPTER FOUR
DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Introduction...........................................................................................................100
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Demographic Characteristics of the Study Population</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.2</td>
<td>Age Structure</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.3</td>
<td>Marital Status</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.4</td>
<td>Level of Education</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.5</td>
<td>Types of Training</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.6</td>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.7</td>
<td>Income Levels</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.8</td>
<td>Other Forms of Income</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>Frequency of Attending Meetings</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Participation in Committees of Various Organisations</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>Types of Organizations</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>Patterns of Leadership Positions</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Patterns of Land Ownership and Gender Dynamics Decision-Making</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>Societal Attitudes on the Provision of Food at Household Level</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>Challenges of Accessing Maize, Beans and Other Foods and Decision-Making on Food Production and Food Security in Households</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>Reduced Food Quantities and Chronic Hunger in Households</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>Food Management and Food Security in Households</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.11</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Level of Education and Decision-Making on Food Production and Food Security</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Income and Decision-Making on Food Production and Food Security</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Leadership and Decision-Making on Food Production and Food Security</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>Land Ownership and Decision-Making on Food Production and Food Security</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Summary of Findings......................................................................................214
6.1 Conclusion......................................................................................................215
6.2 Recommendations.........................................................................................217
6.3 Policy Implications.........................................................................................219
6.4 Recommendations for Further Research.....................................................220

REFERENCES.....................................................................................................221

APPENDIX 1  Interview Schedule.................................................................235
APPENDIX 2  The Budget.................................................................................245
APPENDIX 3  Work Plan....................................................................................246
APPENDIX 4  Interview Schedule Tool for Key Informants.........................247
APPENDIX 5  Research Authorization from the National Council for Science and
              Technology...............................................................................................249
List of Tables

Table 2.1  Enrolment in Secondary Schools by Class by Gender........................................................................................................34
Table 2.2  Student Enrolment by Gender in University..............................................35
Table 4.1  Ages and Gender of Respondents............................................................102
Table 4.2  Marital Status of Respondents..................................................................103
Table 4.3  Level of Education of Respondents..........................................................104
Table 4.4  Sensitisation Forums on Food Management and Micro-Finance attended by Respondents.................................................................106
Table 4.5  Types of Employment.............................................................................110
Table 4.6  Monthly Salaries of Respondents in Formal Employment.....................112
Table 4.7  Additional Household Income of Respondents........................................114
Table 4.8  Frequency of Attending Public Leaders Meetings……………………...117
Table 4.9  Participation in Church Functions............................................................119
Table 4.10 Type of Committees of Organizations in which Respondents Participate .................................................................................................121
Table 4.11 Type of Positions Held by Respondents in Community Organizations...124
Table 4.12 Community Views on Female Ownership of Land .................................126
Table 4.13 Community Views on Male Ownership of Land.....................................128
Table 4.14 Participation in Decision-Making on Ploughing of Land in Preparation for Planting.................................................................130
Table 4.15 Participation in Activities Such as Meeting the Cost of Ploughing in Preparation for Planting.................................................................132
Table 4.16 Participation in Purchasing of Seeds and other Farm Inputs for Agricultural Development.................................................................133
Table 4.17 Participation in Decision-Making on the Planting of Maize..............134
Table 4.18  Participation in Decision-Making on the Harvesting of Maize.............136
Table 4.19  Decisions on the size of Land for Food and Crop Production ..........137
Table 4.20  Decision-Making and Food Production at Household Level...............139
Table 4.21  Frequency of Experiencing Food Scarcity at Household Level in the
Course of the Year.............................................................................................140
Table 4.22  Whether Males who provide Food are viewed positively...............141
Table 4.23  Whether Females who provide Food are viewed positively..............144
Table 4.24  Community Views and Female Ownership of businesses...............146
Table 4.25  Accessing Foodstuffs ..........................................................................148
Table 4.26  Experiencing Reduced Quantities and Food Varieties in Households..149
Table 4.27  Food Scarcity in Households and Worrying about where to Get the next
Meal..................................................................................................................152
Table 4.28  Food Scarcity in Households in Form of Missing Meals due to Lack of
Food....................................................................................................................154
Table 4.29  Management of Food by Gender after Harvest period....................155
Table 5.1  The Level of Education and Decision-Making on the
Purchase of Food in Households......................................................................159
Table 5.2  The Level of Education and Purchasing of Farm Inputs at Household
Level..................................................................................................................165
Table 5.3  The Level of Education and Scarcity of Food at Household Level.......168
Table 5.4  Income and Reduced Food Variety at Household Level.....................172
Table 5.5  Income, Purchase of Food and Food Management at Household Level...175
Table 5.6  Leadership and Purchase of Food at Household Level.....................181
Table 5.7  Leadership and Decision-Making on Sale of Cash Crops at Household
Level..................................................................................................................184
Table 5.8  Leadership and Food Storage in Households...................................187
Table 5.9  Land Ownership and Production of Food Crops at Household Level....190
Table 5.10  Land Ownership and Ownership of Livestock (mainly cattle) at Household Level.....................................................................................................195
Table 5.11  Land Ownership and Production of Cash Crops at the Household Level........................................................................................................200
Table 5.12  Land Ownership and Decision-Making on Poultry at Household Level........................................................................................................209
List of Figures

Figure 1.1      Chart Sowing the Number of People Facing Hunger in the World........3
Figure 2.1      Interaction of Political, Economic and Socio-Cultural Inequalities......25
Figure 2.2      Kenya Map with all Counties, showing Agricultural Patterns in Kenya...26
Figure 2.3      Women's Access to Assets and Economic Resources in Kenya.............44
Figure 2.4      Agricultural Roles by Gender in Kenya........................................45
Figure 2.5      Women’s Access to Economic Resources in Kenya............................48
Figure 2.6      Hierarchical Placements within a Nuclear Family............................50
Figure 2.7      Gender Manifestations on Socio-Cultural Factors and their Impact on Gender Dynamics in Decision-Making on Food Security........................................................................................................78
Figure 3.1      Map of Kenya Showing the Location of Kakamega County..............81
Figure 3.2      Map of Kakamega County Showing the Location of Lugari District........82
Figure 3.3      Map of Lugari District........................................................................83
List of Plates

Plate 4.1  A young mother with her three of her five children after preparing vegetables. A representation of a household picture taken by the Researcher on 15th December, 2009 in Kivaywa sub-location, Matete division, Lugari district, Kakamega county, western Kenya......................151

Plate 5.1  A Female respondent in her home in Kiliboti village, Kivaywa sub-location. Matete division, Lugari district, Kakamega county, western Kenya. At the background are the family’s banana plantation and her kitchen which is partly seen. Picture taken by the researcher on 5th August, 2010.................................................................177

Plate 5.2  A traditional African storage facility (a granary) used for storage of food crops such as maize, sorghum and millet in rural households in the study area and they are widely used in Lwandeti sub-location in Lugari district, Kakamega county, western Kenya. Note the ventilation all round it. Picture taken by the Researcher on 16th August, 2010..............................................189

Plate 5.3  A Male Respondent with his Cattle in a Rural Household .....................197

Plate 5.4  A Focus Group Discussion session with Females in Mawa village in Luandeti location, Lugari district in Kakamega county, western Kenya. The Researcher in a coat with papers in hand takes notes during the discussion. Note the keenness exhibited by the participants. Picture taken by a Mr. Rasto Sichangi on behalf of the Researcher on 25th September, 2010.................................................................206

Plate 5.5  A Group of Males in a Focus Group Discussion .................................211
List of Case Histories

Case History No. 1 .................................................................................................................. 186
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AHFSI .................. Aggregate Household Food Security Index
AMWIK ................ Association of Media Women in Kenya
DAW ...................... Division of the Advancement of Women
FAO ....................... Food and Agricultural Organization
FCND ..................... Food Consumption and Nutrition Division
IBRD ....................... International Bank of Reconstruction and Development
IPU ......................... Inter-Parliamentary Union
SDA ....................... Seventh Day Adventist
UNESCO ................... United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNCTAD .................. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCHS ..................... United Nations Centre for Human Settlements
WFS ....................... World Food Summit
WHES ...................... World Hunger Education Service
RWN ....................... Rwanda Women Network
UNDFW .................... United Nations Development Fund for Women
Acknowledgements

The completion of this Thesis has been made possible by the concerted efforts of a number of people to whom I owe my most sincere gratitude. First, I would like to thank my two supervisors Dr Jamin M. Masinde and Professor Anne Nangulu who read, commended and made extensive, insightful and intellectual comments on several drafts. Their invaluable comments on both intellectual and technical aspects of Thesis writing were useful and encouraging. I also wish to extend my special thanks to Dr Joseph K. Rono of the Department of Sociology and Psychology for his useful contributions. In developing this study, I received a research grand from Moi University that enabled me in the collection of data from the field and a fee waiver to facilitate the completion of my doctoral study. I wish to register my gratitude to this institutional support.

I wish to acknowledge Bernard Wekesa for providing his time with the computer services. Sincere gratitude goes to the respondents of Lugari district for their cooperation and interest in the study during the field work stage. In particular, their participation in group discussions that yielded invaluable information. Without their cooperation it would not have been possible to complete this study. I also wish to extent my gratitude to my colleagues, Dr Eric Masese and Mr Ezekiel Mwenzwa for their encouraging comments and remarks that helped shape this study. Lastly, I am indebted to my family members, in particular my wife Diana Wakasa, my children; Edwin Wafula, Allan Wanjala, Karen Nekesa, Iyvne Nafula and Ian Simiyu for their encouragement and support during the entire period of my doctoral studies.