



THE CHALLENGES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN ETHIOPIA: SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

This research aimed to provide a thorough overview of the systematic literature review about the challenges to women's empowerment in Ethiopia. The primary goal of this comprehensive overview of the literature article was providing an outline of the state of this field's research and knowledge while also addressing the difficulties associated with women's empowerment, particularly in Ethiopia. The investigator reviewed articles that were published from 2007 to 2024. The researcher carried out six tasks in order to direct the review. The researcher kept nine of the twelve publications that were carefully examined. The contribution of earlier studies on the difficulties in empowering women has looked at the specific regions in the title. Crucial research findings cannot be disregarded in the absence of a thorough understanding of the systematic review of earlier studies. Gaining insight into the planning and execution of studies on the difficulties in empowerment of women would facilitate understanding conditions on the field as it stands today. The results of this thorough evaluation of the literature point to a bright future for the consequences of the difficulties associated with women's empowerment. This extensive review of literature is expected to shed light on issues in relation with women empowerment and provide solutions. The results of this study will be used to resolve the concerns related to women's empowerment.

Keywords: Ethiopia, Empowerment, Women, Challenges, Women's Empowerment

INTRODUCTION

The government of Canada recently unveiled its freshly approved feminist foreign aid strategy in an effort to further the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN. The primary objective of the aforementioned policy is to combat poverty and inequality via the emancipation of women and, with a particular focus on gender equality (Government of Canada, 2017). Combating violence against women is one of policy's four main objectives. This involves taking a step up to make decisions based on the best available evidence by improving gathering information and assessing gender equality. However, what does improved gender equality data collecting and assessment mean? Being a component of a project for Global Affairs Canada called "Agricultural transformation through more powerful vocational education," we take a "step back" and consider the initial findings of an empirical conducted about sexual violence that involved almost 1,500 students studying four agricultural technical vocational educational training colleges in Ethiopia. The investigation was carried out using a feminist reflective methodology. We are in support of researchers "stepping aside" in favor of participatory ways to data work, and ultimately, we are in favor of insider understanding—or "stepping into"—to set the agenda for tackling gender-based and sexual violence in regard to the Sustainable Development Goals. Our recognition of the importance of "better data collection" is the reason for this (Starr and Mitchell).

It has been determined that women who are immigrants or refugees are more vulnerable to domestic abuse. The qualitative research findings from a study on the influences of a traumatic past, a comprehensive investigation of the literature presents the social and economic context, cultural variations, and gender-based disparities in the viewpoints and experiences of domestic violence held by women living in refugee homes. The study included a sample of women from Ethiopia, Sudan, Bosnia, Croatia, and Iraq who were refugees. The disclosure is made on contextual factors that improve structurally based inequities, culturally formed problems, emotional distress, communal confusion and hierarchical foundations. In order to stop domestic violence, the essay advocates in support of community-managed programs that use multifaceted empowerment-based approaches. The intersectional approach, which recognizes gender oppression as altered by interconnections with other forms of injustice, underpins these work (Rees and Pease).



Women's empowerment has emerged as the mainstay of international development practice and policy during the past few decades. The goal of this comprehensive analysis of literature is to clarify the obstacles to women's empowerment in Ethiopia. It creates a framework to examine what empowerment means by drawing on the larger body of investigation on women's empowerment. This study's systematic literature review obtained and examined studies on "The challenges of women empowerment" in a methodical manner. The essay also clarifies the gender hierarchies that restrict women's participation in various roles. It illustrates the social and cultural barriers that prevent women from fully engaging in high-value pulse marketplaces and in decision-making related to exchange and production. Additionally, it reveals the ways in which preexisting networks, connections, and relationships disadvantaged women. In the meantime, the article provides recommendations on how to facilitate the integration of gender into the effort designed to empower women (Geleta et al.).

Research Question: What are the challenges of Ethiopian women's empowerment?

The objective of the study: Systematic review literature on the difficulties that confront women empowerment in Ethiopia.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In Ethiopia, women's cultural beliefs prevent females from attending school. A disproportionate amount of work is assigned to girls, child marriage, early parenthood, and social isolation are some of the behaviors that hinder female students' participation in education. In Ethiopia, there is a group that promotes women's empowerment. This organization is creative because it made an effort to impact popular media by using Yegna, a youth-led movement and communication platform that tells stories to the Ethiopian people that upend established power systems and support women's empowerment. The Yegna communication platform uses a variety of media to spread information, including as music, interactive chat shows, and youth club starter kits (Hailu). With perseverance and determination, as well as the backing of their families, communities, and government, the women are working to increase their wages and bargaining power over time (Woldegies).

Gender equality and empowerment of women are among the top priorities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in which we scheduled for completion by 2030. In order to address these problems, micro-finance organizations in poor countries have begun lending money to married women and other people in need. After using the credit services, there have been favorable changes in the indices of women's social empowerment. The report did, however, also highlight the difficulties the organization faces in carrying out its objective of bettering the lives of economically disadvantaged and productive resident women. These difficulties include a lack of staff and appropriate transportation options for reaching outlying inhabitants. Furthermore, cultural beliefs present formidable obstacles to women's social emancipation. The study's empirical application sheds light on the successes and obstacles that married women facing increased financial security as a result of microfinance programs must overcome (Wondimu et al.).

Various political reforms have occurred in Ethiopia. After that, the nation viciously spiraled back into conflict on numerous occasions. The Derg dictatorship overthrown Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974. The Ethiopian people revolutionary and democratic front party defeated the Derg regime in 1991. After more than 27 years in power, the coalition party was forced to enact political reforms in response to strong opposition from Ethiopia's youth. Scholars disagree on whether Ethiopia's recent political changes have been successful. Scholars and political scientists should investigate the self-perpetuating cycles and reforms of Ethiopian politics. The releasing of political prisoners and the return of exiled political opponents to Ethiopia helped to reinforce ties between the two countries: Ethiopia and Eritrea. Then after, the challenges of empowerment of women shown progress. The study's findings indicated that the start of political reforms shown favorable environments on women empowerment (Jima).

Ethiopia faces difficulties as a result of natural calamities, particularly drought. For the sake of people who are most at risk of disaster, integrated methods for reducing the risk of disasters are essential. Women Empowered methodology gives women social and economic possibilities to strengthen their resilience and prepare for catastrophe response. This study investigates whether social capital functions as a mediating factor in the link between catastrophe preparedness and participation in women empowerment groups. More precisely, social network support, emotional assistance from the women empowerment group, coordinated action, and trust all mediate perceived disaster preparedness, although group emotional support is the main mediator of real disaster preparation actions. Social infrastructure acts as a mediator in the interaction between disaster preparedness and women's empowerment organizations in drought-prone areas of Ethiopia. Which social capital types can most effectively assist women and women's families in anticipating and responding to a range of humanitarian emergencies will require further study (Story et al.).

Food insecurity in Ethiopia continues to be a persistent problem. This study looked at the causes and frequency of these problems using secondary data analysis. The Food Insecurity Experience Scale methodology and data

from the 2014–2019 Gallup World Poll were used to measure food insecurity. Using logistic regression, susceptible groups were found. Structured interviews provided background information on structural drivers. 52.1% of Ethiopians, up from 47.7% in 2014, were determined to be experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity in 2019, according to analysis. Extreme food insecurity increased to 15.8% from 12.0%. Food insecurity was more likely to affect people in the second lowest income-quintile (ages 35 to 44). 2019 saw 37% of children under 5 have stunting, a sign of ongoing malnutrition. Stunting varied by region, ranging from 48.4% in Tigray to 15% in Addis Ababa, with a higher prevalence in rural regions (40% vs. 26% in urban areas). The mother's level of education and household income decreased stunting. Reckless behavior impacted 7% of kids. A complex network of interconnected problems, such as poverty, underfunding of agriculture, disparities in gender, climate vulnerability, and governmental restrictions, contribute to food insecurity. In spite of economic progress, research shows that food insecurity is still high and getting worse overall, which highlights the need for multi-sectoral initiatives to support rural agricultural livelihoods, social protection, empowerment of women, and child nutrition. Such issues of women empowerment in Ethiopia are all of the above (Telila and Sima).

METHODOLOGY

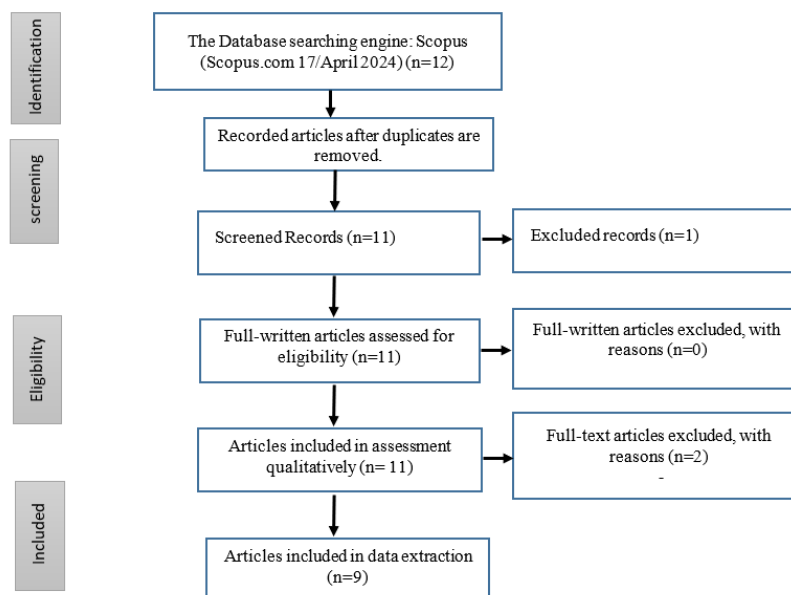
Systematic literature review using PRISMA method (Negussie, Mihret and Jagdish). Extraction of data: in the data extraction stage, 19 papers were retrieved and limited to the following requirements (Dawit Negussie, Getachew Mihret and Jagdish Joshi):

1. Articles must be either original, review papers or published reports.
2. The reviewed article must be in English and from the fields of social sciences.
3. Systematically reviewed articles were published between the range of 2007-2024
4. The extracted paper was from all countries.
5. The database used to extract the articles was from Scopus database.
6. Keywords used to extract the articles were Ethiopia, empowerment, women, challenges, and women's empowerment.

DATA COLLECTION

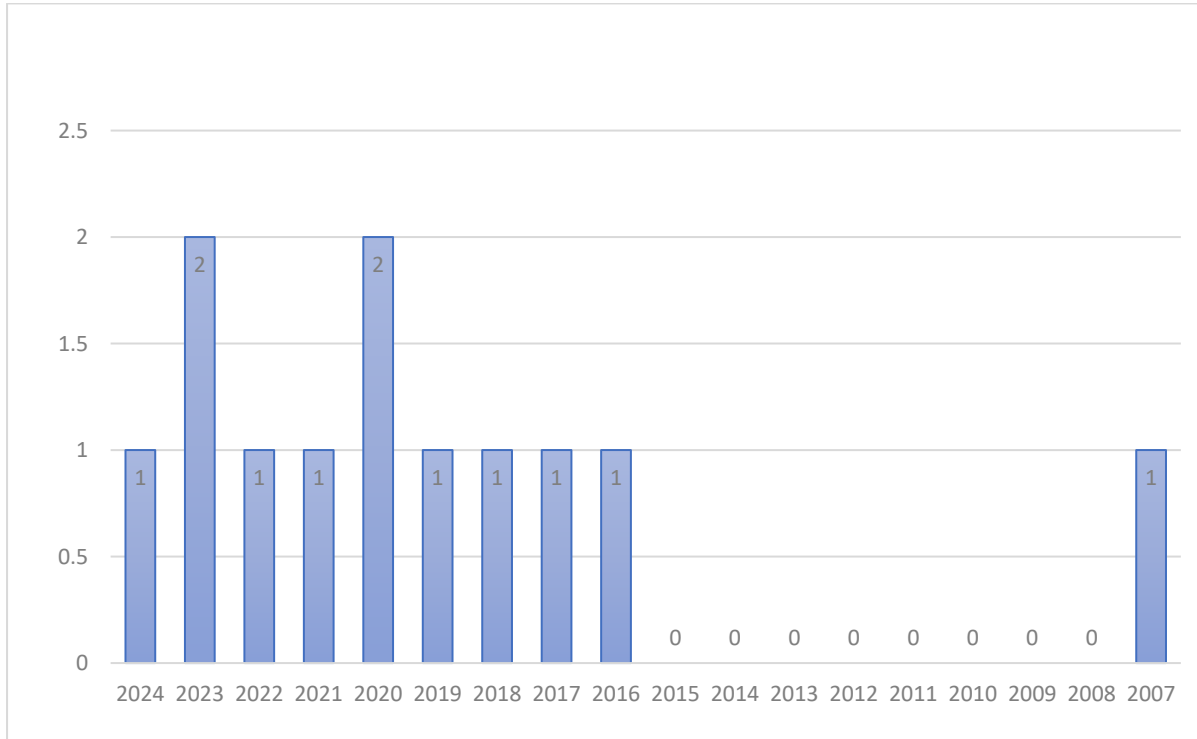
The researcher took the data for this study in textual form; in other words, he used the secondary data. On 17 April 2024, Data from the Scopus academic search engine (<https://www.scopus.com>) were obtained. Additionally, 'Advance' search terms were used through TITLE-ABS-KEY (challenges AND women AND empowerment AND Ethiopia) AND (LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Ethiopia") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Empowerment") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Challenges") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Women's Empowerment") OR LIMIT-TO (EXACTKEYWORD, "Women")) AND (LIMIT-TO (SUBJAREA, "SOCI")) AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (PUBSTAGE, "final")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English"))

Figure 1: The PRISMA Diagram



Data Analysis

Figure 2: The Documented Articles by Year



The graph presents a distribution of documents over the years from 2007 to 2024. As data vividly displays in the histogram graph above, researchers conducted 12 papers about the challenges of women empowerment. Incidentally, there was no paper conducted in the years from 2008 to 2015. In the years of 2007 and 2016 and 2024, researchers conducted one paper in each year except 2020 and 2023. In these 2 years as seen in the graph above, 2 papers per year conducted in the research title area. In the current year, 2024, even if it is now 3 months since we joined, there is already one paper published. This histogram offers a visual representation of the annual publication trends, highlighting fluctuations and patterns in the number of documents.

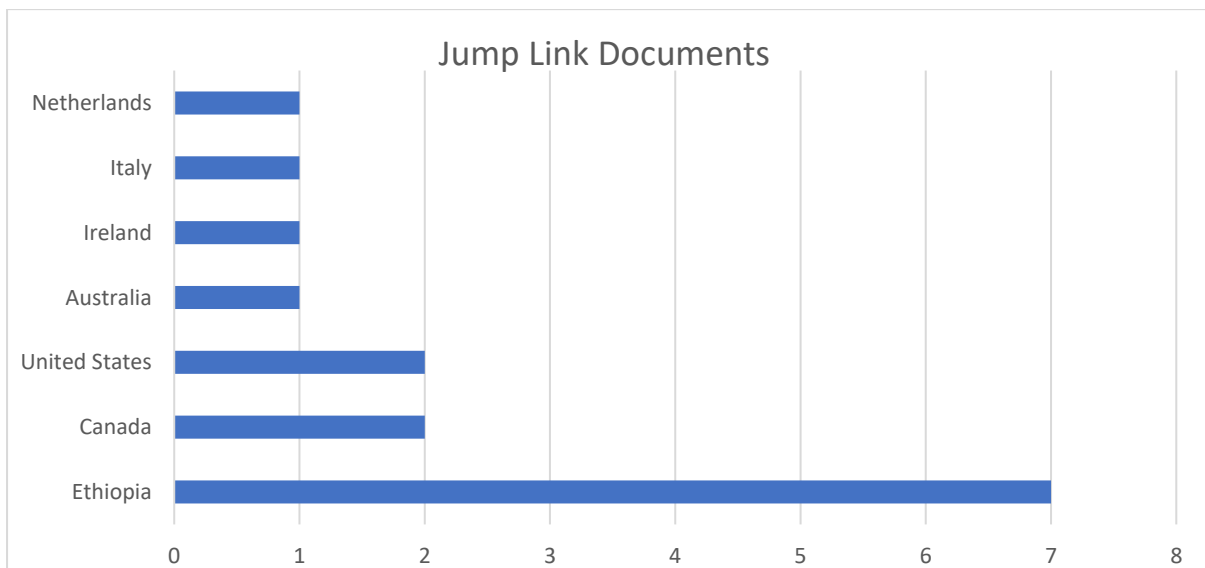
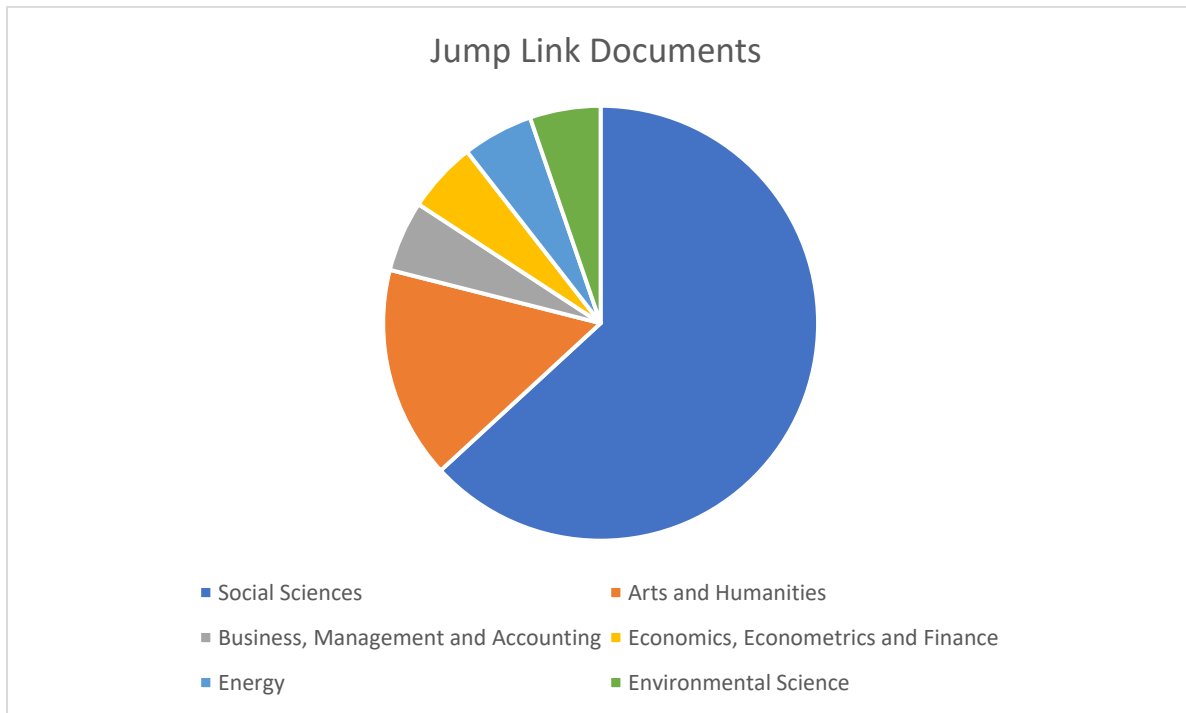


Figure 3: The Documented Articles by Country

<http://vidyajournal.org>

The figure shows the distribution of documents across different countries or territories. Ethiopia led with seven documents. Canada and the United States contributed with 2 documents and each, suggesting a notable presence or focus on these nations in the dataset. Australia, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands each contribute the one document, showcasing a diverse range of countries with singular occurrences. This distribution suggests variations in the level of attention or emphasis on different regions within the dataset. The graph gives a brief summary of the distribution of documents among different nations and shed light on the geographic concentration of the related content.

Figure 4: Document by Subject Area



The figure provides a breakdown of documents across different subject areas, offering insights into the distribution of content within the dataset. Social Sciences dominated with the highest representation, comprising the majority of conducted documents, indicating a significant focus on topics within this field. The next highest distribution provides a clear overview of the subject areas covered, with a notable concentration of Arts and Humanities. Arts and Humanities followed with the next highest number of conducted documents, highlighting a substantial but comparatively lesser emphasis. Energy, environmental science, (business, management and accounting) and economics, econometrics and finance contributed almost similar number of documents suggesting a more modest presence in the dataset. The data suggests that the documents' themes are diverse, which is indicative of the multidisciplinary character of the content within the designated subject areas.

WORD CLOUD

The word cloud analysis, focusing on the topic "The Challenges of Women Empowerment in Ethiopia," reveals key thematic elements. Words such as "empowerment," "women," "Ethiopia," "challenges," "study," "development," "gender" and "entrepreneurship" prominently stand out. The prevalence of these terms underscored the central focus on "The Challenges of Women Empowerment in Ethiopia". The word cloud highlighted the significance of topics related to the challenges of women empowerment in Ethiopia.





FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The results of a review of several studies showed that the main obstacles to women's empowerment in Ethiopia are lack of educational background, gender stereotypes, an overwhelming number of duties around the house, the absence of network, lack opportunities, as well as a loss of self-worth or confidence. Furthermore, unclear promotion procedures, a shortage of long-term experience, patriarchy, religious practices, a lack of role models at work, inadequate observation and assessment, economic status challenges, political disenfranchisement, biases, and cultural servitude are the main barriers to women's empowerment in Ethiopia. Therefore, urgent action is required in Ethiopia to address these obstacles, particularly with regard to strengthening women in different roles. This is because women are incredibly strong, capable of taking on any kind of responsibility, and deeply committed. Even though there are currently more women in positions of leadership, their numbers are still small. Therefore, the government and other concerned bodies must pay due emphasis. In addition, affirmative action is in place for women up until the higher educational position. However, a large number of women discontinue their learning because of various issues as the researcher discussed as challenges above, and only small numbers of women enroll in their higher education. They had numerous obstacles to overcome in college, such as lack of confidence, and the majority of them would not succeed since there was insufficient particular help available to them. Even though they had their diplomas, their grades weren't up to par, which prevented them from being employable and continuing to be reliant. Not only that, but also their society forbade them, and they were not supported at work or at home, which was one of the biggest obstacles. In the past, women were severely mistreated, and people didn't allow them to be role models at work. Therefore, in order to address these issues, the entire community must be aware of them. The government has undertaken a number of initiatives, even though they were unable to bring about the desired shift in favor of women's emancipation. Notably, Ethiopia now has a female president, and the number of female ministers has increased to half percent.

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