

**HAWASSA UNIVERSITY**  
**SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
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**M.A THESIS ON**  
**CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**  
**ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF TEMBARO**  
**WOREDA, KAMEBATA TEMBARO ZONE, SNNPRS, ETHIOPIA**

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**HAWASSA, ETHIOPIA**

**CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION  
ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT: THE CASE OF TEMBARO  
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**M.A.THESIS SUBMITTED TO SCHOOL OF GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT  
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**ADVISORS' APPROVAL SHEET I**  
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**HAWASSA UNIVERSITY**

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “**Assessing The Challenges Of Community Participation In Local Development: The Case of Tembaro Woreda**” submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Social Sciences with specialization in Governance and Development the Graduate Program of the School of Governance and Development Studies and has been carried out by Atinkut Abebe IDGR/0004/11, under my/our supervision. Therefore I/we recommend that the student has fulfilled the requirements and hence hereby he can submit the thesis to the department.

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**APPROVAL SHEETII**

We, the undersigned members of the Board of examiners the final open defense by **Atinkut Abebe ID GR/0004/11** have read and evaluated his/her M.A Thesis entitled “**Assessing the Challenges of Community Participation In Local Development In Selected Kebeles Of Tembaro Woreda;**”, and examined the candidate. This is, therefore, to certify that the M.A thesis has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Masters in Governance and Development to the School of Governance and Development Studies, Hawassa University.

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## Declaration

I, the undersigned hereby declare that the thesis entitled “ *Assessing the challenges of community participation in local development: the case of Tembaro Woreda Kambata Tambaro Zone, SNNPRS* is my original work and has not been presented for the degree in any other university and that all sources of materials used for the thesis have been duly acknowledged.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Abbreviation and Acronyms**

<b>BOFED:</b>	Bureau of Finance and Economic Development
<b>FDRE:</b>	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
<b>IPAT:</b>	International Peace Building Advisory Team
<b>MoFED:</b>	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
<b>OECD:</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>SNNPR:</b>	Southern Nations Nationalities and People's Region
<b>TWAOR:</b>	TambaroWoreda Administrative Office
<b>UNESCO:</b>	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>WB:</b>	World Bank
<b>WHO:</b>	World Health Organization

## **Abstract**

*The purpose of this study was to assess challenges of community participation in local development at selected kebele of Tembaro woreda. Descriptive research design was used. Qualitative and quantitative approaches of research were employed. Both primary and secondary source of data were used. Systematic and purposive sampling techniques were employed to select respondents. Data were collected by using survey questionnaire from 184 sample community respondents, interview conducted with selected government officials and kebele administrators, FGDs held with selected community representatives. A descriptive method was employed to analyze the collected data. The findings shows that challenges of appropriate awareness creation, absence of convincing community mobilizing approach, absence of all inclusive participatory approach, over reporting of few development success, weak institutional frame work, gender discrimination, illiteracy, low social cooperation and low personal income are some of major challenges that greatly hampered active community participation in development program that result on poor community involvement at grass root level. As result of low level of community participation, most of local development decisions were passed based on small unrepresentative interest group and local leaders interest and also several community based local development programs were failed to be implemented. Thus it is recommended that local government authority should strengthen its institutional capacity, enhance community awareness creation on community participation and its importance, develop convincing community mobilizing approach, develop culture of all inclusive participatory problem identification and decision making, and regularly aware community on social and cultural obstacles in order to enhance community participation on development program at grass root level. And also all community members should voluntarily work in collaboration with local government authority and others development actors to make local development program successful and sustainable.*

**Key words:** Community, participation, Challenges, Local development.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **1.INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

In the context of community participation, local development refers to social process by which individuals can become more competent to live with and gain some control over local conditions and the changing world. It is about exploiting the latent and existing competitive and comparative advantages of localities. Here, local development is understood as improvements in local living standards, infrastructural development and the village environment. It is a process where local people can not only create more jobs; income and infrastructure, but also help their community become fundamentally better able to manage change (Wekwete, 2014).

United Nations Development Program (UNDP 2009).noted that community participation has been part of development policy, programs and projects in both developing and developed countries. Participation improved quality, effectiveness and sustainability of development actions. By placing people at the center of such actions, development efforts have a much greater potential to empower them and lead to ownership of the results. At global level World Bank try to justify the necessity of community participation in development program, for the following reasons- Local people have a great amount of experience and insight into what works, what does not work and why.

Community participation being designed with the proclaimed motive of giving power to local communities to manage their own developmental activities and it is directly linked with sustainable development. Multilateral agencies such as the World Bank have also placed greater emphasis on community participation as a way to ensure development sustainability because it enables local people to determine their own values and priorities and act on their own decisions (OECD, 2010).

According to Mohammad.S.(2010)noted that most developing countries especially those in Africa have tended to vigorously employ a non-participatory approach to decision-making. In this regime policy is dictated by those in power and the rural communities are relegated to the position of recipients and implementers. Because of this, rural communities are alienated from

resources they should rightfully control, manage and benefit from Plans prepared by outside experts, irrespective of their technical soundness, cannot inspire the people to participate in their implementation.

The 1995 FDRE Constitution has established the country as a federal state. Here, the intention of adopting federal state structure is to create public aspirations and ambitions to participate on their local development decisions so as to promote national development. The article 46 (2) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia indicates that regions are formed on the basis of, settlement pattern, language, identity and consent of people concerned. One of the theoretical arguments for decentralization is that it creates a forum for community participation in planning and implementation, encourages coordinated activities between agents, and promotes multi-sartorial planning.

Community participation is powerful idea by which professionals, families, community groups, government officials, and others get together to work something out, preferably in a formal or informal partnership. It is rational way to give control of affairs and decisions to people most affected by them ( Nekwaya, 2007).

One of the key objectives of community participation in local development is to incorporate local knowledge and preferences into the decision-making processes of governments, private providers, and donor agencies. When potential beneficiaries are able to make key decisions, participation becomes self-initiated action-what is known as the “exercise of voice and choice” or “empowerment.” However, local development has been narrowly practiced in developing countries by the community (Gaventa, 2002)..

Thus, this study mainly focuses to assess challenges of community participation in local development at the study area. More specifically the study investigates major challenges of community participation in local development planning, implementation and decision making at study area.

## **1.2. Statement of the problem**

Community participation on local development faced a number of problems like political, socio-economic and cultural factors that have been affecting and arguably hindering the effective participation of community on local development (Cornwall, ,2002).

Kakumba and Nsingo (2008) describe that there are number of challenges that facing community participation in local development processes such as refusal in participation, minorities, gender biases, income level, literacy rate, lack of homogeneity in community and complex regulatory framework, inadequate rules and regulations. Especially illiterate people are not effectively participating in government run program/ schemes. Illiterate people are often looked down upon as problematic as they more often cannot articulate their demands and put forward their opinions in a systematic way.

Barrett (2012) state that understanding what different citizen's participation and engagement make to development and to more accountable and responsive governance has become a key preoccupation in the development field. It has been over a decade since participation moved toward the mainstream in development debates and a strategy for achieving good governance and development. Despite this, a large gap still exists between normative positions promoting citizen engagement and the empirical evidence what citizen engagement makes to achieve the stated goals at ground level.

In Ethiopia there are few studies conducted in the area of community participation on local developmental issue, for instance, DinberuTadesse (2014) conducted his study on the link between sustainable local economic development and community participation with particular reference to three Woredas of Lideta Sub-city in Addis Ababa, his study revealed that the local communities are not fully involved in economic development work from planning to final evaluation phase. It describes that there is low level of community participation in local development.

Haileleul(2016), conducted his study on Assessing the Status of Community Participation on Local Development in Tigray region, his study revealed that local development is generally developed by powerful individuals, governments, or outsiders without little discussion with the

local communities. Local people have failed to intensely demonstrate their skill and knowledge on tackling poverty and underdevelopment.

And also, Lisanu (2017). Conducted study on Assessing the role of Community Participation in Sustainable Local economic Development: The case of Wolayta Sodo Town, his study revealed that community participation and local economic development are two intertwined issues that Community participation plays a very great role for local economic development.

Those existing studies majorly focus on the link, role and status of community participation in local development and most of them particularly look issue of community participation from local economic development perspective solely. Those studies have gap in addressing the major challenges of community participation in local development

According to administrative office performance report of Tembaro woreda (2018), there is challenges in community participation in the various development programs at area. Most of the community members had not been involves in local development activities they leave development programs for the few individuals. As a result, most of the local development activities had been undertaken by little individual participation. In addition, researcher personal work experience and observation at study area also confirm the existence of problem of involvement of community in various local development programs.

However, there was no study conducted at study area regarding to this issue. In addition to that this issue did not intensely revealed by any local studies of above mentioned. Therefore, this study is design to assess the gaps and also forward possible recommendation regarding to the issue.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

This study mainly focuses to assess the challenges of community participation on local development in Tembaro woreda, Kamebata Tembaro Zone. SNNPR, Ethiopia.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

More specifically, it is intended;

1. To assess the current understanding about community participation in local development in the study area.
2. To identify economic, social and cultural challenges of active community participation in local development in the study area.
3. To assess the consequence of low level of community participation in the local development at the study area.
4. To assess the possible way to enhance community participation in local development in the study area.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

1. What are the current understandings about community participation in local development in the study area?
2. What are the economic, social and cultural challenges of active community participation in local development in the study area?
3. What are the consequences of low level of community participation in local development in the study area?
4. What are the possible ways to enhance community participation in local development in the study area?

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

The study deals with assessing factors affecting community participation and its consequence in local development. Understanding the challenges of community participation in the local development helps to address the problems related to community participation for local development. So that this study have the following contribution-

It serve as source of information for both government officials and policy maker in order to reshape and develop out the latest scenario of development governance at the grassroots level in order to promote or encourage community participation, to build strong developmental bond and to promote sustainable development at grass root level.

It will also serve as reference for further study regarding to the issue of community participation in local development.

### **1.6. Scope of the study**

Due to the constraint of time, resource and academic regulation this study delimited to geographically and thematically. Geographically it is delimited on SNNPR, Kembata Tembaro Zone in Tembaro Woreda, among the total 22 kebeles four kebeles purposively selected for this study: namely, Sigezo, Durgi, Ferzano and Bohe kebelles. The scope of this study was delimited on assessing the challenges of community participation in local development particularly it focuses on local development planning , implementation and decision making

### **1.7. Limitation of the Study**

Initially the study was constrained by unwillingness of some government official and community respondents to provide data. However, the researcher was able to convince them through briefly communicating about the purpose of study through showing letter given by department of governance and development studies (HU) to assure the respondents' that the information gathered from them is confidential and utilized only for scientific investigation.

## **1.8. Definitions of Key Terms**

The definitions of key terms used in this study are developed within and from the purpose, concepts and perspectives informing this study. Key terms and definitions in use for this study are as follows-

**Community**, for the purpose of this study, it is a group of people living in defined area who work together towards a common goal such as the improving of their living and infrastructure development Nzimande (1997).

**Community participation**, for the purpose of this study, it is an active involvement of members of community for collective efforts by the people concerned together their pool, their efforts and resources in order to improve their life and infrastructure that affect them Tshabalala,( 2006).

**Local development**, for the purpose of this study, it is an active involvement of community for local decision making and improvement in infrastructure development to improve the lives of the community by way of the mobilization and coordination of its material and immaterial resources Theron (2005).

## **1.9. Organization of the study**

The study comprises five chapters. The first chapter deals with introductory parts which includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study and definition of the key terms. The second chapter deals about the review of related literature; it includes different literature related to study issue. The third chapter focuses on research methodology which consists of research design, research approach, study area description, type and sources of data, sampling techniques and procedure, methods and instrument of data collection, methods of data analysis, data quality management and ethical consideration. The fourth chapter provides the result and discussion of findings. Finally, the fifth chapter presents summary, conclusions and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES**

#### **2.1. Concept of community**

There is no universally agreed concept of community. Different scholars and stakeholders define the term differently. According to WHO, (2001).Community is a social group determined by geographical boundaries and/or common values and interests. Its members know and interact with one another. It functions within a particular social structure and exhibits and creates norms, values and social institutions.

According to wates (2000).the word community defined as a group of people sharing common interests and living within a geographically defined area. It is clear that a community generally has two certain elements, that is, physical boundaries and social interaction among the people.

The term community has both “social and spatial dimensions” and that generally the people within a community come together to achieve a common objective, even if they have certain differences (Nekway,2014). The concept of a community works on the age old principles of ‘unity is strength’ and ‘united we stand’. A group of people always has advantage over a single individual in getting his or her voice heard.

For the sake of this study from local development perspective the researcher apply definition given by Head, (2007) it can describe the diversity of local residents and other affected stakeholders by implying shared identity and cooperation, despite social, economic and cultural differences of people or locations. Developing a sense of community is important that can contributes to community capacity building by enabling people to feel connected and motivated to live in harmony and work together towards common community goals.

#### **2.2. Concept of Participation**

- Participation is people’s involvement in decision-making, implementation, benefit-sharing and in evaluation of programs; people’s capacity to take initiative in development, to become “subjects” rather than “objects” of their own affairs as Khan (2009). In ancient Greece participation was viewed as a matter of voting, holding offices, attending public meetings, paying taxes and defending the state, but in modern times participation became synonymous of ‘sharing’ (Samad, 2002). For effective plan

formulation, control of projects and sharing of benefits of development, participation is necessary. Uphoff (2010) defines participation as follows as:

- Involvement in decision making, in identifying, formulating alternatives, planning activities, allocating resources etc;
- Involvement in implementation, in carrying out activities, managing and operating programs, partaking of services;
- Involvement in evaluation of the activity and outcomes and
- Involvement in economic, social, cultural or other benefits, individually or collectively.

Since its inception, social scientists, development practitioners and development agencies have been conceptualized the term “participation” in their own view and its scope and meaning are still open to debate. Khan (2009) summarizes the definitions of participation and prepares a list of those. Participation is-

- An organized effort to increase control over resources and regulative institutions;
- People’s involvement in decision-making, implementation, benefit-sharing and in evaluation of programs;
- People’s capacity to take initiative in development, to become “subjects” rather than “objects” of their own destiny; this can only be achieved through a de professionalization in all domains of life in order to make “ordinary people” responsible for their own well-being;
- Participation involves a reversal of role playing: people should be the primary actors and government agencies and outsiders should “participate” in people’s activities. It is the involvement of ordinary people, government agencies and other stakeholders in development program or project to make same thing better for the well-being of community.

### **2.3. Concept of local development**

Local development is harmonious and systematic activity of a local community, local government and other entities functioning in the community strive to create new and improve existing utilitarian values of that community, to create favorable conditions for the local economy and assure spatial and ecological order (Brol 2000 as cited in Alicja 2002).

Local development is a social process by which individuals can become more competent to live with and gain some control over local conditions and the changing world. It is about exploiting the latent and existing competitive and comparative advantages of localities to improve wellbeing of society (wekwet, 2014).

According to Alicja (2002) some of basic characteristics of local development are-

- local development is an ongoing process and therefore cannot be carried out “in one go”
- local development regards an area and is therefore a territorial development, not a sector development,
- the fact that it regards a local arrangement favor the mobilization of a community, Causes a feeling of belonging to a community and place
- Initiative, creativity and inventiveness of local entities depend to a great degree on the awareness that they can influence the direction of development,
- It exemplifies the autonomous development model, i.e. one that is based on the potential of a given unit. Such a situation favors the involvement of local entities in the process, gives a sense of independence and awareness of “determining one’s own fate”,
- should be created by various entities, whose activities ought to be based on cooperation, while the result of negotiations should lead to the creation of a commonly accepted agenda of development,
- An unquestionable role in local development is played by local authorities

Local development is the positive change in locality through using local knowledge, labor, resource and others important value from both internal and external source in order to improve or to bring better aspect of social and environmental condition for certain locality.

## **2.4. Concept of community participation in local development**

Community participation is a wider concept that varies with its context, application and definition. For some, “it is a matter of principle; for others, practice; for still others, an end in itself” (O’Mara-Eves, et.al, 2013). For this thesis work ‘community participation’ with regard to local development takes its definition from the World Health Organization, where it is the active involvement of people from community in planning, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of the developmental program. It is the involvement of community in a program or project to solve their own problems. Participation can involve processes such as information sharing, consultation, debate and empowerment. It is process through which stakeholders influence and guide development initiatives and the decision and resources that affect them.

In the context of local development, community participation is an active process whereby local beneficiaries influence and reflect development policies and ideologies instead merely receive a share of the decisions benefits and costs. It is a way of achieving a higher standard of living and more equitable conditions for poor people, to ensure that their fundamental needs are met and that they are involved in political decisions which determine the way society develops Gaventa, (2002). Local people can participate during needs assessment, planning, mobilization, training and implementation of the programs or project and monitoring and evaluation.

The purpose of community participation is to give voice to the poor or marginalized people and integrate them into mainstream decision making structures and processes that share their lives and the destiny of their society Chambers,( 2011). From above review the researcher infer community participation as participation of local people in decision making, participation in the implementation of development programs and participation in the monitoring and evaluation of development programs and participation in sharing the benefits of development. It fosters the existing capacities of poor, local women, men and marginalized group to increase their self-reliance and voice on local development.

## **2.5. Basic Principle of community participation**

Studies show that there is no one right way to achieve deep community involvement it looks different in every community. Yet, there are some common principles that important to make

sound community participation that can be found in all communities. According to Reid (2000) some of them include the following:

- **Many People:** the first and most obvious principle of participation is that many people are involved. The work of the community is not considered to be the special province of a knowledgeable few perhaps of some elite leadership who has always run community affairs but it is the business of everyone. Participating communities engage many people in their work Reid (2000)
- **Many Centered:** participating communities are open to involvement by many groups. They divide up responsibilities in a way that draws on the special talents and interests of contributing organizations by assigning responsibility for independent action to these groups. In short, under the overall umbrella of a representative community board, power and responsibility are decentralized in a participating community Reid (2000)
- **Open and advertised:** the business of participating communities is open to all and widely-publicized. Citizens are informed by a variety of means about the community's work, and opportunities for citizens to find meaningful roles in contributing to that work Reid (2000)
- **Open to All Ideas:** in participating communities, there is no such thing as a bad idea. All ideas are welcomed and treated with respect. This not only honors the person whose idea is put forward, but it also sets a welcoming tone for fresh ideas and inspirations that might otherwise be hidden due to fear of ridicule. Participating communities establish ways of screening out the best ideas from the merely interesting, but in a way that acknowledges the value of all ideas, no matter what their source. In doing so, they encourage all their citizens to bring forth their best for the common good Reid (2000)
- **Inclusive and diverse:** in a participating community, no distinctions are drawn among various groups and types of personalities who offer themselves to community involvement. All persons are actively welcomed into useful roles, regardless of their color, age, race, prior community involvement, and level of education, occupation, personal reputation, handicap, language, appearance, religion, or any other factor.

Participating communities know and recognize that, truly, we are all made equal, that we have an equal right to share in the work and benefits of community enhancement, as well as in its costs. The entire community is poorer when we fail to do so. Further, participating communities do not sit by passively, waiting for a diverse group of citizens to present themselves for involvement. They realize that past discrimination, inexperience, and individual reluctance can hinder full community involvement, and they actively reach out to all citizens to invite active contributions to the community's business Reid (2000)

- **Open Mind, Open Process:** as a consequence, participating communities operate so that it is clear to all that they are not controlled by any one organization, do not represent any one group of people, and are not limited to any one philosophy or way of doing business. Their leadership is used to facilitate discussion of a diversity of viewpoints, rather than to push its own agenda. Leaders are not ego-driven but focused on operating a high-quality, open decision-making process. In short, they are open-open in mind, and open in the way they carry out community activities Reid (2000)

## 2.6. Types of community participation

There are different forms of community participation can exist on different developmental program at different level. Pretty (2006) provides critical understanding of different types of participation as follow as-

- **Manipulative participation:** Participation is simply pretense, the community themselves are not willing to participate in development processes but because of the external manipulation they simply pretend. Participation in this type is not sustainable because people will not always pretend.
- **Passive participation:** People participate by being told what has been decided or has already happened. Information belongs only to the external professionals. This is regarded as top-down approach to people participation and assume that people do not have potential to decide for themselves. This type of participation is difficult when it come to the implementation stage, people fails to support the project because they were not involved during the planning stage.

- **Participation by consultation:** People participate by being consulted or by answering questions. There is no room for the shared decision-making between the stakeholders and the professional. In most cases people's needs and priorities ignored by professionals. This also becomes difficult during the implementation of development projects. This type creates the gap between the local people and professionals.
- **Participation for material incentives:** People participate in work for food arrangements; they may also participate for the cash or other material incentives. The activities and the participation stop when the material incentives stop. This type of participation is not voluntary but people attracted by incentive given to them. The people themselves do not own the development processes under this type.
- **Functional participation: Community:** participation is seen by external agencies as a means to achieve project goals. People participate by forming groups to meet predetermined project objectives; they may be involved in decision making, but only after major decisions have already been made by external agents.
- **Interactive participation:** People participate in joint analysis, which leads to action plans and formation or strengthening of local group, or institution that determine how available resources are used. Learning methods used to seek multiple viewpoints. This type is the best, because it regards local people as potential and equal partner in development processes. This type of participation creates the sense of ownership of the development project by the community.
- **Self -mobilization:** People participate by taking initiative independent of external institutions. They develop contact with external institutions for resources and technical

Advice but retains control over how resources are used. The most dominant forms of participation in developing country including study area were manipulative, passive, and participation for the sake of material incentives.

## **2.7. Overview of community participation at different level for development**

### **2.7.1 Global view on community participation for development**

The issue of community participation is the global phenomenon and the international community promotes the active involvement of people in development program. The United

Nation, World Bank and other donors who fund the development program and project require participatory approach involving local communities. The need for bottom- up approach to the development is highly appreciative in creating sustainable development. Bottom - up approach to decision-making and implementation of development project is better than top-down. Bottom-up approach makes people close to the development activities (Kelvn, 2010).

The notion of community participation in international development discourse commonly used to refer to the involvement of local people in decision-making processes and evaluation of development program as well as the implementation in development program. The term community participation is associated with ‘empowerment’, and the respect for and use of ‘local knowledge’. By the term empowerment, we simply mean the power of making decisions is lying on the power of the people. The external agencies/government assists the people to reach their goals objectives but not force them. By the concept of using local knowledge, we simply mean that local people have potential knowledge and experiences that if utilized my result to positive contribution to their development. Community participation is very important tool for developmental process in any country. The multilateral and bilateral aid organization, as well as NGOs has emphasized the importance of local community participation in development process (Kelven,2010)..Community participation has been a constant theme in development dialogues for the past 50 years. In the 1960s and 1970s, it became central to development program and projects as a means to seek sustainability and equity, particularly for the poor. It is critical to program planning and poverty alleviation (World Bank, 2011).

United Nations Development Program (UNDP 2009).noted that community participation has been part of development policy, programs and projects in both developing and developed countries. Participation improved quality, effectiveness and sustainability of development actions. By placing people at the center of such actions, development efforts have a much greater potential to empower them and lead to ownership of the results. At global level World Bank try to justify the necessity of community participation in development program, for the following reasons- Local people have a great amount of experience and insight into what works, what does not work and why.

- Involving local people in planning program and projects can increase their commitment to the stated goal.
- Involving local people can help them to develop technical and managerial skills and thereby increase their opportunities for employment.
- Involving local people helps to increase the resources available for the program Involving local people is a way to bring about ‘social learning’ for both planners and beneficiaries. ‘Social learning’ means the development of partnerships between professionals and local people, in which, each group learns from the other (WB, 2011).

From the above review researcher infer that at global level community participation can be seen as the crucial component of developmental project and program for not only its success but also to achieve sustainability of the developmental program. Inclusion of local skill and knowledge were important to meet the basic priorities and needs of society at ground level.

### **2.7.2 Africa view on community participation for development**

Community participation in development programs becomes common approach to most governments in developing countries. Community participation empowers people, builds social capital, and strengthens local governance (Kelvn, 2010).It was the first president of the United Republic of Tanzania Julius Nyerere, who made a powerful statement on the need for participation of the people in communities for development. He stated that:

Development is the participation of people in a mutual learning experience involving themselves, their local resources and change agent. People cannot be developed; they can only develop themselves by participation and co-operative activities which affect their wellbeing. People are not being developed when they are herded like animals into new ventures (Nyerere ,1968 as cited in kelvin, 2010).In this statement people are understood to be an important instrument in their own development. Actual and sustainable development can be obtained by making the people who benefit an integral part of the development process. This includes involvement in the decision-making and in the phase of implementation and evaluation.

Community participation is the center of any democratic system. It is clear that absence of community participation is subject to any state to underdevelopment, poor governance, corruption and internal conflict. It clear that some of African governments have understood this

fact and try to make various efforts to employ the principles of community participation such as; equal opportunity to all and equitable access to resources by all citizens as underlying strategies for development and good governance wekwete (2014). In Africa there is growing trend of community participation essence from time to time in development project and program.

### **2.7.3 National view on Community participation for development**

#### **2.7.3.1 Community participation in Political development**

In the last quarter, many countries have engaged in the process of decentralization by transferring responsibilities of the state to lower tiers of government. Such transfer of power is believed to bring not only political stability and contribute to democratic governance and, but also to enhance community involvement in decision making and improve service delivery at grass root level. Formerly, Ethiopia had made some preliminary attempts at decentralization. One of the earliest such attempts was in the form of local self-administration at awraja or sub province level.

The order establishes a system of elected awraja councils to exercise jurisdiction over local affairs such as building economic and social infrastructure (Alene and Worku, 2015). Though this indicates an interest in decentralization, but it did not succeed and promote community participation in decision making and development program. During the Dreg period, Peasant Associations and Urban Dwellers' Associations were established as the lowest forms of local administration. The officials, although elected by the people, were mainly serving the government and were acting as defenders of the interest of the government.

However, according to kassahun and Tegegne (2004).the establishment of the Transitional Government in 1991 brought a new era in decentralization of power and community participation in the country, as a result of the various acts it introduced. The 1995 constitution article 46 (2) of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia indicates that regions are formed on the basis of population, settlement, language and identity. That the Government of Ethiopia has laid out the goal of promoting democracy, participation and economic development through a decentralized federal administration.

The intent was to empower the people to exercise self-rule at different levels and advance their collective socio-economic interests. An equally important goal was to empower previously disadvantaged and marginalized groups to fully and actively participate in the political process through democratic representation and election. In addition to that devolving power and authority to Weredas have been key role to local empowerment and meaningful self-government in Ethiopia. In recognition of this, the Government has launched the expanded program of Wereda decentralization, otherwise known as District-Level Decentralization Program (DLDP) in 2002/03 this is an important measure that has added to the institutionalization of democratic governance and participatory development that could adequately respond to the needs of the local people (Alene and Worku, 2015).

The District-level Decentralization Program (DLDP) in 2002/03 has helped to partially overcome challenges in devolving power and responsibilities down to Wereda government levels. There has been an easing of the excessive concentration of governmental power at regional levels with more autonomy and decision making authority having been devolved to Weredas. Kebele administrative units are the lowest tiers of government very close to the people. Their proximity to the people gives them a unique advantage to be responsive and relevant to community needs. Yet, there is the need to improve the autonomy and the institutional strength of Kebele administrations (Kelvn, 2010).

### **2.7.3.2 Community participation in social and economic development**

Community participation in planning and prioritizing local needs has enhanced opportunity for the community to contribute their share in poverty reduction-related program such as education, health services, environmental conservation and the like. Ethiopia is a pertinent place to explore questions of popular participation in schooling because it considers local-level participation in school operations to be an integral part of recent decentralization reforms and a way to increase educational access and quality (UNESCO, 2005).

Concerning the community participation in health care service, in spite of the rapid expansion of primary health care under Derg regime, community participation was hampered by the protracted war and centralized, urban-based, bureaucratic approaches and attitudes that failed to promote an

enabling environment for popular participation, but later after transitional government the significant community participation can bring remarkable change in health sector (WHO, 2001).

The Government commitment towards poverty reduction and its ultimate eradication via pursuing broad-based pro-poor growth has been and still is very strong and well grounded. The policy and strategy framework across sectors has taken poverty reduction as their central objective. The Agricultural Development Led Industrialization (ADLI) strategies seem to have begun to bear fruit as reflected in the shift in the growth trajectory of the Ethiopian economy. There seem to be a sign of hope to transform subsistence farmers into producers of high value crops. The Government has put in place credible and functioning policies, strategies and programs that reflect the realities of the country. The focus on human capital formation, infrastructure expansion, addressing vulnerability to shocks, the decentralization and empowerment process, the capacity building program are all aimed at speeding up the transformation process on all fronts given the backlog of developmental deficits this country had incurred in the past. These developmental approaches are holistic and based on enhancing the community involvement and improvement of life of majority who were depend on agricultural activities (MoFED, 2010).

Through the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (PSDPR) and Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty (PASDEP) the Government has embarked upon an aggressive program to accelerate community progress and participation including a big push on education to create human capacity, expanding infrastructure to enhance the competitive advantage of the economy, building institutions, decentralizing government, and mobilizing the power of grass root communities including civil society.

This has been accompanied since the mid-1990s by a massive re-orientation of public spending to pro-poor investments, and the launch of nationwide sector development programs to improve health care, education, and food security (Ibid). Also both GTP1 (Growth and Transformation plan one) and GTP 2 (Growth and Transformation plan two) give due emphasis for the empowering community to participate in local development in order to sustain development last long. In Ethiopia EFDR constitution and others developmental strategies lies basic ground for community participation as basis for social, economic and political advancement of the country.

## 2.8. Objectives of community participation

Community participation has its own objective for the development program. Different scholars describe different objectives of community participation in the context of various developmental programs. But most of the scholars generally agreed with Paul's five proposed objectives to which community participation contribute (Paul, 2003), these are-

- **sharing program or project costs**-participants are asked to contribute money or labor(occasionally goods) during the project's implementation or operational stages;
- **increasing program or project efficiency**-beneficiary consultation during program or project planning or beneficiary involvement in the management of implementation or operation can enhance project efficiency,
- **increasing program or project effectiveness**-greater beneficiary involvement to help ensure that the program or project achieves its objectives and that benefits go to the intended groups;
- **Building beneficiary capacity**-either through ensuring that participants are actively involved in project planning and implementation(for example ,through the formation of self-help house construction groups),or through formal or informal training and consciousness
- **Increasing empowerment**-defined as seeking to increase the control of the underprivileged sectors of society over the resources and decisions affecting their lives and their participation in the benefits produced by the society in which they live.

## 2.9. Benefits of Community Participation on development

WB (2011) advocates that prudent development program managers should be concerned to ensure that beneficiaries are adequately consulted and involved from the beginning of the development programs. It is to noted that community participation has vital for the success of developmental program. Some of major benefit are-

- Involvement of the community at an early stage of development program is important to improve design by ensuring that full advantage is taken of local technology and knowledge of climatologically and topographical conditions, and ensuring that the program or project is

fully adapted to the social organization of locality. For examples ,the drastic consequences of not consulting beneficiaries: bridges collapsed, irrigation channels could not accommodate them on soon floods (in a few cases the channels were actually filled in again by the farmers and rerouted),expected labor was not available during religious or community festivals, and certain house designs or sanitary systems were not acceptable to particular groups.

- Community involvement can ensure a program or project's social acceptability and can increase the likelihood of beneficiaries participating in the program. Moser (1987) gave examples of squatter upgrading projects in politically volatile areas where it would have been impossible for the project to have been implemented without the systematic efforts to involve major community groups through consultation and planning meetings from the very beginning of the project
- Community participation helps to ensure the more equitable distribution of benefits and may ensure that politically or economically weak groups may have access to the project services and benefits.
- Community participation is important for the sustainability of development program. Community participation and sustainability involves local choice because people are the local experts, in line with the idea of an indigenous knowledge system.
- Resource mobilization is much easier when beneficiaries are committed to a program and actively involved in its design and implementation. The community resources may be provided in the form of labor, materials, or money. Cost recovery rates are often much higher when the community is actively involved.

In addition to that according to (IPAT international peace building advisory team, 2015) regular community participation can contribute to various desirable developmental and democratic outcomes, some of them are:-

- It promotes better development results: e.g. improved health, water, sanitation, education etc.
- Strengthening practices of participation helps people to learn the civic skills, form the relationships and the networks and build the organizations and coalitions needed to make their voices heard

- It promote construction of ‘citizenship’: people are more aware of their right to participate, more knowledgeable about legal and institutional references and more confident about their ability to do so;
- Strengthening of responsive and accountable states: improving a culture of and frameworks for accountability; more responsive states are better at delivering services and protecting and extending rights;
- It promotes development of inclusive and cohesive societies: more pluralistic and inclusive societies, bringing new voices and issues into the public arena.

## **2.10. Challenges for community participation in development**

### **2.10.1 Challenges of community participation**

There are powerful factors that act as barriers to participation, thereby weakening the community participation chain. These can be grouped under the following themes (Joshi M. et al, 2007 as cited in Lisanu, 2017)

- **Personal/Individual challenges**, for example the sense of personal powerlessness that stems from long term reliance upon others and the costs of involvement to participants.
- **Institutional and political challenges**, for example a formal meetings culture and the use of language that does not encourage dialogue. Duke and Thurlow (2002) have also indicated that particularly rural citizens feel that there is a lack of access to information about government programs and services in order to properly participate.
- **Economic-social and cultural challenges**, those factors result community’s participation decline and fragmentation. For instance, Economic condition of people can determine their active participation in project run by local government. Economically strong people often make alliances with the elected representatives and exploit their positions to ensure mutual gains. It may be inferred from their proposition that the better-off people in society in terms of economy easily get participation in various government run programs because their social identity is the prosperity and the social prestige they hold in the society. Moreover, they are key influential persons in the society in absence of who hinder the implementation of government run program and policies (Thorn, 2005). In addition to that

meaningful participation in development project largely depends on the educational status of community people. It is evident that illiterate people hardly understand the essentials of a project and thus their illiteracy is a great hindrance to their participation in local development. Illiterate people are often looked down upon as problematic as they more often cannot articulate their demands and put forward their opinions in a systematic way. Hence, their illiteracy is leading them to non-participation (Thorn, 2005). Culturally rural society is predominantly patriarchal in which female participation in development activities is traditionally looked down upon.

- **Technical challenges** such as the lack of accessible formats and technological support for groups to enable service users to participate effectively or difficulties in getting small amounts of funding for support costs.

#### **2.10.2 Nine plagues for community participation**

There are a wide range of factors that could hinder and indeed constrain the promotion of participatory development, and these often lead to the emergence of non-participatory approaches. Thus, Botes and van Rensburg,( 2000) describe nine plagues or obstacles for community participation in development, these are:

##### **❖ The paternalistic role of development professionals**

The majority of development projects are initiated by outsiders. They are rarely founded spontaneously by the community itself. Participation processes often begin only after projects have already been designed. The process is not an attempt to ascertain the outcome and priorities, but rather to gain acceptance for an already assembled package. Consultation with the community may simply be to legitimate existing decisions i.e. to tell people what is going to happen by asking them what they think about it. Community participation is in these cases nothing more than attempts to convince beneficiaries what is best for them

##### **❖ The inhibiting and prescriptive role of the state**

For the state, it appears that the main aim of community participation programs is less about improving conditions for the poor or to modifying forms of decision-making, than maintaining

existing power relations in society and ensuring the silence of the poor. Community participation is often used by governments as a means of legitimizing the political system and as a form of social control. The level of commitment by many governments to community participation has often been dubious or extremely limited. Participation is often constrained at the state level by partisanship, funding limitations, rigidity, the resistance of local and national bureaucrats, and the state's inability to respond effectively to the felt needs of the public.

#### ❖ **The over-reporting of development successes**

Another problem is that successes related to development initiatives are quantified, documented and communicated to a greater extent than failures. There is therefore a lack of understanding of lessons learned, and their communication. Success is rewarded, whereas failure, however potentially informative, is not. The result of that is that the knowledge of the nature of the failure, the very information which could allow intervention policy to be improved, is lost.

#### ❖ **Selective participation**

Very often it is the most visible and vocal, wealthier, more articulated and educated groups that are allowed to be partners in development without serious and ongoing attempts to identify less obvious partners. Especially it occurs when the development agency 'buys' the goodwill and support of key interest groups in the community, which is also referred to as 'community-renting'. This is often the result where community involvement exercises are vulnerable to manipulation and misappropriation.

#### ❖ **Hard-issue bias**

In many development projects the so-called 'hard' issues (technological, financial, physical and material) are perceived as being more important for the successful implementation of these projects than the 'soft' issues (such as community involvement, decision making procedures, the establishment of efficient social compacts, organizational development capacity building and empowerment). This may be the result of the assumption that social and cultural features (the so called 'soft issues') are ephemeral, intangible and unnecessary time-consuming in comparison to the more easily managed 'hard issues'. This inevitably results in a technical bias, which neglects the fact that inappropriate social processes can destroy the most noble development endeavor.

### ❖ **Conflicting interest groups within end-beneficiary communities**

In the majority of cases, development introduces marginalized communities to limited scarce resources and opportunities, which very often increases the likelihood of development as a divisive force. Development is always the result of decisions which require choices about whose needs are to enjoy priority; often, some interests can be accommodated only at the expense of others. A logical consequence of this is the likelihood that conflict can develop among different interest groups or segments of the community. Conflict also arises in situations where some groups may feel neglected in decisions affecting their lives. This in turn may enhance the possibility of different interest groups within a single community opposing each other. Competition among community based organizations and other popular movements for access to scarce development resources and power is a major constraint preventing proper participation.

### ❖ **Gate-keeping by local elites**

It is well known that in cases where the community leadership favors a project the chances of success are far greater than where leaders are opposed. However, often a particular organization, perhaps the dominant one in a target area, may interpose itself between the development agency and the beneficiaries, resisting all attempts to engage with the latter. Thus, local elites may be able to effectively thwart attempts to engage directly with beneficiaries, because this threatens their control. There is always the danger that decision-making at community-level may fall into the hands of a small and self-perpetuating group, which may act in its own interests with disregard for the wider community.

### ❖ **Excessive pressures for immediate results: the accentuation of product at the expense of process**

There is always a tension between the imperatives of delivery (product) and community participation (process), between the cost of time and the value of debate and agreement. Excessive pressures for immediate results, accruing from the products and services delivered, often undermine attention to institution-building and make it difficult not to address poverty and poverty reduction from a relief and welfare approach. Any pressure on development workers to show results, may force them to take matters out of the hands of community people and complete them themselves. Some people and organizations tend to emphasize process and fail to deliver

product, whilst other are so product-driven that they neglect community processes. Both are dangerous: process without product leaves communities feeling that nothing is really happening other than a lot of talking, and that time, money and social energy is lost. Product without process runs the risk of doing something communities do not want or need, or cannot sustain.

#### ❖ **The lack of public interest in becoming involved**

This plague has two dimensions. Sometimes, community members do not want to become involved simply because the project does not interest them. This could suggest an underlying deficiency in project design-developers may be introducing a service not needed or wanted by the community. Other times, community members, disillusioned by failed expectations in past projects, may have little faith in the promises of agencies

### **2.11. Enhancing community participation in development**

There are several ways for enhancing community participation in development activities. Community participation is an essential part of human growth, which is the development of self-confidence, pride, initiative, creativity, responsibility, cooperation (Burkey, 2012). Kumar (2002) state that participation is more than a policy statement- there must be genuine commitment to boost participation in all aspects and at levels of development rather than a policy. The most important action that the local authorities can take to encourage popular participation is to welcome local people to contribute to the activities which are being implementing. Beside that there are various ways that different scholars discussed how to enhancing community participation for development program, some of them are-

#### ❖ **Empowerment**

Empowerment as the development of skills and abilities to enable community people to manage better, have a say in or negotiate with existing development delivery system; others see it as more fundamental and essentially concerned with enabling community people to decide upon and to take the actions which they believe are essential to their development (Oakley and Marsden,2009). Theron (2005) argues that issues of community participation and empowerment in the planning process for service delivery are central to sustainable development. Participations

an exercise in empowering local authorities to gained widespread public support in development programs.

For example the United Nations Research Institute for Development during the 1980s took, as its working definition of participation, the empowerment of excluded groups in order to increase their access to and control over development resources. An essential instrument to safeguard sustainable development and full service delivery is by empowering people to sustain their own development in order to be sustainers of development in their own communities.

#### ❖ **Capacity building**

Capacity building is the ongoing process of increasing the ability of individual, groups and organization to control and manage all important areas of their lives or operations. Aref and Redzuan (2009) indicate that capacity building is one of the mechanisms to enable people to take part in development activities. It encourages communities as stakeholders because it offers them the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to control their own lives and operations.

#### ❖ **Promote sense of Self-sufficiency**

Oakley and Marsden (2009) states that self-sufficiency make a positive effect on rural communities by participating in development. It helps to do away with the mentality of dependence, promotes self-awareness and confidence, and people participate in to solve their problems. Self-sufficiency is the question of attitude rather than money and material. Burkey (2012) indicates that self-sufficiency teach people how to form and manage their own organization. This means that people must have confidence in their own knowledge and skills, in their ability to identify problems and find solutions in order to make improvement in their own life and community.

According to Gebremdhin (2004), participation and Self-sufficiency demolishes their over-dependency attitudes, enhances awareness, confidence and self-initiative. It also increases people's control over resources and development efforts, enables them to plan and implement and also to participate in development efforts at levels beyond their community.

### ❖ **Community education**

Community education is important ways of enhancing community participation in development that acknowledge community with respective developmental program. It calls for an integration of the three elements of community developmental issue (Theron, 2005). These are as follows:

- ✓ The community and the service delivery system: the capacity of the people and expected output must be integrated.
- ✓ The community and the community organizations: the formulation of the needs and demands by the people and the decision-making process of the organization should be integrated.
- ✓ The program/project and the community organizations: the program/project objectives have to be in keeping with the capacity of the organization and that of the community.

In addition to that the World Bank (2011) has suggested four other mechanisms for improving community participation:

- Use of indigenous institutions that are already involved community mobilization.
- Use of local voluntary organizations in order to reach the rural poor in relatively distant areas.
- Increased access to information through sharing information with local communities at the early stage of identifying projects; discussing worries with the affected communities, encouraging public comments on the projects draft etc.
- Institutional reform-especially recruiting staff trained in the social sciences (e.g., anthropology, sociology, etc.)

### **2.12 Twelve commandments for promoting community participation in development**

Whoever wants to get community participation in development should:

- Demonstrate an awareness of their status as outsiders to the beneficiary community and the potential impact of their involvement.

- Respect the community's indigenous contribution as manifested in their knowledge, skills and potential.
- Become good facilitators and catalysts of development that assist and stimulate community based initiatives and challenge practices which hinders people releasing their own initiatives and realize their own ideals.
- Promote co-decision-making in defining needs, goal-setting, and formulating policies and plans in the implementation of these decisions. Selective participatory practices can be avoided when development workers seek out various sets of interest, rather than listening only to a few community leaders and prominent figures.
- ❖ Communicate both program or project successes and sometimes-failures are more informative.
- Believe in the spirit of 'Ubuntu' – a South African concept encompassing key values such as solidarity, conformity, compassion, respect, human dignity and collective unity.
- Listen to community members, especially the more vulnerable, less vocal and marginalized groups.
- Guard against the domination of some interest groups or a small unrepresentative leadership clique. This article pleads for a co-operative spirit and for a watch for oligarchic tendencies among community leadership.
- Involve a cross-section of interest groups to collaborate as partners in jointly defining development needs and goals, and designing appropriate processes to reach these goals.
- Acknowledge that process-related soft issues are as important as product related hard issues. Any investment in shelter for the poor should involve an appropriate mix of technological and social factors, where both hardware and software are developed together.
- Aim at releasing the energy within a community without exploiting or exhausting them.
- Empower communities to share equitably in the fruits of development through active processes whereby beneficiaries influence the direction of development initiatives rather than merely receive a share of benefits in a passive manner. (Botes and van Rensburg, 2000)

## **2.13. Theories Of Community Participation**

### **2.13.1 Participatory Theory**

It is sure that “development without popular participation can be an incomplete affair” (Yadav, 2003). Sundaram (2002) claims that the participation of beneficiaries can be understood in terms of participation in decision making, implementation of the development programs, monitoring and evaluation of program and sharing the benefits of development. There exists a great importance of people’s participation in any kind of project because it enriches the planning process by checking the reliability of data, ensuring commitment of the people to targeted projects, rationalizing proposals by the agencies concerned; reducing unreasonable pressures through informal channels and finally basing the proposals on the judgment of the people affected by the program. Local people always used to be in a better position to know about their needs and priorities and this can avoid duplication minimize delay and ensure accountability. As the result of participation, the people will be in a better position to assess their own rights and responsibilities

## **2.14. Empirical Studies**

- In Ethiopia there are few studies conducted in the area of community participation on local developmental issue, for instance, Dinberu Tadesse (2014) conducted his study on the link between sustainable local economic development and community participation with particular reference to three Woredas of Lideta Sub-city in Addis Ababa, his study revealed that the local communities are not fully involved in economic development work from planning to final evaluation phase. It describes that there is low level of community participation in local development.

Haileleul (2016), conducted his study on Assessing the Status of Community Participation on Local Development in Tigray region, his study revealed that local development is generally developed by powerful individuals, governments, or outsiders without little discussion with the local communities. Local people have failed to intensely demonstrate their skill and knowledge on tackling poverty and underdevelopment.

And also, Lisanu (2017). Conducted study on Assessing the role of Community Participation in Sustainable Local economic Development: The case of Wolayta Sodo

Town, his study revealed that community participation and local economic development are two intertwined issues that Community participation plays a very great role for local economic development.

Those existing studies majorly focus on the link, role and status of community participation in local development and most of them particularly look issue of community participation from local economic development perspective solely. Those studies have gap in addressing the major challenges that hinder community participation in local development.

## 2.15 Conceptual Frame Work Of The Study

In order to describe the conceptual frame work of the study this diagram is developed by researcher based on literature review.

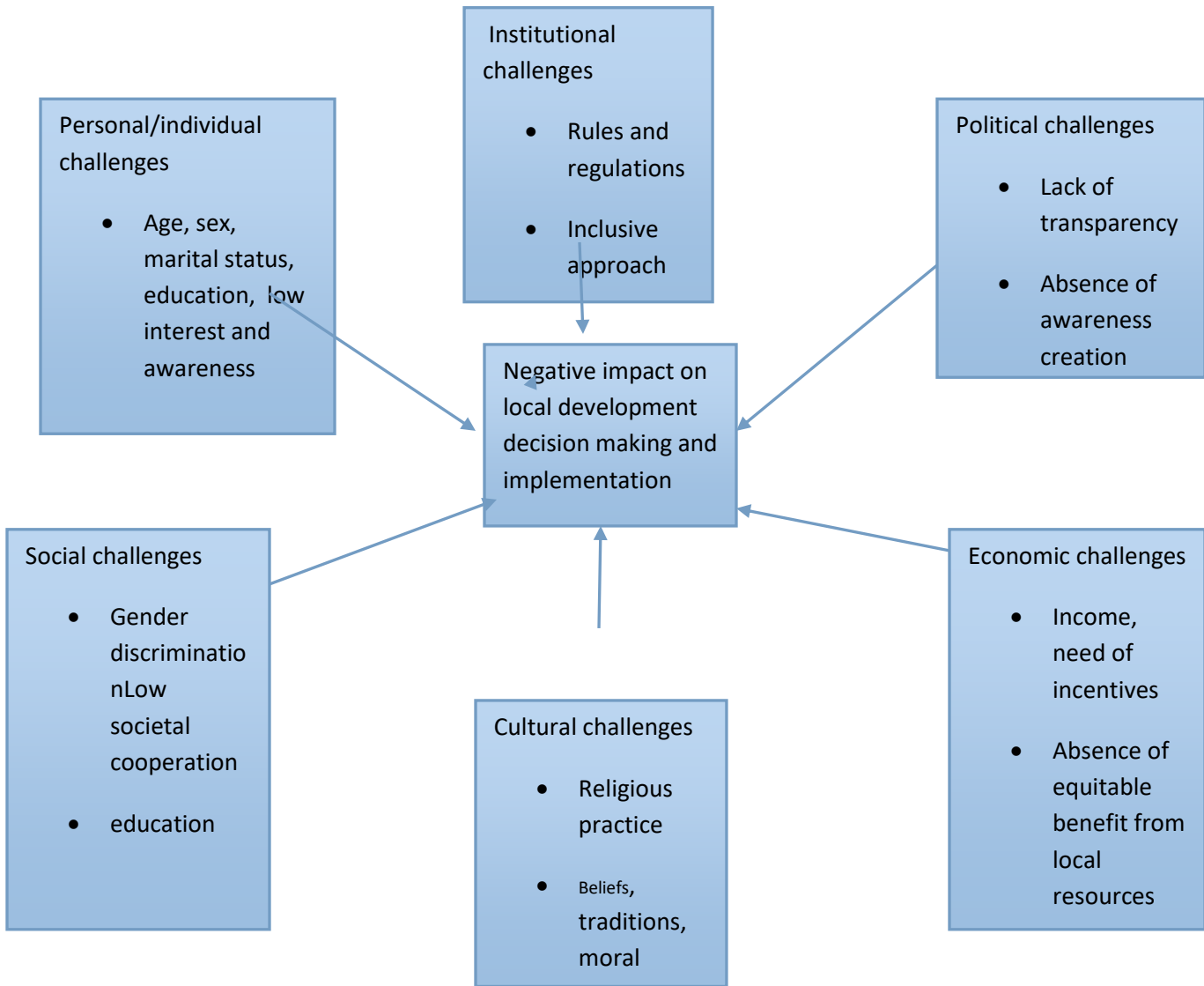


Figure 2.1 conceptual frame work of the researcher (source; researcher own sketch,2020)

## **CHAPTER THREE**

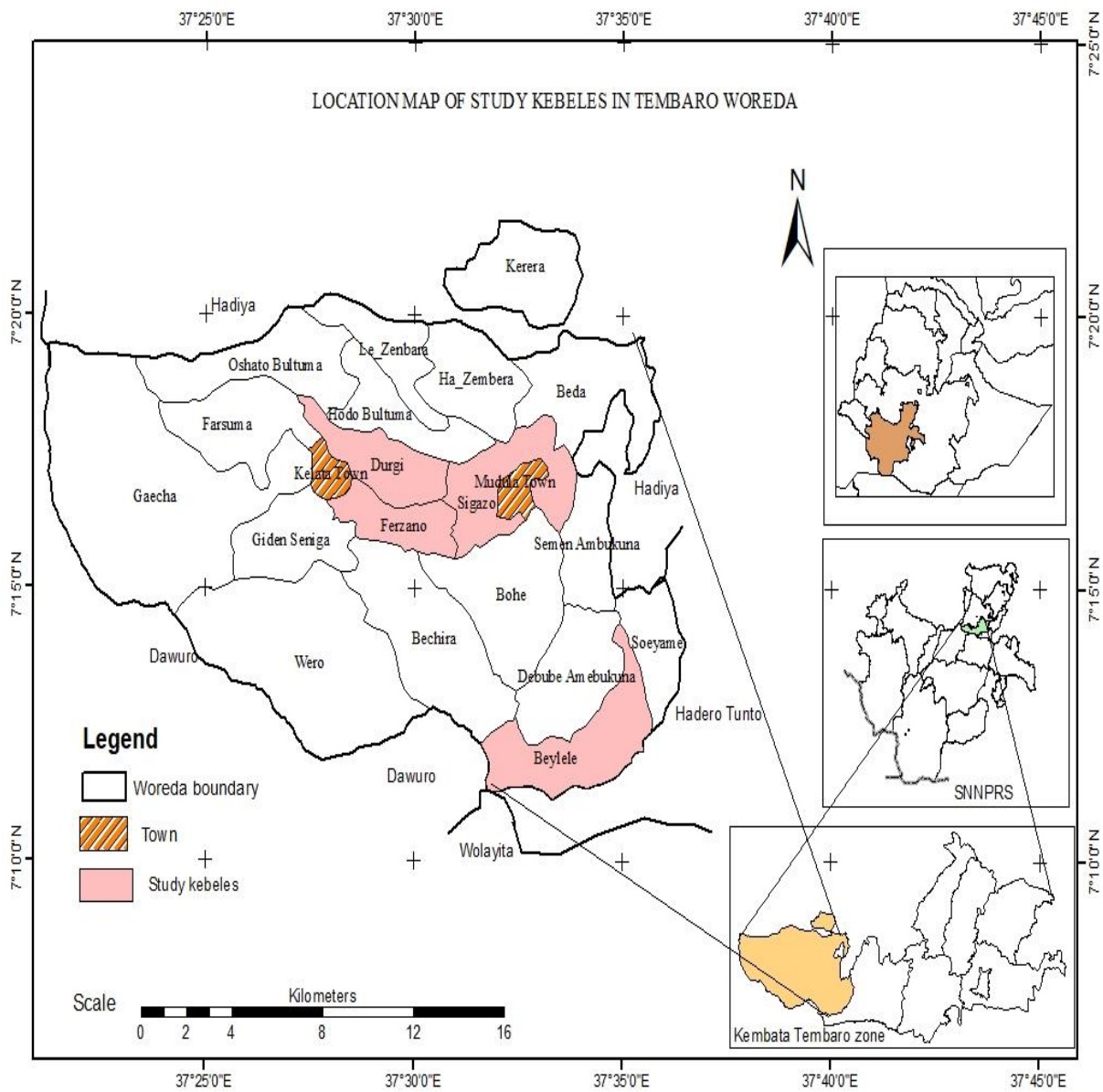
### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. Background of the study area**

Tembaro is one of the seven Woredas that is found in SNNPRS, Kembata Tembaro Zone. In terms of administration, Tembaro Woreda is sub-divided into 20 rural and 2 urban kebeles.

Its main town is Medulla which is located at a distance of 400 kilometers far from Addis Ababa. It is bordered with Soro Woreda and Dunna Woreda in Hadiya Zone along its north, and Hadaro Tunto Woreda in the South and East, Omo River and Dawuro Zone in the West. The ethno-linguistic neighbors of the Tembaro people are Kambatta, Hadya, Wolaita, Donga, and Dawuro. According to the population and Housing Census of (2007) the total population of 95,557 of which 53,197 are males while the 42,360 are females. As to the Tembaro Woreda culture and Government communication office annual report of 2018 on population project, 94.75% of the total population lives in the rural area while the other remaining 5.3% are dwellers,

The woreda selected as study area due to four reasons. First there is serious challenges of community participation at grass root level in various developmental programs (TWAOPR, 2018). Second researcher personal work experience at study area also helps to practically observe the existing problem that helps the researcher to properly investigate and understand about issue, third familiarity with study area community helps the researcher to get proper data from respondent with low cost and short period of time without any third body intervention. And finally this issue had not been investigated through any research finding at the area at all. Thus, the combination of these issues initiated the researcher to select the area in order to do deep investigation and to forward some possible recommendation regarding to the issue.



**Figure.3.1 Map of study area**

Source: SNNPR Bureau of Finance and Economic Development, 2020

### **3.2. Research Design**

The research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement and analysis of data (Kothri, 2004). The researcher employed a descriptive research design. The major purpose of descriptive research design is the description of the state of affairs as it exists at present (Ibid). It applied for the study in order to describe the challenges of community participation in local development. The study also utilize case study in order to obtain in depth data about the study issue. Case study explores an in-depth analysis of a case, often a program, event, activity, process, or one or more individuals within bounded time (Stake, 1995; Yin, 2009, 2012 as cited in Creswell, 2014). Thus, descriptive case study was employed in order to deeply describe and interpret the major challenges that hinder active community participation at study area.

### **3.3. Research Approach**

The choice of an appropriate research approach can be determined by the nature and characteristics of the study as well as the data needed. This study employed mixed approach (qualitative and quantitative) based on appropriate data collection tools. According to Creswell (2009) mixing qualitative and quantitative approaches gives the potential to cover each method's weaknesses with strengths from the other method and it also provides more complete understanding of a research problem than either approach alone. In this study qualitative research approach employed to collect data through exploring attitude, behaviors and experience through interview and focus group discussion about challenges of community participation in development activities, whereas quantitative research approach helps to generates statistical data which collected through questionnaire.

### **3.4. Research Methods**

#### **3.4.1. Type and Sources of Data**

Data was collected from both primary and secondary source. Kothari, (2004) describe that primary data is those which are collected afresh and for the first time, and thus happen to be original in character. On the other hand, secondary data are those which have already been collected by someone else and which have already been passed through the statistical process. To achieve objective of the study, primary data were collected from the sample kebeles and government officials using interview, focus group discussion, questionnaires and personal observation. Secondary data was obtained from related published and unpublished materials, which are available in the form of books, journal articles, policy briefs, federal and regional constitutions and performance reports.

#### **3.4.2. Sampling techniques and procedure**

Sampling method refers to the rules and procedures by which some elements of the population were included in the sample. Sampling techniques can be either probability or non-probability. With probability samples each element has a known probability of being included in the sample but the non-probability samples do not allow this probability (Kothari, 2004). The study applied both probability and non- probability sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was employed in order to select sample kebeles. From the total 20 rural and 2 urban kebeles of the woreda four of them were selected purposively to conduct study due to three reasons. First, four of them have challenges of low community participation in various local development program compared to others kebele. Second they have basic problem of infrastructural development among others kebeles and finally, they also have serious complain in existing administrative practice of their leaders. The names of those selected kebeles were Ferzano, Sigezo, Durgi and Belela. The total sums of house hold of the four kebeles were 8432 (TWAO, 2017/18). From probability sampling, the researcher used systematic sampling in order to identify respondents from selected four kebeles of woreda. Systematic sampling involves a random start and then proceeds with the selection of every  $K^{\text{th}}$  term from then onwards. ( $K=N/n$ ).

Therefore, the sample size of the respondent were determined using the formula developed by Yamane (1967)

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} \quad n = 8432/1+8432(0.07)^2 \quad n= 199$$

n= sample size. N= Population size= the precision level (0.07), through applying the above formula the sample size becomes 199.

Finally, by using proportional allocation method the researcher decide to take sample respondents from selected kebeles. Among the selected kebele sample respondents were taken for data collection using systematic sampling method.

Table .1 Selection of sample respondents from sample kebeles

No	Sample kebele	Total HH	Proportionally Computed sample size of HH
1	Ferzano	2244	2244*199/8432= 53
2	Sigazo	1761	1761*199/8432= 42
3	Durgi	1878	1878*199/8432= 44
4	Belela	2549	2549*199/8432= 60
Total		8432	199

### 3.4.3. Methods and Instruments of Data collection

The researcher used four basic instruments in the process of collecting primary data for the study namely: survey questionnaire, in-depth interview and focus group discussion

#### 3.4.3.1. Survey Questionnaire

The researcher employed survey questionnaire as the major data collection tool. This is because it is convenient ways to conduct survey and to acquire necessary information about problems of community participation from large number of respondents within short period of time. According to Best and Kahn (2003), questionnaire is a highly appropriate data collection tool, to

get wider information from widely dispersed sample population and make possible an economy of time and expense and provides a high proportion of usable responses. Based on study issue the questionnaires were developed by researcher. Both closed and open ended questions were employed in order to take their advantages for the study purpose. Kothari (2004) indicates that closed ended questions have the advantages of easier to handling, simple to answer, quick and relatively inexpensive to analyze and interpret whereas the open ended questions have benefits to allow obtaining depth and variety of responses from respondents.. It was designed to collect data from 199 sample kebele respondents.

The questionnaire was collected by researcher. The questionnaire raised issues such as socio demographic characteristics of respondents, understanding about participation of community in local development activities, challenges that hinder community participation in local development activities, consequence of low community participation in local well-being and ways to enhance community participation in development activities.

#### **3.4.3.2. In- depth Interview**

It was conducted with key informants. Creswell (2009) describe that it is used to collect the data through conducting in face-to face encounter (between the researcher and the informant) and in a place where convenient for the interviewees. The method is appropriate that study focuses on assessing the challenges of community participation in development activities, it allows researcher to acquire more information and enables to explore various opinions and attitudes from key informants regarding to the issue. Open ended interview questions were constructed in order to obtain detailed information about the issue understudy. It conducted with selected kebele administrators and officials of different offices of woreda with various responsibility, knowledge and experience about the community mobilization. They were selected purposively from kebeles administration and woreda offices believing that they have deep and relevant information about the study issues from their responsibilities and continued involvement in the community. An interview was conducted with each of the key informants to acquire the necessary information for the study. It raised issue such as community awareness about participation, community mobilization approach, level of community participation in development activities, challenges that hinders active community participation, consequence of low community participation in local development activities and ways to enhance community participation in development activities.

**Table 3.2 Lists of key informants from sample kebeles/offices**

No	Kebeles/office from where the key informants are selected	No. of key informants	Method of Selection
1	Tembaro woreda administrative office heads	1	Purposive sampling
2	Kebeles adiminsrative office	4x1=4	Purposive sampling
3	Kebeles chairman	4x1=4	Purposive sampling
4	Tembaro woreda road and transport office heads	1	Purposive sampling
5	Tembaro woreda water , minerals and energy office heads	1	Purposive sampling
6	Tembaro woreda education office heads	1	Purposive sampling
7	Tembaro woreda health office heads	1	Purposive sampling
8	Tembaro woreda women , children and youth affair office heads	2	Purposive sampling
9	Tembaro woreda Agriculture and rural development office heads	1	Purposive sampling
	Total	16	

**Source: own Survey, 2020**

### **3.4.3.3. Focus Group Discussion (FGD)**

The study employed it as one of important ways to acquire data. It helps to understand how people perceive the issue of community participation in local development as members of a group rather than simply as individuals. It also helps to use the social dynamics of the group to stimulate participants and give the researcher the chance to reveal and collect essential information about their opinions, experience, perception, beliefs, attitude and grievances on the issue of community participation and local development. It conducted with women representatives, youth representatives, religion leaders and elders from the four kebeles. They were purposively selected believing that they provide detailed information about study with their continued involvement in various concerns of community. Four FGDs hold in all the four kebeles with 8 members ( $4 \times 8 = 32$ ) who included women and men in each group. The researcher took part in all FGDs as a facilitator and guider of the discussion by probing the issues being raised in. FGDs raised issue such as understanding about community participation in development activities; challenges hinder active community participation, consequence of low community participation in local development activities and ways to enhance community participation in development activities.

Table 3.3.The participants in FGDs

No	Participants	Number of participants in each kebeles				Method of Section
		Ferzano	Sigezo	Durgi	Belela	
1	Elders representative	2	2	2	2	Purposive sampling
2	Religion leaders	2	2	2	2	Purposive sampling
3	Youth representatives	2	2	2	2	Purposive sampling
4	Women representatives	2	2	2	2	Purposive sampling
Total		8	8	8	8	32

**Source: Own Survey, 2020**

### 3.5 Method of Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed through using both qualitative and quantitative method of data analysis. Qualitative data obtained from questionnaire, interview and focus group discussion were analyzed properly through qualitative description in order to make analysis clear and understandable. The quantifiable data obtained from questioners were analyzed through simple

statistical tools such as frequency and percentages. Finally the findings were summarized with careful evaluation and interpretations of data available from courses of study.

### **3.6 Ethical Considerations**

To conduct research fieldwork, first support letters taken from Hawassa university college of Law and Governance, Department of Governance and Development studies to conduct the study on selected area. After that, the researcher reached to the study area and contacts the woreda administrative office head to get supportive letter. Then the Woreda administrative office head wrote support letters for the sampled kebeles. Then at study area the researcher explain to them what the research is about, the research objectives and what is expected from them to participate. Also, they were informed about the data obtained from them were used for the research purpose only and confidentiality were kept for all respondents. Besides, the researcher assured them the confidentiality of their ideas, documents and anonymity of participants can also kept when data analyzed and the result were reported.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze, present and discuss finding from data collected on the challenges of community participation in local development at selected kebeles in Tembaroworeda. The data was collected by employing survey questionnaire distributed among community members at selected kabele, focus group discussion with community representatives, interview held with government officials and kebele administrators,

The study basically assessed understanding about community participation, consequences of low level of community participation in local development, challenges that hinder active community participation on local development.

To achieve this, questionnaire administered to one hundred ninety nine (199) community members respondents at four selected kebele of which one hundred eighty four (184) of them replied properly with a response rate 92.5%. Key informant interview and focus group discussion fully participated as planned in the methodology part of the study. Therefore the finding properly analyzed, presented and discussed in order to make the study sound and rational.

#### **4.1 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

In this section, sex, age, marital status, religion, educational level, length of period living in area, occupation and income level of respondents are discussed. As presented in the below table 4.1, out of total respondents 113(61.4%) of them are male and the remaining 71(38.6%) are females. The age composition of the respondents indicates that 23(12.5%), 51(27.7%), 78(42.4%) and 32(17.4%) are in the interval of 18-25, 26-33, 34-41 and 42 and above respectively. This described that majority of respondents fall in the age interval of 34-41 depicting that they are matured enough to participate, understand and provide data regarding the issue under the study.

Concerning marital status 17(9.3%) are single, 140(76%) are married, 17(9.3%) are divorced and the remaining 10(5.4%) are widowed. This depicts that majority of the respondents are married. Educational status of respondents reveals that 21(11.4%), 79(43%) and 62(33.7%), are illiterate, attended primary education and secondary education respectively. The remaining 11(6%),

7(3.8%) and 4(2.1%) are certificate, diploma and degree and above holders respectively. These represent that majority of the respondents attended primary and secondary education and are able to understand and respond the study issue.

Out of total respondents 67(36.4%) lived at the study area for 1-10 years and the remaining 117(63.6%) are lived for more than ten (10) years at the study area. This depict that majority of the respondents are not new for the study area and they properly understand and respond what is going on regarding to study issue. Regarding occupation of respondents 111(60.3%), 30(16.3%) and 18(9.8%) are engaged in agriculture, business and unskilled labor respectively. The remaining 25(13.6%) are based their livelihood in others different activities. This depict that the majority of the respondents depend on agricultural activities for their livelihood.

With regard to religion 101(54.9%), 39(21.1%), 33(18%) and 11(6%) are protestant, orthodox, catholic and Muslim followers respectively. The income of the respondents for the year 2018/19 was assessed and it indicates that, 36(19.6 %), 84(45.6%), and 31 (16.8 %) have income level below 5000, 5001-10,000 and 10,001- 15000 respectively. The remaining 19(10.3%), and 14 (7.7%) have income with 15001-20,000 and above 20,000 respectively. The finding shows that the majority of the respondents have income with 5001-10,000 during 2019/2020 year.

**Table, 1 Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Sex	Male	113	61.4
	Female	71	38.6
Age	18-25	23	12.5
	26-33	51	27.7
	34-41	78	42.4
	42 and above	32	17.4
Marital status	Single	17	9.3
	Married	140	76
	Divorced	17	9.3
	Widowed	10	5.4
Educational Level	No formal education	21	11.4
	Primary	79	43
	Secondary	62	33.7
	Certificate	11	6
	Diploma	7	3.8
	Degree and above	4	2.1
Length of period lived in area	1-10 year	67	36.4
	Above 10 year	117	63.6
Occupation	Agriculture	111	60.3
	Business	30	16.3
	Unskilled labor	18	9.8
	Others	25	13.6
Religion	Protestant	101	54.9
	Orthodox	39	21.1
	Catholic	33	18
	Muslim	11	6
Income level during 2019/2020	Below 5000	36	19.6
	5001-10,000	84	45.6
	10,001-15000	31	16.8
	15001-2,0000	19	10.3
	Above 20,000	14	7.7

Source: field survey, 2020

## **4.2. Understanding of community participation among study population and their status of involvement in local development activities**

### **4.2.1. Understanding of community about the concept of community participation**

As shown in the below table 2, respondents requested if they know about community participation. Accordingly, 179 (97.3%) of the respondents replied that they know about it

whereas the remaining 5(2.7%) replied otherwise. Furthermore data obtained from focus group discussant revealed that majority of the community members are informally heard about the concept of community participation but fail to properly understand it.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to define community participation in local development activities based on their specific understanding about it, out of the total respondents, 117(65.4) of them stated that it is the process by which government authorities influence/commanded people to participate in development programs, while the remaining 62(34.6) replied that it is process by which people voluntarily participate in development programs.

In general, community participation is the collective effort by community themselves in order to improve the socio-economic as well as political well-being of the society. The World Health Organization (2001), asserted that community participation as the active involvement of people from community in planning, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of the developmental program. It is the involvement of community in a program or project to solve their own problems. However, the current finding depicts that there is wide gap of community understanding about the issue of community participation in development programs. The study represents that majority of the respondents wait for government authorities to influence or to command them in order to involve in local development program. This exhibits that the concept and practice of community participation is misconstrued.

**Table, 2 Participants response on their knowledge of community participation**

Response	Frequency	percentage
Yes	179	97.3
No	5	2.7

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.2.2. Awareness creation for community about their participation and its importance for local development**

Asked if they ever attend awareness creation forum about community participation and its importance for local development activities, 158 (88.3) respondents reacted that they have never come across local government authority organizing such forums, while the remaining 21(11.7 %) respondents revealed that they have the chance to participate in such forum.

In line with this data obtained from FG discussant confirm that local government officials didn't provide awareness creation forum for local people about community participation and its importance for the local development in order to make development program successful and sustainable. to influence local community in order to make them participant in various local development Further they commented that instead of awareness creation, local government authority tried programs. Besides, data obtained from key informants revealed that government officials tried their best to provide awareness creation forum about community participation and its importance as much as their institutional capacity allows. But they further confirm that existing institutional capacity is not sufficient enough to fully aware and capacitate community members due to shortage of human capital (both in quantity and quality) and others required facilities.

Generally creating awareness about community participation and its importance for local development is vital in order to encourage community to participate in development program. Well award community members can voluntarily participate based on their interest for the success of development program because they know what ought to be. However, the current finding shows that there is low level of awareness creation forum about community participation and its importance for the success of local development. This implies that there is poor community know how about significance of their participation in local development program that directly hinder their active involvement in local well-being.

**Table,3 Participants response on awareness creation forum about importance of community participation for local development**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	21	11.7
No	158	88.3

Source: field survey, 2020

### **4.2.3. Volunteered community participation for local development**

The study also tried to measure the extent to which the community voluntarily participates in local development activities. Accordingly 163(91.1%) of them admitted that they have never voluntarily participated in such community oriented developmental activities, while the remaining 16(8.9%) disclosed their participation at different times in contributing cash, kind or both particularly on local road, public toilet facility and potable water maintenance and construction.

Similarly data obtained from FG discussant revealed that due to lack of proper awareness about importance of community participation and others related problems there is low culture of voluntarily participation in various local development programs at grass root level. In line with this, data obtained from key informants confirm existence of low level of self-initiated/volunteered /participation for public issue/local development due to their miss perception of local development work as sole duty of government authority to make locality better off.

In general community participation can be successful when it is based on self-interest rather than influenced through other external body. Volunteered community participation is vital not only for the success of development program but also it is crucial to ensure sustainability of development program at ground level. However, the current findings depict the existence of low level of volunteered community participation on various local development programs at grass root level. This directly shows the prevalence of non-volunteered or passive community involvement in local development programs. This finding is consistent with study conducted by Haileleul (2016) on Tigray region Kilde-awulaelo woreda, which revealed the existence of non-

volunteered and passive community participation to perform and sustain local development programs at grass root level.

**Table,4 Participants response on volunteered community participation for local development**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	16	8.9
No	163	91.1

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.2.4. Community participation through government authority influence/command for local development**

Most of the respondents 163(91.1%) replied that they participated in local development effort through the influence of local government authorities, while the remaining 16(8.9%) of respondents reacted that they participated through their own initiation.

In line with this FG discussant from Sigezo kebele asserted that

*In our locality for various local development program, it is common approach that the woreda as well as others respective government authorities can make strong channel with kebele administrators in order to influence/command community members to participate in certain planed local development programs.*

Similarly data obtained from others FG discussant revealed that in every local development programs it is shared culture that woreda government authorities give direction for kebele administrators to command community to make them participant in the local development program. They further asserted that most of the time local government authority use *formal* as well as *informal* approach in order to influence local community. According to them, *formally* those who didn't participate in various local development activities were neglected from getting any opportunity that comes for local community, while *informally* those who didn't participate in various local development programs will not get appropriate service from local government

authorities when they demand it. That is why most of community members participate out of fear of retribution rather than based on their personal interest.

On the contrary, data obtained from key informants revealed that the government officials and kebele administrators tried to mobilize the community to participate in the local development programs. They further asserted that in order to achieve this objective the woreda government authorities make formal communication channel with kebele administrators for various local development programs which intends not merely to influence local community but to mobilize them to make participant and take fruit from local development. Further they asserted that most of the community members do not feel happy even if they are mobilized to participate in cash as well as in kind for their local improvement, rather they need incentive or government contribution for their involvement in their development program.

Moreover the investigators personal experience and observation in the study area, responses of survey question and focus group discussant confirm the dominance of influenced community mobilization approach at study area.

Generally, convincing community mobilization approach is vital to encourage community involvement in various development affairs. Development program based on community persuasion is important not only to achieve its goal but also it is more crucial to enhance sustainability of development program for long period of time. However, the current finding demonstrates the existence of coercive approach to make local community participant in various local development programs. The study further depicts that local government follow formal as well as informal influencing techniques to dictate local community to participate in development program. This finding is consistent with study conducted by Haileleul,(2016), his finding depicts that local government authority commanded local people through a channel of *kebele* administrators to make them involve in various local development programs.

**Table,5 Participants response on community participation through influence of local government authorities**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	163	91.1
No	16	8.9

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.2.4.1 Respondents opinion on their contribution in development activities through the influence of government authorities**

Respondents were also asked, if they made contribution through influence of government authorities. The result showed that, 79(48.4%), 67(41.1%) and 82(50.3%) of community members contributed for local road construction and maintenance, potable water construction and maintenance and material contribution for local public schooling facility in cash as well as in kind or in both respectively. On the other hand 71(43.5%), 64(39.2%) and 69(42.2%) of community members contributed for health post construction and maintenance, public toilet facility construction and maintenance and local bridge construction and maintenance in cash as well as in kind or in both.

Similarly data obtained from FGD discussants revealed that through local government authorities commandment, community members contribute in cash as well as kind or in both in various local development programs, such as road construction and maintenance, potable water construction and maintenance, material contribution for public school facility, health post construction and maintenance, public toilet facility construction and maintenance and local bridge construction and maintenance. Further they illustrate that those community members contributed in cash as well as in kind or in both based on direction given by local government authorities to achieve certain pre- planned goals. Besides, data obtained from key informants revealed that there are basic development areas that primarily selected through government authority for community based development programs such as local road, potable water, local bridge, health post, public toilet facility construction and maintenance and material contribution for local public schooling facility that could be achieved through community mobilization. They further asserted that

community contribution in those selected development programs are minimal compared to their existing capacity due to miss perception of looking local development issue as sole duty of government authority and they also give their due attention for their personal life program.

In general, the findings demonstrate that there are some primarily selected development programs through government authorities to make local environment better for life. But those selected areas were worked through influence of government authority. Local communities participated on those selected development programs were not based on their interest rather based on fear of local government authorities because they may prohibit them from service they demanded from local government offices. This depicts the dominance of influenced community mobilization approach at study area. Those influenced community mobilization approach didn't brought sustainability of development programs.

**Table,6 Distribution of respondents regarding to their contribution in local development in cash, in kind or in both through influence of local government authorities**

Development activities	Frequency	percentage	Remark
Local road construction and maintenance	79	48.4	Respondents contributed for more than one local development program
Local Potable water construction and maintenance	67	41.1	
Material contribution for local public schooling facility	82	50.3	
Local Health post construction and maintenance	71	43.5	
Local Public toilet facility construction and maintenance	64	39.2	
Local bridge construction and maintenance	69	42.2	

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.2.5. The stages of development program that local government authorities more needed/commanded local community participation**

Respondents asked the stage in which local government authorities more commanded/needed community participation. The result showed that, 5(2.8%),8(4.5%), and 14(7.8%) of the respondents revealed that they more commanded/needed to participate in identifying problem, setting development priority, and planning stage respectively, whereas 67(37.4%), 79(44.1%)and 6(3%) of them revealed that they highly commanded/needed to participate in resource mobilization, implementation and evaluation stage of development program respectively. This implies that local government authority needed/commanded community participation mainly at stage of resource mobilization and program implementation to make certain pre- planned goals achievable.

Similarly FG discussant from Durgi kebele asserted that in various local development program most of community members didn't involve in identifying problems and others planning process rather they told through kebele administrators to participate in certain pre- planned development program in cash as well as in kind or in both.

In addition, data obtained from others FG discussant revealed that it is common approach that local community called to put their hand on the stage of resource mobilization and implementation of planned objective. Further they mentioned that most of the time local communities were refused to participate on certain per planned development program because those prioritized development programs were not interest of vast majority community rather it is based on interest of few selected kebele administrators and woreda government officials.

On the other hand, data obtained from key informants revealed that most of the time due to urgency of certain development program, shortage of human capital and time constraints to discuss with all community members some development programs were identified and planned with woreda government officials and selected kebele administrators assuming that those kebele leaders are representative of community. They further asserted that, in order to make those planned program successful all community members are mobilized to contribute their effort

through respective administrative channels (1 to 5, *Hiwassii, lemati serawit/buduni and others local social institutions*).

In general problem identification, setting priority and planning certain development programs are vital stage of development activities. Botes and Vanrensburg(2000) suggested that promoting participatory decision making in identifying needs, setting goal and formulating plan are important to enhance community comment and participation in development program. In any development program enhancing community participation on those stages are vital in order to make community participant to accomplish certain development program based on their interest. In contrary to that, however, the current findings depict that community didn't called on stage of problem identification, setting priority and planning of certain local development programs, but they are involved at stage of resource mobilization and implementation on pre-planned program. This describe that those communities didn't get the chance/opportunity/ to forward their comments/view/ and prior interest on development program in order to incorporate it in planning process of development program. This further depicts that those community members weren't interested to participate on those planned program because that may not be urgent/prior/ interest to them.

**Table,7 Participant opinion on stages of development program that local government more needed/commanded their participation**

Stages of Development program	Frequency	percentage
Identifying problem	5	2.8
Setting priority	8	4.5
Planning	14	7.8
Resource mobilization	67	37.4
Implementation	79	44.1
Evaluation	6	3
Total	179	100

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.2.6. The level of local community interest towards volunteered participation in development program**

Respondents were given the opportunity to rate the extent to which community is ready towards volunteered participation. Accordingly, 2(1.1%), 3(1.7%), and 11(6.1%) of them revealed that there is very high, high and medium community interest towards volunteered participation whereas 99(55.3%) and 64(35.8%) of the respondents demonstrated low and very low community interest toward volunteered participation for development program. This implies that 91.1% of respondents affirm the existence of low level of community interest towards various local development programs. Similarly data obtained from FG discussant revealed that there is low level of community interest towards volunteered participation in various local development activities. In addition, data gathered from key informants confirm that most of the community members are less interested towards volunteered participation in public issue or local development program.

Generally to make certain development goal achievable and sustainable community volunteered participation is crucial one. The volunteered community participation initially arises from individual's internal feeling or interest to involve in certain programs that result on great contribution for the success of certain development program. However the current finding revealed the prevalence of low level of community interest towards volunteered participation for various local development programs at study area. This illustrates that local peoples are less interested to involve and to contribute for development program. Thus development program undertaken through sole influence of government authority should not bring sustainable change for the community.

**Table,8 Participant opinion on interest of community towards volunteered participation in development program**

Description	Response rate	Frequency	Percentage
Community interest towards volunteered participation	Very high	2	1.1
	High	3	1.7
	Medium	11	6.1
	Low	99	55.3
	Very low	64	35.8

Source: field survey, 2020

In addition to that as asked respondents if who do think benefit most from community participation in development program, 58(32.4%) revealed that community itself benefit most from community participation, 105(58.6%) respondents revealed that local government authorities benefit most while remaining 16(9%) respondents revealed that government body at regional and federal level benefit most from community participation in development program. The finding depict that there are remarkable numbers of respondents 67.6% opining that government body at local, regional and federal level benefit most from community participation in development program. They further expressed their feeling that those government officials can get salary and others incentives based on what community work at local level as their own effort. This describes the existence of gap on community understanding as discussed earlier about importance of community participation for development program. But the fact is that community participation primarily benefits members of community whose life is attached with/preserved in the locality in which they live.

### **4.3 Challenges that hinder active community participation in local development**

This study identified basic challenges that hinder community participation in local development program. Those identified challenges are, political and institutional, socio-cultural, economic and personal challenges that hinders active community participation in various development programs. Each of them are presented as follow as-.

### **4.3.1 Political and institutional challenges that hinder active community participation in local development program**

Respondents indicated the most important political and institutional challenges hindering active community participation in local development activities. Based on their response, absence of awareness creation on importance of community participation (88.3%), absence of convincing community mobilizing approach (91.1%) and absence of all inclusive participatory approach (86%) are indicated as critical challenges standing on the way of active community participation in local development activities. On the other hand, lack of accountability of local leaders (80.4%), lack of transparency in local decision making (81.6%), irregular local leaders appointment (73.2%) and existence of conflict between community and local government authorities (76.5%) are indicated as major challenges impeding active community participation. The remaining respondents indicated paternalistic role of development professionals (81.6%), over reporting of few development success (87.2%) and absence of strong institutional framework to capacitate and disseminate information for the community (86.6%) as challenges hampering active community participation in local development activities.

Similarly data obtained from FG discussants revealed that there are multiple political and institutional challenges that highly block active community participation at grass root level. They further listed some of them such as over reporting of few development success at ground level to sustain their political position, absence of convincing community mobilizing culture, absence of transparency and accountability in local decision making and local leaders, absence of well-organized formal institutional framework to capacitate the community, irregular local leaders appointment based on illegal contact with selected government authority and high level of turnover of appointed officials being frequently shifted to different position are major political and institutional problems that highly inhibit community participation in development programs.

However, data obtained from key informants negates some of community responses raised but they fail to properly disprove existing situation at ground level. They themselves further confirm the existence of low community awareness creation, poor institutional arrangement regarding community development issue due to shortage of human capital (quantity and quality) and others required material constraints and existence of high level of immediate shift of politically

appointed sectorial leaders from one sector to other without properly communicating with community members on the certain sectorial development issue.

But, responses of survey question, FG discussant and the investigator experience on the study area can confirm the existence of those listed political and institutional challenges hampering active community participation in development programs.

Generally existences of well-organized and capable political and institutional frameworks are pillar for the advancement of community mobilization for various development programs. On the contrary, the current finding revealed that there is existence of weak political and institutional framework that hampered active community participation in local development program. The study identified that absence of awareness creation, all inclusive participatory approach, paternalistic role of development professionals and over reporting of few development successes as some of the major political and institutional problems that hinder local community participation in development programs. This finding is consistent with the work of Botes and van Rensburg,( 2000) they asserted that paternalistic role of development professionals, over-reporting of development successes, and selective participation are some of basic obstacle that affect community participation in development program. The findings depicts that absence of transparency and accountability in local decision making and local leaders, irregular local leaders' appointment and existence of conflict between community and local government authority as challenges that highly hinder community participation in development program.

Reid (2000) asserted that the business of participating communities is open to all and widely publicized. Citizens are informed by a variety of means about the community's work, and opportunities for citizens to find meaningful roles in contributing to that work. In contrary to this work, the current finding revealed that there is absence of well-organized formal institutional framework to disseminate information for community to promote regular community participation in order to capacitate them for their contribution in development program.

**Table,9 Response on political and institutional challenge that hinder active community participation**

Political and institutional challenges	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
Absence of awareness creation on importance of community participation	158	88.3	Respondents responded more than one answer
Absence of convincing community mobilizing approach	163	91.1	
Absence of all inclusive participatory approach	154	86	
Lack of accountability of local leaders	144	80.4	
Lack of transparency in local decision making	146	81.6	
Irregular local leaders appointment	131	73.2	
Conflict between community and local government authority	137	76.5	
Paternalistic role of development professionals	146	81.6	
Over reporting of development success	156	87.2	
Absence of strong institutional framework to capacitate community and to disseminate information to community to promote regular community participation	155	86.6	

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.3.2. Socio-cultural challenges that hinder active community participation in local development program**

Respondents also indicated the basic socio-cultural challenges hindering active community participation in local development activities. Accordingly, prevalence of gender discrimination (53.6 %,) existence of some religious practice (22.9%), resistance to change (37.4%), existence of low level of social cooperation (48.6%) and no formal education (52.5%) are shown as major socio cultural challenges that hinder active community participation in local development program. In addition, data gathered from FG discussant revealed that there are various social and cultural barriers that hinder active community involvement in local development program. Among them they listed major challenges such as low social integration and interaction, inappropriate gender based work division, poor social cooperation for public work, poor academic status of community, poor social attitude towards public work and existence of outdated attitude towards preference of existing situation rather than making new local change

are some of the main socio-cultural challenges that highly affect active community participation in various local development programs.

low social interaction/cooperation/ and illiteracy of community hinder volunteered community participation for local development program. This finding is consistent with the The finding demonstrated that there are various social and cultural barriers such as gender discrimination (men seen as superior and able to participate in development program while women considered as inferior and not able to involve in local development program), work of Thorn (2005); he asserted that meaningful participation in development project largely depends on the educational status of community people. It is evident that illiterate people hardly understand the essentials of a various program and thus their illiteracy is a great hindrance to their participation in local development. Hence, their illiteracy is leading them to non-participation. He also asserted that culturally rural society is predominantly patriarchal in which female participation in development activities is traditionally looked down upon. The finding also depict that outdated community attitude can also neglect new development program and change at local area, because if there is new development program comes that they think that it may hinder their exiting way of life in certain community. From this one infer that those combined social and cultural challenges negatively affect development program that implemented through community participation.

**Table,10 Participant opinions on socio-cultural challenge that hinder community participation**

Socio-cultural challenge	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
Gender discrimination	96	53.6	Respondents responded more than one answer
Religious practice	41	22.9	
Resistance to change	67	37.4	
Low social cooperation	87	48.6	
Illiteracy	94	52.5	

Source: field survey, 2020

### **4.3.3 Economic challenges that hinder community participation in local development program**

Respondents were asked to reveal the major economic challenges that hinder community participation in local development activities. The result showed that, 101(56.4%), 137(76.5%) and 130(72.6%) respondents revealed that low level of income, absence of equitable benefit from local resource and demanding payment/incentives from government authorities and others actors can hinder volunteered community participation in local development programs.

In line with this, data obtained from FG discussant revealed that community commanded to participated in cash as well as in kind or in both based on nature of development program, but due to low income capacity of some of local community, they were unable to forward needed amount of money/others materials/ to contribute for local development program. In addition, they asserted that some of community members reject to participate in development program even if they have economic capacity to participate because of the unfair local resource sharing behavior. Most of the time local leaders primarily took benefit from local resource for themselves and then forwarded remaining to their friends and relatives. That form of corrupted local leaders' behavior can also highly result on negative impact on active community participation.

Besides, data obtained from key informants revealed that during implementation of various local development programs, majority of the community members asked incentives/payment/ for their contribution for local development program. They added that different incentives given by government authorities as well as other donors agencies for selected poor individuals to support their livelihood result on conflict and low community contribution for development program. They asserted that local leaders give those incentive based on their level of poverty (locally called them “Nachi dihaa”) that selected by donors agencies and selected kebele representatives. As result of that most of the time others community members who didn't get incentives refuse to participate in local development program even if they have resource to do so, they stated that those who get incentive can work for local development program we never get it.

In general economic condition of people can determine their active participation in project run by local government. Economically rich people actively participate and contribute for development program whereas those economically poor people are unable to actively participate in development program (Thorn, 2005). In consistent with this, the current finding revealed that due to low level of personal income some of community members are unable to contribute for development program to make it fruitful.

In addition to that, the study also depicts that absence of equitable benefit from local resource highly hinder active community participation in development program. This finding depicts the existence of corrupted behavior of local leaders' that accumulated local wealth for themselves that directly hinder community willingness in local development program. This finding is consistent with the work of Haileliul, (2016), his finding indicates that local resources are concentrated in the hands of local elites and leaders who have established a consolidated local based patrimonial network to capture incoming local budgets or loans/aids, and exploiting the existed local resources that affect community involvement in development program.

The finding also asserted that some of community members expected payment/incentives for their contribution in local development program. other This implies that if communities were once participated in development program they expected to take certain incentives for their contribution otherwise they didn't involve in it in times. Pretty (2006) in his work, identified this form of community involvement as "*Participation for material incentives*", according to him people participate in work for food arrangements; they may also participate for the cash or other material incentives. The activities and the participation stop when the material incentives stop. This type of participation is not voluntary but people attracted by incentive that they obtained. This shows that as earlier discussed in this study there is gap on community understating on real importance of community participation for their well-being.

**Table,11 Response on economic challenges that hinder community participation**

Economic challenges	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
Low level of income	101	56.4	Respondents responded more than one answer
Absence of equitable benefit from local resource/fruit	137	76.5	
Need of various incentives	130	72.6	

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.3.4 Personal challenges that hinder participation in local development program**

As survey findings indicates that, 158 (88.3%), 51 (28.5%) and 157 (87.1%) of respondents revealed that lack of awareness, sense of powerlessness and lack of interest are personal challenges that hinder active participation in development program respectively. On the other hand, 106 (59.2%) and 125 (69.8%) of the respondents replied lack of role model and fears of cost of involvement are challenges that hinder active participation in local development program. FGD discussant also asserted that there are various individual challenges that hinder active participation in local development program. Among them basic challenges are, absence of proper knowledge about importance of community participation for the success of local development, low level of personal interest for public/local development issue, fear of burden on involvement in development program and absence of role model individuals who can initiate others based on his/her experience of active participation in local development programs.

In general knowledgeable community members about local development program are active to voluntarily participate in cash as well as in kind based on his/her interest because he/she understand what is going on and for whom it is done. However the current finding revealed that vast majority of respondents don't have sufficient awareness about development program as result of which they lack interest to participate on those pre planned development programs. This shows that local development programs are not successful and sustainable with non-interested community participation. It is only achievable and sustainable with well award and interested community members. The finding also asserted that sense of powerlessness and fear of cost of

involvement in development program can highly hinder personal participation in development program. This finding also confirm the work done by Joshi M. et al, (2007) as cited in Lisanu, (2017) , he asserted that sense of personal powerlessness that stems from long term reliance upon others and fear of costs of involvement in development programs are basic personal barriers that hinder their active involvement in various development program.

**Table,12 Participant opinions on personal challenges that hinder participation in local development program**

Personal challenges	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
Lack of awareness	158	88.3	Respondents responded more than one answer
Sense of powerlessness	51	28.5	
Lack of interest	157	87.1	
Lack of role model	106	59.2	
Fear of cost of involvement	125	69.8	

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.4 Consequences of low level of community participation in local development activities**

This study identified consequences of low community participation particularly on local developmental decision making and implementation of local development program. Each of them can be discussed in following manner.

##### **4.4.1 Consequences of low community participation on local developmental decision making**

As presented in the below table 13, respondents were requested to reveal the major consequence of low community participation on developmental decision making of their locality. Accordingly 137(76.5%) and 156(86%) of respondents revealed that dominance of decision making based on small unrepresentative interest group and dominance of decision making based on local leaders interest are as major consequence of low community participation in local development decision making. On the other hand 158(88.3%) and 140(78.2%) of respondents replied that dominance of

structured top down decision on local development issue and widespreadness of unfairness are major consequence of low community participation in local development decision making.

Data obtained from FG discussant revealed that due to low level of community participation most decision of development programs are made through local government authority in collaboration with selected influential individuals and kebele leaders. They added that most of the time local government authority decides priority of development program based on their interest and few individuals without considering community interest. They further asserted that there is also wide spreadness of unfairness in locality as result of weak community participation to expose those corrupted local leaders based on their bad administration practice.

However, data gathered from key informants revealed that local government authorities tries to mobilize community through kebele administration to decide on some of local development programs but most of community members reject to attend those meeting rather they give prior attention for their own personal business. As a result decisions are passed based on kebele leaders and those few individuals who attend meeting assuming that they are representatives and part of community.

In general, active community participation in decision making process is vital in order to incorporate local community knowledge and preferences in development program. It is also crucial to acquire community interest and contribution during its implementation. However, the current findings depict that as result of low community participation most of decisions are being passed based on local government authority interest and small unrepresentative interest group. In addition to that the study finding also depicts the existence of structured top down decision making approach in study area. This implies that there is strictly planned development program that comes from government authority to local area that needs only implementation without any change based on community interest. It lower local community interest to participate on those pre-planned development program as result those planned development programs were fail to implemented that finally negatively affect the local community wellbeing . Similarly, Hughes (2001) in his work noted that most developing countries especially those in Africa have tended to vigorously employ a non-participatory approach to decision-making. In this regime policy is dictated by those in power and the rural communities are relegated to the position of recipients

and implementers. Because of this, rural communities are alienated from resources they should rightfully control, manage and benefit from. Plans prepared by outside experts, irrespective of their technical soundness, cannot inspire the people to participate in their implementation.

**Table,13 Participant response on consequences of low community participation in developmental decision making**

Major consequences	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
Dominance of decision making based on small unrepresentative interest group	137	76.5	Respondents responded more than one answer
Dominance of decision making based on local leaders interest	156	86	
Dominance of structured top down decision on local development issue	158	88.3	
Wide spreadness of unfairness	140	78.2	

Source: field survey, 2020

#### **4.4.2 Consequence of low community participation in local development programs**

Respondents were also requested to reveal the major consequence of low level of community participation in their local development programs. Accordingly, 147(82.1%), 136(76%), and 131(73.2%) of respondents revealed that poor local road construction and maintenance, poor local potable water construction and maintenance and poor local health post construction and maintenance are major impacts of low community participation in development activities respectively. On the other hand, 144(80.4%), 138(77.1 %) and 141(78.8%) of respondents revealed that poor local public toilet facility construction and maintenance, poor material contribution for local public schooling facility and poor local bridge construction and maintenance are as major impacts of low community participation in development activities.

In line with this, FG discussant of Sigezo kebele asserted that- *As result of low community participation to work in collaboration with government authority, most of the easily*

*maintainable local roads are currently out of usages that makes very hard to the community to have access to main road to sell agricultural output on market and to easily get car service for patients and pregnant women to reach health center on time.*

Similarly others focus group discussant of Durgi kebele pointed out that- *As a result of low community participation to work with in collaboration with government authority on potable water maintenance and its hygiene protection most of the community members family especially children are exposed to unwanted health problem and health cost.*

In addition to that key informant from woreda education sector stated that

*“Due to low level of community contribution to easily construct able local river bridge with wood and nail, most of the children during rainy seasons are fail to attend their education due to fear of river to pass it without locally construct able bridge”*

Similarly others key informants revealed that due to low community participation to work in collaboration with government authority, most of community based development programs are failed to fulfill service to the community that affect the day to day life of local people.

Similarly data obtained based on personal observation revealed that most of easily construct able and maintainable development facilities are failed to be so. This directly describes the existence of poor collaboration between local community and government authority to work together for better progress of local well-being. Personally the researcher observed that there are various started public toilet facility construction that can be easily constructed through local materials and human labor but most of them are lagging from being completed to give its services. As result most of the community members defecate openly that directly affect their healthy life. In addition to that the researcher observed existence of easily maintainable important local roads that are eroded and crowded with different materials that directly affect those communities to easily reach main road with car service either to sell their agricultural output or to reach health center on time of their illness. Further the researcher observed that easily maintainable potable water services, health post and local bridge are failed to give their expected service in the study area.

In general local development programs are not business of few individuals or government authority rather it is collective effort of all community members and respective government authority to improve local well-being. According to Reid (2000) the work of the community is not considered to be the special province of a knowledgeable few or some others elite leadership who has always run community affairs but it is the business of everyone. In contrary to this, the current findings of study shows that as result of low level of collaboration of community with government authority in development program, most of easily construct able and maintainable local development programs such as local road, health post, potable water, public toilet facility and local bridge are failed to be implemented.

The finding also depicts that absence of those development facilities can directly affect the day to day life of those local community. This implies that low community contribution/work/ towards local development program can primarily affect the social and economic aspect of local community life because they are residents of that locality. Finally the finding depicts that without collective effort/collaboration/ of local community members and respective government authority the success of local development programs are not be achievable.

**Table 14. Participants response on consequence of low community participation in local development programs**

Major local community based development programs	Frequency	Percentage	Remark
Poor local road construction, maintenance and facility	147	82.1	Respondents responded more than one answer
Poor local potable water construction, maintenance and facility	136	76	
Poor local health post construction, maintenance and facility	131	73.2	
Poor local public toilet facility construction and maintenance	144	80.4	
Poor material contribution for local public schooling facility	138	77.1	
Poor local bridge construction, maintenance and facility	141	78.8	

Source: field survey, 2020

## **4.5 Comments forwarded from respondents to enhance community participation in local development program**

The researcher identified similar themes of comments from research finding. Each of them can be briefly presented in the following section.

**Table 15. Comments of respondents to enhance community participation in local development**

Themes
Awareness creation for community on universal understanding about community participation and its importance for development program
Empowerment
Promoting participatory problem identification and decision making
Promoting convincing community mobilizing approach
Developing strong institutional framework

Source: field survey, 2020

### **4.5.1 Theme 1: Awareness creation for community on universal understanding about community participation and its importance for development program**

According to Gaventa,J, (2002) Community participation is process by which professionals, families, community groups, government officials, and others get together to work something out, preferably in a formal or informal partnership . It is rational way to give control of affairs and decisions to people most affected by them.Beside that UNDP (2009) also described that community participation improved quality, effectiveness and sustainability of development actions. By placing people at the center of such actions, development efforts have a much greater potential to empower them and lead to ownership of the results.

However, findings from the study suggest that there is gap on community understanding about the concept of community participation and its importance for local development program which requires further awareness creation effort. In line with this, comments arise from FG discussant

similarly asserted that due to low level of awareness creation on community participation and its importance most of the community members wait for government authority to command/influence them in order to participate in local development program. They suggested that local government authorities should proactively aware the community to make them to be self-initiated to contribute their effort based on their volunteered interest. Further their lack of knowledge on community participation and its importance can be reflected as (community respondents): -

*“We are not properly aware about the issue of community participation and importance of our contribution for development program rather local government authorities directly impose their decision on us to participate on certain pre-planned development program coercively”. “So primarily we need proper awareness creation program to voluntarily forward our effort for local development affairs”.*

The findings of respondents’ suggestion depict the existence of low community understanding on issue of community participation and its importance for the well-being of the locality that needed proper awareness creation to enhance their knowledge about issue to acquire their volunteered participation for local development programs.

#### **4.5.2 Theme 2: Empowerment**

Empowerment is the development of skills and abilities to enable community people to manage better, have a say in or negotiate with existing development program; it is concerned with enabling community people to decide upon and to take the actions which they believe are essential to their development (Oakley and Marsden, 2009). However, the findings of current respondents view shows absence of community empowering culture in local development program at grass root level. The respondents claim that they had never empowered on development procedures and process. Further they expressed their feeling as:-

*We are not capacitated through training as well as in other means in order to prepare our mind ready to fully participate in development program, as result of this we are failing to do so. They further suggested that there is need for short term workshop and training which educate and capacitate them in order to actively participate in development program taking place in their*

locality. Similarly comments arise from key informant confirm the existence of gap in community empowering culture that needed further work in order to make community active participant in various development program.

Based on findings of respondents suggestion it is vital to capacitate local community through short term training and workshops in order to make them well aware and active participant in various local development programs that helps to get their full contribution in cash as well as in kind or in both to make development program successful and sustainable.

### **4.5.3 Theme 3: Promoting participatory problem identification and decision making**

WB (2011) asserted that promoting community participation at early stage of identifying problem and discussing worries with affected community can encourage public comment and involvement in development project/program. Local people have a great amount of experience and insight into what works, what does not work and why.

In contrary to above work, current study community claimed that there is dominance of to-down approach on problem identification and decision making process on local program.

They expressed their feeling as follow as:

*We have never participated in most of development program problem identification, setting priority and decision making process to forward our urgent interest of development program rather we called on stage of resource mobilization and implementation of certain pre planned development program.* They further suggested that in order to reverse this bad trend it is better to develop culture of participatory problem identification, setting priority and decision making in local issue in order to incorporate their urgent interest/view/ and to make local development successful.

Therefore, respondents' suggestion depicts the essentiality of participatory problem identification, setting goal and planning of various local development program to incorporate community knowledge and their prior interest to encourage community participation to make local development program successful and sustainable.

#### **4.5.4 Theme 4: Promoting convincing community mobilizing approach**

To achieve local development program through active community participation, convincing community mobilization approach is vital one. Persuasion is more important than coercion to enhance community participation for the better achievements of development program. However, the current findings of respondent opinion revealed the prevalence of coercion rather than convincing in order to make community participant in development program.

Collectively community respondents and focus group discussant asserted that most of local development program were implemented through influence of local government authority that is why most of community members are unhappy to involve on it. They further suggested that it is better to develop culture of persuasive community mobilizing approach in order to make community participation self-initiation rather than government oriented participation.

Therefore, respondents suggestion indicate that convincing community mobilization approach is one of vital issue of community based development program to encourage community participation at grass root level. In order to make development program successful and sustainable persuasive community mobilizing approach is crucial one at all.

#### **4.5.5 Theme 5: Developing strong institutional framework**

Existence of capable and well organized institutional frame work is important to aware and disseminates appropriate information for community to make regular community participation and contribution for local development program. It is important to build capacity of community regarding to development program. WB (2011) suggested institutional reform as one of important strategies in order to enhance community participation in development program/project. According to WB, recruiting staff trained in the social sciences such as anthropology, sociology and others related study are vital for enhancement of community participation in development program.

However, the current study community opinion depicts the existence of poorly organized institutional frame work that unable to encourage community participation in study area. They added that most of the time they don't properly get information from respective government

office to attend community meeting and to contribute their comment as well as effort regarding to local development program. They further depict that failure of most of development programs are primarily due to absence of capable institution with devoted and trained staff that capacitate and disseminate appropriate information for their contribution. They further suggested that it is better to make urgent correction on institutional framework of local government authorities concerning community participation in development issue.

Similarly comment arise from key informants confirm the existence poor institutional human capacity (both in quality and quantity) and others material insufficiency to aware community and to disseminate appropriate information on time as discussed earlier. They added that they fail to conduct regular and consistent community meeting to capacitate them in all aspect of local development program. They further confirm critical necessity of institutional reform in order to capacitate community for their involvement in local development program.

Therefore, the study comment depicts the necessity of critical institutional reform in order to capacitate community to participate in various local development programs.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION and RECOMMENDATION

#### Summary and Conclusion

The study identified existence of poor understanding about community participation in development program at grass root level. It represented that most of community members didn't well awarded about the issue of community participation and its importance in order to involve in development program. Majority of the participants responded community participation as process by which government authority influence/ command them in order to involve on development programs. The study also revealed the existence of low level of community interest towards volunteered participation in various local development affairs, as result most of the development programs were implemented through government authority influence rather than volunteered community participation. The local government authority commanded them through formal as well as informal ways in order to get their contribution in cash as well as in kind to accomplish certain planned development program. Due to fear of local government authority strong hand, most of community members participated on it otherwise they revenge them directly or indirectly on other days. Further the study shows that most of local development program are identified, prioritized and planned based on interest of local government authorities and selected kebele administrators as result vast majority of community members didn't get opportunity to forward their view and interest in order to incorporate it on development planning. And also the study represents that it is common approach that most of the community members are initiated and commanded to participate on stage of resource mobilization and implementation in order to accomplish certain pre-planned development goal.

Further the study also found and categorized basic challenges as political and institutional, socio-cultural, economic and personal that hinders active community participation at grassroots level. As political and institutional challenges, study found that absence of convincing community mobilization approach, absence of all inclusive participation in development program, lack of accountability of local leaders, irregular local leaders appointment, paternalistic role of development professionals, over reporting of few development success to sustain political position and absence of strong institutional framework to capacitate community are basic challenges that stand on the way of active community participation in local development

programs. As social and cultural challenges, study identified that existence of low social integration and interaction, inappropriate society gender based work division, poor social cooperation for public work, poor academic status of community and existence of outdated attitude towards preference of existing situation rather than making new local change are the main barriers that hampering active community participation in various local development programs. As economic challenges, study also identified low level of income, absence of equitable benefit from local resource and demanding of payment/ incentives are as the basic challenges that hinder community participation. Finally personal challenges such as low level of awareness, sense of powerlessness, fear of cost of involvement, lack of interest and absence of role model who initiate others based on his/her active involvement in development programs are basic challenges that practically hinder participation at grass root level.

Concerning to the consequences of low community participation in local developmental decision making, the study found that dominance of decision making through small unrepresentative interest group and local leaders' interest, dominance of top down decision on local development issue and widespread ness of unfairness are major impact on local developmental decision making process and administration. In addition to that as result of low community participation, the study also revealed the existence of poor local development programs such as poor local potable water, road, local bridge, health post, public toilet facility construction and maintenance and low level of material contribution for local public schooling that directly affect over all social well-being of the locality. Finally the respondents forwarded some suggestions in orders to enhance community participation in local development program such as- awareness creation for community on universal understanding about community participation and its importance for local development program, community empowerment, promoting participatory problem identification and decision making process, promoting convincing community mobilizing approach in local development program and developing strong institutional framework to capacitate community as vital issue to encourage community participation in development program at grass root level.

## **RECOMENDATION**

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher suggests the following recommendation to enhance community participation in local development program.

- Community education is important ways of enhancing community participation in development that acknowledge community with respective developmental program (Theron, 2005). However, the current study depicts the existence of low level of Community education on community participation and its importance for the achievement of local development program. Therefore, local government authority should prepare regular community awareness creation forum (Community education) for all community members on community participation and its importance for the success of development program. Knowledgeable community members tend to have better interest to participate and contribute for development program.
- Promoting participatory decision making in identifying needs, setting goal and formulating plan are important to enhance community participation in development program (Botes and Vanrensburg, 2000). However, the current study findings shows that most of the community members didn't participated at stage of problem identification and planning process rather they called on the stage of resource mobilization and implementation in order to accomplish certain pre-planned development program. Therefore, local government authority should encourage community involvement at initial stage of identifying problem, setting priority and planning process of development program. It is important not only to incorporate community prior interest and comments but also vital to get community contribution during its implementation. .
- Existence of Strong and capable institutional frame work is vital to capacitate and encourage community participation in development program. However, the current study findings depicts existence of poorly organized institutional frame work due to shortage of human capital(quantity and quality) and other required material facility to address all community members to capacitate them. Therefore, federal and regional government authority should re-consider and recruit at least one trained community professionals (community officer) in each developmental sector (as gender officer in each sector/anti-

corruption officer /existed at every woreda sectorial level) in order to aware and capacitate community regularly regarding to their respective developmental program. And also government authority should fulfill required materials facility to address and capacitate all community to make them participant in development program.

- Volunteered community contribution in local development program is key issue to make developmental program successful and sustainable. However, the study shows the existence of low level of volunteered community participation as result most of development programs were implemented through government authority influence. Therefore, all community members should be aware to develop culture of volunteered participation in development program. And also local government authority should follow persuasive approach to community mobilization rather than coercion to make development programs successful and sustainable
- The study shows the existence of irregular appointment of kebele leaders' based on unfair contact with selected woreda government officials to ensure certain mutual gain. Therefore, woreda government authority should make fair and reasonable kebele leaders appointment based on community interest and discussion rather than illegal connection with others corrupted behaviors. And also kebele leaders need to be socially acceptable, peacefully interactive with community members and role models for others in order to lead and encourage them to involve on various development program.
- It is vital to properly aware and capacitates community that they have the duty to actively involve in local development programs and to expose any form of corrupted behaviors that challenges their local well-being.
- The study also shows the existence of gender discrimination, low social cooperation for public work and others related social and cultural challenges that hampering active community participation in development effort. Therefore, local government authority should properly and regularly aware the community members in order to reverse those bad trends of social and cultural obstacles.

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## APPENDICES

### ANNEX I; QUESTIONNAIRE FOR COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS

#### HAWASSA UNIVERSITY

#### COLLEGE OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

#### Department of Governance and Development studies

#### Dear respondents:

First of all, I would like to forward my sincerely greetings and appreciation to you for your willingness to share your understanding/experience for this questionnaire.

This questionnaire is designed to gather data on the **assessment of the challenges of community participation in local development** the case of Tembaro woreda. The study is carried out as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the master of “Governance and Development”. To achieve this purpose and to deeply investigate the case, your response to the questions given below has a crucial value. Therefore, you are kindly requested to read the questions carefully and give accurate and real data which exists on the ground. The response that you reply will not be used for any other purpose other than this research work, so be free and give your honest and genuine response. Finally, I would like to thank you very much for your cooperation and dedicating your valuable time for my request

Atinkut Abebe

Thank you for your cooperation in advance!

General Direction

No need of writing your name

Put (√) mark for the correct answer inside the box

## Part I Socio- Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

1. Sex :  
Male  Female
2. Age:  
18 – 25  26 – 33  34-41  42 and above
3. Marital Status :  
Single  Married  Divorced  Widowed
4. Educational level:  
No formal education  Primary education  secondary education (9-12)   
certificate  Diploma  Degree and above
5. Length of period living in the area  
Below one year  1-10 years  above 10 years
6. Occupation  
Agriculture  Business  un skilled labor  others
7. Religion:  
Protestant  Catholic  Orthodox  Muslim  Others
8. Income level during the year (2019/20)  
Below 5000 Birr  5001-10,000  10,001-15000  15001-20000  above 20000

**Part II Understanding and participation of community in local development activities**

1. Do you know about community participation?

Yes  No

2. If your answer for question No -1 is yes, what is your specific understanding about community participation in local development activities mean?

It is the process by which the government authority command/ influences the people to participate

It is the process by which the people voluntarily participate in development activities

If other specify -----

3. Do you get awareness creation forum on community participation and its importance for local development?

Yes  No

4. Did you ever voluntarily participate in local development activities (in cash as well as in kind)?

Yes  No

5. If your response for question No- 4 is yes, in what kind of community based local development activities you participate (in cash as well as in kind) voluntarily based on your interest? List them

6. Have you ever been influenced by local government authorities to engage in the local development efforts of the locality?

Yes  No

7. If your response for question No- 6 is yes, in what kind of development activities you contributed (in cash as well as in kind) through government bodies' influence? List them

8. In which stage of local development activities the local government authorities give more emphasize/influence/ for local community to involve in it?

Identifying problems  setting priority  planning  resources mobilization   
implementation  evaluation

9. How do you rate the interest of the local community in your surrounding towards volunteered participation in development activities?

Very high  high  medium  low  Very Low

10. Who do you think benefit most from community participation in development activities?

Community itself  Government bodies at local level,  Government bodies at regional and federal level

**Part III challenges that hinder active community participation in local development activities**

11. What political and institutional challenges hinders active community participation in development activities? (Multiple answers are possible)

Absence of awareness creation forum on importance of community participation

Absence of convincing community mobilization approach

Absence of all inclusive participatory approach in development program

Lack of transparency on local decision making

Lack of accountability of local leaders

Problematic/irregular local leaders' appointment

Conflict between community and local leaders

Paternalistic role of development professionals

Over-reporting of development successes

Absence of strong institutional frame work to capacitate community and to disseminate information to promote regular community participation,

If others specify-----

12. What socio-cultural challenge hinders active community participation in development activities? (Multiple answers are possible)

Gender discrimination

Religion practice

Resistance to change

Low social cooperation

Illiteracy

If others specify -----

13. What economic challenge hinders community participation in development activities? (Multiple answers are possible)

Low level of income

Absence of equitable benefit from local fruits/resource

Need of incentives

If others specify -----

14. What personal challenge hinders active participation in development activities? (Multiple answers are possible)

Lack of awareness

Sense of powerlessness

Lack of interest

Lack of role model

Fear of cost of involvement

If others specify -----

**Part IV impact of low community participation in local development**

15. What are the major impacts of low community participation in local developmental decision making? (Multiple answers are possible)

- Dominance of decision making based on small unrepresentative interest group
- Dominance of decision making based on local leaders interest
- Dominance of structured top-down decision on local development issue
- Wide spreadness of unfairness

If others specify-----

16. What are the major consequences of low community participation in local developmental programs? (Multiple answers are possible)

- Poor local road construction and maintenance
- Poor local potable water construction and maintenance
- Poor local health post construction and maintenance
- Poor local public toilet facility construction and maintenance
- Poor material contribution for local public schooling facility
- Poor local bridge construction and maintenance

If others specify-----

**Part V Comment on ways/techniques in order to enhance community participation in local development**

17. Comment if any ways/ techniques important in order to enhance community participation in local development? -----  
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## **Annex II**

### **Interview checklist for Key Informants**

#### **I. General Information**

Current status /position-----

#### **II checklist for interview**

1. What do you understand about community participation in local development activity?
2. Have you ever conducted awareness raising forums on the importance of active community participation for local development?
3. What mode of communication do you use to mobilize the community too?
4. What are the areas in which the community is mobilized to participate in local development activities?
5. How do you evaluate the community's willingness to participate?
6. What mode of participation do you make use of most?
7. What challenges do really hinder active community participation? (from the side of the community and from the side of the local authorities)
8. Is the community aware of the local development plans and implementation strategies? Or do they participate in identifying problems and planning activities?
9. What are the consequences of low community participation in local development activities?
10. What techniques are important in order to enhance community participation in local development?

## **Annex III**

### **Guideline for focus group discussion**

1. What do you understand about community participation in local development activity?
2. Does the local government authorities ever conducted awareness creation forum on importance of community participation for local development?
3. Does community voluntarily participate in local development activities?
4. Does community influenced/commanded by local government authorities to engage in the development efforts of the locality?
5. If your response for question No- 4 is yes, what are the areas in which the community participates (in cash as well as in kind) through government bodies' influence? List them
6. Is the community aware of the local development plans and implementation strategies? Or do they participate in identifying problems and planning activities?
7. How do you elucidate the interest of the local community in your surrounding towards volunteered participation in development activities?
8. How do you describe the contribution of the community in your surrounding towards volunteered participation in development activities?
9. What challenges do really hinder active community participation? (from the side of the community and from the side of the local authorities)
10. What are the consequences of low community participation in your local development activities?
11. What techniques are important in order to enhance community participation in local development?

**THANK YOU!!**