

Determinant Factors Of Women Economic Class: In Case Of Dire Dawa City, Ethiopia

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ABSTRACT: Background: around half of all populations in the developing world, living on less than US\$2 per person per day (measured by purchasing power parity). The higher levels of productivity facilitate higher average earnings. The more secure standard of living allows them to save and invest in their families' health, education and wellbeing. The economic well-being of women is often used as an indicator of the overall advancement of a society. **Objective:** the main objective of this study was to assess the determinant factors of women economic class in Dire Dawa administrative city, Ethiopia. **Method:** the data were obtained from 602 respondents through face to face interview. Tabular methods of data presentation and inferential analysis, particularly binary logistic regression were applied. **Results:** economic class is poor, when woman's purchasing power parity is less than US\$1.32 per person per day and is non-poor, greater or equal to US\$1.32, from the total 602 women included in the study, 32.39 percent were living under poverty line and the remaining 67.61 percent of them were above poverty line (no-poor) based on the purchasing power parity per person per day. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 1.650) indicates that non-poor women were increased by 1.650 times when a unit change of monthly income in relation to those who are living under poverty line. The log odds of non-poor women those who had a total number of children ranges between 2 and 3 are decreased by -.535. Generally, monthly income, education level, number of children, house ownership, microfinance user, employment status, husband's monthly income and amount of saving were found as the determinant factors of women's economic class at 5% level of significance. **Conclusions:** Education provides women with the knowledge, skills and self-confidence they need to seek out economic opportunities. When women attained higher levels of education, they have opportunities to engage on larger wage earning jobs. The incidence of women poverty was shown to increase with the size of the children. Large family size has significant relationship with much greater risk of women's poverty.

Keywords: Women, Economic class, Binary logistic regression

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM

One of the sharpest divides between developed and developing economies is that in the former, middle class status is the norm, with a reasonable standard of living enjoyed by the bulk of the population, while in the latter, an estimated 3 billion people, around half of all populations in the developing world, remain poor, living on less than US\$2 per person per day (measured at purchasing power parity). The higher levels of productivity facilitate higher average earnings from labor; there is a direct link between labor market outcomes in terms of both the quantity of available jobs and the productivity of the workforce and the middle class standard of living enjoyed by the majority of people in the developed world. The individual's level achieving the standard of living enjoyed by the middle class is a core aspiration for millions of households and individuals in the developing world. Yet for many poor individuals in developing countries, whose productivity and resulting incomes facilitate a level of consumption far below the average in the developed world. The level of achieving the middle class status is high, the more secure standard of living, allowing them to save and invest in their families' health, education and wellbeing [16].

The economic well-being of women is often used as an indicator of the overall advancement of a society. The better women fare relative to men, the argument goes, the better the overall society is at creating equal opportunities and benefits for its entire people [1]. Women and girls in developing countries and poor environments are often the last to receive health care. They suffer from lack of nutrition, often eating last and least. They suffer more from the effects of second-hand smoke and indoor air pollution due to burning traditional biomass fuels for cooking and heating. Poor sanitation and unsafe drinking water lead to millions of children, particularly girls, being kept off school. Due to discrimination in food intake and medical care, women's life expectancies in many countries are often lower than men's despite the fact that statistically women should live longer [10]. The fundamental contributions of women in their households and national economies are increasingly acknowledged within Africa and by the international community mainly because of their energetic efforts to organize, articulate their concerns and make their voices heard. At both grassroots and national levels, more women's associations are taking advantage of the new political openings to assert their leadership roles. They are also pressing for an expansion of women's economic and social opportunities, and the advancement of women's rights. By improving their own positions, women enhance the country's broader development prospects [17].

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Yet after a century of impressive progress, overall economic opportunities for women still lag those of men. Women, on average, earn 75% of their male co-workers' wages, and the difference cannot be explained solely by schooling or experience. In many countries, women have fewer educational and employment opportunities than men, are more often denied credit, and endure social restrictions that limit their chances for advancement. Women's representation in the permanent employment of both regional and federal civil services is also lower than men; in comparison to the large number of unemployed women.

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The increase in the number of women employee's over the years is insignificant. Women's employment in the formal sectors both in industries and the Civil Service is lower than men [8]. **Objective:** the main objective of this study was to assess the determinant factors of women economic class in Dire Dawa administrative city, Ethiopia.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The results of this study may provide information on the economic class and their determinants of women in case of Dire Dawa Administrative city by analyzing the impact of different variables on women's economic class. The results are expected to give some knowledge about factors of women's economic class and could be used as input for other studies related to economic situation. Finally, to provide information to government and other concerned bodies in setting policies, strategies, and further implementation for reducing women's who are living under poverty line.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Women in Ethiopia occupy low status in the society. In spite of their contributions to the wellbeing of their family and community affairs, women experience lower socio economic status in general and hence is marginalized from making decisions at all levels. Women are facing multiple forms of deprivation. Gender based discrimination, lack of protection of basic human rights, violence, lack of access to productive resources, education and training, basic health services, and employment are widespread [8]. According to [14] showed that large family size has significant relationship with much greater risk of poverty and economic status of the women's. The finding showed that increase in household size would likely insecure food of the household. Education was identified as the main element for women's economic empowerment. Elimination of illiteracy and implementation of universal access to education is considered to be the first step to economic empowerment. The other two elements were achieving economic independence and political engagement. Frequent mention was made of the fact that approaches that work to empower women economically cannot be identical in all types of countries, for urban and rural settings, or for educated and illiterate women [26]. Women economic development is the most influential in the rapid economic growth and poverty reduction in the societies. Investment in the human capital, health and education of women and girls is presented as a key way forward as witnessed by the MDGs. The educated, healthy women are more able to engage in productive activities, find formal sector employment, earn higher incomes and enjoy greater returns to schooling than are uneducated women. Also, educated women are more likely to invest in the education of their own children, and they are also more likely to have fewer children [28]. The incidence of unemployment is much higher for female heads of household than for male heads of household. Sixty of the 218 female heads (27.5 percent) reported that they were unemployed compared to 13 of the 112 male heads of households (11.6 percent). This means that the female heads were more than twice as likely not to have market employment compared to male heads [13]. Microfinance has been a powerful global movement to empower women through a grass roots approach with the help of

international organizations. Organizations such as the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) choose to finance women because they are more likely to use their money toward the health, education, and well-being of their families, while men are more likely to spend it on themselves. In addition, women have better credit ratings than men and are often less likely to failure to pay on their loans. Investing in a woman is a way to enrich the woman's personal life, her family, and her community [6]. According to [9] living in their own home protects them from one of the most socially damaging effects of income insecurity, the fear of being homeless. As a result an owner occupier is in significantly better position than a renter with the same income. Income measures which ignore this are likely to portray the condition of owner occupiers as appreciably worse. In cases where significant numbers of the poor live in their own house, not allowing for this imputed rent is likely to significantly bias computed poverty rates. The effect of housing on poverty should also try to model the effect of social housing and other kinds of subsidized accommodation. In the actual case, where more than 50% of the population are owner-occupiers, it also increases the population median and hence the poverty line. Thus, it is possible for poverty to increase, even if all the poor are owner-occupiers, so long as the middle classes choose to live in proportionately better houses.

DATA AND METHDOLOGY

STUDY AREA AND POPULATION: the research was carried in Dire Dawa administrative city which is located in the eastern part of Ethiopia 515 kilometer far from Addis Ababa. All women those who are 18 and above years old were included in the study and the participants of the study were incorporated in randomly.

SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

Sample size (number of women) was calculated using the Cochran's (1977) sample size calculation formula:

$$n_0 = \frac{(Z_{\alpha})^2}{d^2} P(1 - P),$$

For this study, $p = 0.65$, was used. This choice was determined by conducting a pilot survey of 60 respondents randomly. The sampling error (d) is the difference between the parameter to be estimated and the corresponding statistic computed from the sample. In this study a value of sampling error is 0.04 at 5 % level was used. Therefore, the possible sample size estimated for this study was:

$$n_0 = \frac{(Z_{0.05/2})^2 * (1-0.65) * 0.65}{0.04^2} = \frac{(1.96)^2}{(0.04)^2} * 0.65 * 0.35 \approx 547$$

To actual sample size was determined by adding 10% contingency for expected non-response rate:

$$547 + 0.1(547) = 601.7 \sim 602$$

Therefore, the final sample size selected for this study was 602 women from their residence.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

Method of data collection for this study was personal interview and the researchers were conducted by using a semi-structured questionnaire covering questions on different covariates. The respondents were selected for interview by using simple random sampling from the selected residence. The questionnaire was constructed in English language and translated to local language, in order to make clear and simple for respondents. The data collectors explained the objective of the study and obtained verbal consent from participants before proceeding with the interviews.

VARIABLES CONSIDERED IN THE STUDY

Response Variable: economic class of women which was determined based on previous poverty line (per person per day), purchasing power parity, consumption price index and current currency exchange rate.

- ✓ The poverty line indicates the minimum money required to afford the food covering the minimum required caloric intake and additional non-food items. According to (World Bank, 2014) report in 2000 Ethiopia had one of the highest poverty rates in the world, with 56% of the population living on less than US\$1.25 per person per day (PPP). While in 2011 less than 30% of the population was counted as poor.
- ✓ Consumption price index (CPI) measures the changes in the price level of market basket of consumer goods and services purchased by households. The annual percentage change in a CPI is used as a measure of inflation. The country's average Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 2011 to 2017 was 133.36 (CSA, May 2017) and the country's CPI for the most recent month was 165.8 (CSA, May 2017).
- ✓ Purchasing power parity (PPP) is a price index very similar in content and estimation to the consumer price index. The 2014 consumption purchasing power parity (PPP) was US\$1.25 (World Bank, 2014) and currency exchange rate from dollar to Birr at the end of May, 2014 and 2017 was 19.56 and 23.09 Birr respectively.

$$PPP_{\text{current}} = PPP_{2014} \left[\frac{CPI_{\text{current}}}{CPI_{2014}} \right] =$$

$$PPP_{\text{current}(2017)} = 24.45 * \left[\frac{165.8}{133.36} \right] = 30.39$$

Woman as household is poor or not relative to the poverty line which is $Y_i(0)$ poor, woman's purchasing power parity is less than US\$1.32 or 30.39 Birr per person per day, else $Y_i(1)$ is non-poor.

$$\text{Dependent variable}(Y_i) = \frac{\text{consumption in birr per month as household}}{\text{number of family living in household}} * \frac{1}{30 \text{ days}}$$

Explanatory variables: the expected explanatory variables are employment status, marital status, age, income, age, education level, house ownership, microfinance service, number of children, source of livelihood, saving culture,

amount of saving and husband's income were included in the study as factors.

METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

Descriptive statistics (graphs and tables-for purposes of aggregation of collected data and determination of patterns) and binary logistic regression analysis were employed to analyze the data collected. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 20.0) was used for data edition and analysis.

RESULTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

The response variable in this study is economic class of women measured by purchasing power parity women's per day. The dependent variable (women economic class) was classified as poor and non-poor based on the current poverty line per person per day which is dichotomous, indicating whether a woman as household is poor or not relative to the poverty line which is poor, woman's purchasing power parity is less than US\$1.32 or 30.39 Birr per person per day and is non-poor, greater or equal to US\$1.32 or 30.39 Birr per person per day. We begin our data analysis by giving descriptive statistics, univariable analysis, model diagnostic checking and provide the final model in multivariable analysis.

DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

The results displayed in Table 1 below shows that from the total, 32.39 percent of women's economic class were poor and the remaining 67.61 percent of them were no-poor based on the purchasing power parity per person per day. In 2011 less than 31 percent of the total populations were living below national poverty line (poor). Therefore, our study shows that the proportion of women living in poor economic class were 32.39 percent, this means even if they have chance to engage in different economic sectors, but the magnitude indicates that there is a problem in economic well-being.

TABLE 1
WOMEN ECONOMIC CLASS SUMMARY

Economic class	Frequency	Percent
Poor	195	32.39
non-poor	407	67.61
Total	602	100.00

Education level: from the total, about 46.8 percent of the respondents were uneducated and living above poverty line, while 53.2 percent of them were living below poverty line, 63.9 percent were primary educated and living above poverty line, whereas 36.1 percent of them were living under poverty line, 70.0 percent of the respondents were secondary educated and living above poverty line, while 30.0 percent of them were under poverty line, 79.1 percent were diploma holders and living above poverty line, but the remaining 28.9 percent of them were under poverty, 81.5 percent were degree and above holders and living above poverty line, whereas 18.5 percent of them were under

poverty line. Therefore, the greatest proportional rate of women living above poverty line was those who are higher educated.

Impact of low education level on economy: the impact of low educational level was simply depending on the respondent's perception whether or not have impact on the economic class. Therefore, from the total, around 63.6 percent of the respondents were said that low education level has no impact on economic class and who were living above poverty line, whereas 36.4 percent of them were living under poverty line, 69.1 percent of the respondents were said there is impact on economic class and who were living above poverty line, while 30.9 percent of them were under poverty line.

Marital status: from the total, 62.6 percent of the respondents were never married and living above poverty line, while 37.4 percent of them were under poverty, 73.5 percent were living with spouse and living above poverty line, whereas 26.5 percent of them were under poverty, 62.2 percent were widowed and living above poverty line, but the remaining 37.8 percent of them were under poverty, 26.5 percent of the respondents were divorced and living above poverty line, while 73.5 percent of them were under poverty. This indicates women who were living with their spouse are relatively highest rate in their economic class living above poverty line as compared to other women. The remaining results will be discussed in the same procedure.

TABLE 2
Summary Statistics for Demographic explanatory variables with economic class

Covariate	Categories	Economic class	
		Poor	Non-poor
		Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)
Education level	Uneducated	33(53.2)	29(46.8)
	Primary	83(36.1)	147(63.9)
	Secondary	51(30.0)	119(70.0)
	Diploma	18(20.9)	68(79.1)
	degree and above	10(18.5)	44(81.5)
The impact of low education level on economy	No	59(36.4)	103(63.6)
	Yes	136(30.9)	304(69.1)
Marital status	never married	37(37.4)	62(62.6)
	living together	87(26.5)	241(73.5)
	Widowed	14(37.8)	23(62.2)
	Divorced	36(73.5)	13(26.5)

Husband's monthly income: about 51 percent of women those who have no any income from their husbands' and living under poverty line, whereas 49 percent of them were above poverty line, about 30.7 percent of women were obtained income from her husband was less than 1500 birr per month who are under poverty line, whereas 69.3 percent of them gained from husband were above the poverty line, 68.2 percent of women's income obtained from her husband's were ranged between 1500 and 3000 birr who are above the poverty line, while 31.8 percent of them were under the poverty line, around 88.0 percent of women's income were acquired from their husband who earned greater than 3000 birr who are living above the poverty line, the remaining 12.0 percent of them were below the poverty line. From this, the greater part of economic class for their husband's income earned greater than 3000 birr were above the poverty line.

whereas 20 percent of them were below the poverty line, around 76 percent of women above the poverty line and 24 percent of women below poverty line were living in the private house rent, 32.4 percent of women were above the poverty line and 67.6 percent of women were below the poverty line from those who were living in relative houses.

Payment for house rent: among the women's living in kebeles house rent, 80 percent were above the poverty line,

TABLE 3
Summary Statistics for Socioeconomic explanatory variables with economic class

Covariate	Categories	Economic Class	
		Poor	Non-poor
		Frequency (%)	Frequency (%)
Husband's Income per month	No income	49 (51)	47 (49)
	Less than 1500 birr	23 (30.7)	52 (69.3)
	Between 1500 and 3000 birr	34 (31.8)	73 (68.2)
	Greater than 3000 birr	12 (12)	88 (88)
House Ownership	No	106 (36.1)	188 (63.9)
	Yes	89 (28.9)	219 (71.1)
Payment for house rent per month	Kebeles' House rent	3 (20)	12 (80)
	private house rent	60 (24)	190 (76)
	Relatives' House	25 (67.6)	12 (32.4)

UNIVARIATE BINARY LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS

Thus a model will be constructed by first identifying factors which are significant at 15% level of significance in univariate analysis. The results below Table 4 shows that women economic class is statistically associated with education level, monthly income, employment status,

number of children, saving habits of the woman, house ownership, husband's monthly income and microfinance user. The remaining age of the woman, marital status and impact of health are statistically insignificantly with economic class of the woman at 15% levels of significance. Any variable whose univariate test has a p-value <0.15 is considered as a candidate for the multivariate model.

TABLE 4
Uni-variate binary logistic regression analysis table of each predictor variables

Covariate (Reference)	B	S.E.	Wald	d.f	Sig.	Exp (B)	95%C.I for EXP(B)	
							Lower	Upper
Age (< 20 Years)			4.731	3	0.193			
20-30 Years	0.121	0.341	0.126	1	0.722	1.129	0.578	2.204
31-41 Years	-0.135	0.355	0.145	1	0.703	0.874	0.435	1.752
Greater than 41 Years	-0.340	0.350	0.947	1	0.330	0.712	0.359	1.412
Education level(Uneducated)			22.866	4	0.000			
Primary	0.701	0.289	5.872	1	0.015	2.015	1.143	3.552
Secondary	0.977	0.305	10.276	1	0.001	2.655	1.461	4.824
Diploma	1.458	0.367	15.748	1	0.000	4.299	2.092	8.834
Degree and above	1.611	0.433	13.838	1	0.000	5.007	2.143	11.699
Marital status (Never married)			0.928	3	0.819			
Living together	0.3160	0.357	0.784	1	0.376	1.371	0.6820	2.760
Widowed	.126	0.228	0.306	1	0.580	1.135	.725	1.775
Divorced	0.004	0.369	0.000	1	0.992	1.004	0.487	2.069
Employment status(House wife)			7.821	2	0.020			
merchant	0.244	0.207	1.393	1	0.238	1.276	.851	1.913
Employed	0.629	0.226	7.770	1	0.005	1.875	1.205	2.918
Monthly Income in Birr	0.740	0.236	9.857	1	0.002	2.095	1.320	3.325
Microfinance user(Yes)	0.408	0.248	2.709	1	0.100	1.504	0.925	2.445
Number of children(<2)			27.061	3	0.000			
2-3 children	-0.300	0.206	2.120	1	0.145	0.741	0.495	1.109
4-5 children	-1.140	0.255	19.987	1	0.000	0.320	0.194	0.527
Greater than 5 children	-1.276	0.375	11.572	1	0.001	0.279	0.134	0.582
Health problem (Yes)	-0.159	0.231	0.476	1	0.490	0.853	0.542	1.341
Saving habit (Yes)	0.554	0.184	9.066	1	0.003	1.740	1.213	2.496
House owner (Yes)	-0.327	0.175	3.509	1	0.061	0.721	0.512	1.015
Husband's income(No income)			26.623	3	0.000			
Less than 1500 birr	0.117	0.251	0.219	1	0.640	1.125	0.688	1.839
1500-3000 birr	0.688	0.248	7.707	1	0.006	1.990	1.224	3.235

MULTIPLE BINARY LOGISTIC REGRESSION ANALYSIS

The univariate result above shows to identify individual impacts of predictor variables on women economic class. To examine relationships between a dependent variable and a set of independent variables, multiple binary logistic regression analysis can be utilized those which are

significant at 15% level from univariate analysis. Therefore, the covariates monthly Income, number of children, husband's monthly Income, house ownership, microfinance user, education level, employment status and amount of saving per month are statistically significant factors of women's economic class at 5% level of significance.

TABLE 5
Multiple Binary Logistic regression analysis results

Monthly Income in Birr	.501	.210	5.692	1	.003	1.650	1.094	2.491
Number of children(<2)			22.842	3	.000			
2-3 children	-.535	.232	5.298	1	.021	.586	.372	.924
4-5 children	-1.212	.305	15.802	1	.000	.297	.164	.541
Greater than 5 children	-1.545	.431	12.849	1	.000	.213	.092	.496
Husband's income(No income)			25.318	3	.000			
Less than 1500 birr	.070	.389	.033	1	.857	1.073	0.500	2.300
1500-3000 birr	1.309	.412	10.082	1	.001	3.701	1.650	8.301
Greater than 3000 birr	1.823	.409	19.835	1	.000	6.187	2.774	13.798
House ownership (Yes)	.845	.307	7.578	1	.006	2.327	1.275	4.247
Microfinance user (Yes)	.380	.122	9.702	1	.002	1.462	1.151	1.857
Education level (Uneducated)			27.090	4	.000			
Primary	.823	.297	7.705	1	.006	2.278	1.274	4.073
Secondary	1.168	.320	13.322	1	.000	3.214	1.717	6.017
Diploma	1.705	.387	19.389	1	.000	5.501	2.575	11.749
Degree and above	1.897	.455	17.395	1	.000	6.665	2.733	16.253
Employment status (House wife)			11.300	2	.010			
Self- worker	.510	.261	3.834	1	.050	1.666	1.000	2.777
Employed	.761	.377	4.084	1	.043	2.141	1.023	4.479
Amount of saving(No saving)			8.249	3	.041			
Less than 500 birr	.156	.630	.061	1	.804	1.167	.340	4.019
500-1000 birr	.394	.300	1.722	1	.189	1.483	.823	2.672
Greater than 1000 birr	1.480	.568	6.789	1	.009	4.392	1.443	13.368

MODEL ADEQUACY CHECKING

The model chi-square value was 389.376 on 18 degrees of freedom and was highly significant beyond 5% level of significance indicating that the inclusion of the all explanatory variables that are significant at the univariate logistic regression analysis contributed to the improvement in fit of the full model as compared to the constant only model.

TABLE 6
Omnibus test of Model Coefficients

	Chi-square	Df	Sig.
Block	389.376	18	.000
Model	389.376	18	.000

INTERPRETATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

INTERPRETATIONS

Monthly Income: The log odds of non-poor women were increased by 0.501 times when a unit change of monthly income. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 1.650) indicates that non-poor women were increased by 1.650 times when a unit change of monthly income in relation to those who are living under poverty line.

Number of children: The log odds of non-poor women those who had a total number of children ranges between 2 and 3 are decreased by -.535. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 0.586) indicates that women who had the number of children ranges between 2 and 3 are 0.586 times less likely to be non-poor than women who had less than 2 number of children. The log odds of non-poor women those who had a total number of children greater than 5 are decreased by -1.545 times. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 0.213) indicates that women who had more than 5 number of children are 0.213 times less likely to be non-poor as compared to those who had less than 2 number of children.

House ownership: The log odds of non-poor women those who had their own house is increased by 0.845 times. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 2.327) indicates that women who had their own house are 2.327 times more likely to be non-poor as compared to those who had no their own house. Indicates house ownership have positive impact on the women's economic class.

Microfinance user: The log odds of non-poor women those who were microfinance service users increased by 0.380 times. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 1.462) indicates that women who were microfinance service users are 1.462 times more likely to be non-poor in relation to those who were not customer of microfinance service.

Education level: The log odds of non-poor women who were primary educated was increased by 0.823 times in relation to uneducated. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 2.278) indicates that women who had educated primary level are 2.278 times more likely to be non-poor in relation to those who were not educated. The log odds of non-poor women who were degree and above educated was increased by 1.897 times in relation to uneducated. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 6.665) indicates that degree and above educated women are increased by 6.665 times in relation to uneducated. The highest odds ratio for non-poor women is for those who were educated degree and above level.

Husbands' monthly income: the estimated odds ratio (OR = 3.701) indicates that women those who had their own husbands' monthly income ranges between 1500 and 3000 birr is 3.701 times more likely to be non-poor as compared to women with no husbands' monthly income. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 6.187) indicates that women those who had their husband's monthly income greater than 3000 birr is 6.187 times more likely to be non-poor as compared to women with no husband's monthly income.

Employment status: The log odds of non-poor women those who were employed is increased by 0.761 times. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 2.141) indicates that women those who were employed is 2.141 times more likely to be non-poor as compared to women with employment status house wife. Indicates women employment status is one of the indicators of their economic situation.

Saving birr per month: the log odds of non-poor women those who saves greater than 1000 birr per month is increased by 1.480 times. The estimated odds ratio (OR = 4.392) indicates that women those who saves greater than 1000 birr per month is 4.392 times more likely to be non-poor as compared to those women have no saving habits in their life time.

DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

The findings of this study revealed that number of children had statistically significant effect on the economic class of women at 5% level of significance. This shows that having large number of children had negatively affecting women's economic class. Moreover, as the number of children increases, women would more concentrated on childbearing and childcare than income earning job activities. In other words when they have large number of children they spent much time for domestic works, like food preparation and also consuming their income more for the purpose of schooling, basic needs and health related problems. A study done by [14] showed that large family size has significant relationship with economic class of the women's and it indicates that increase in household size would affect the economic class of the household. Women's who accomplished higher education were found to be the most statistically significant factors from the category for determining the economic class of women in our study. The women's who was educated higher classes had a positive impact on their income generating activities and well-being economic class. This finding is consistent with [4] and the study revealed that women education had positive effect on poverty reduction. A similar study done by [3] also showed that the economic class of women was increased when the education of women are more increased and girls' education can produce the highest return on investment in the developing world to enhance development and reduce poverty. Also this confirmed that women who had more educated could be generated more income. Similar to our findings by [26] provided evidence that economic class of women were higher for educated women and it is the first step for economic empowerment of women.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The current poverty line was updated using the previous 2011 as reference based on the purchasing power parity and economic class is poor, when woman's purchasing power parity is less than US\$1.32 or 30.39 Birr per person per day and else non-poor. Around 32.39 percent of women were living under poverty line based on the purchasing power parity per person per day. The magnitude indicates that there is a problem on women's economic well-being. Education is one of the main determinants of women's economic class. Education provides women with the

knowledge, skills and self-confidence they need to seek out economic opportunities. When women attained higher levels of education, they have opportunities to engage on larger wage earning jobs. Education is the most indicator of economic advancement. Therefore, education is the first priority for women's economic empowerment. The incidence of women poverty was shown to increase with the size of the children. Large family size has significant relationship with much greater risk of women's poverty. When women have large number of children they spent much time for food preparation and also consuming their income more for the purpose of schooling, basic needs and health related problems. Monthly income was identified as a major impact on women's economic class in this case more paid was found to be better economic standard as household. Income is one of the good indicators of individuals' economic well-being. It is used to smooth consumption and accumulate wealth for consuming elder time. Microfinance service was found as one of the significant impacts on the women's poverty reduction and it is often considered to be an instrument that promotes economic empowerment. Microfinance service can stabilize livelihoods, increase choices, provide start-up funds for productive investment and help poor women to smooth consumption flows. Therefore, microfinance service is used as role in alleviating poverty among women. House ownership was found as one of the important factors of women's economic class. Living in their own house protects them from income insecurity. House owner women have better economic position than a renter with the same income level. Therefore, house ownership has positive impact on women's economic class likely to be above poverty line. Women's employment status was found one of the fundamental requirements of economic well-being. Women who have occupation would have better economic situation. Women's work, have positive impact on reduction of poverty and improving the quality of life, because the greater earnings could result in higher expenditure on school enrollment for children, food security and health services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, identified factors significantly associated with women's economic class. These recommendations were needed to be converted into development of adequate interventions that aim to decrease women's risk of poverty.

- Educating women at higher level of education plays vital roles in empowerment of their economic well-being, therefore, family members, communities and education sectors have made great effort in raising the participation of females in all level of education, especially at higher education.
- Increasing the participation of women in income generating works is the key to faster on poverty reduction; however, gender-related programs have to consider on the maximization of women contributions as active players in economy and over all poverty reduction.
- Since women have the main responsibility for the care of children, the elderly and the sick, as well as for running the household, which undermines their

chances of going to school or being able to translate returns on their own productive work into increase and more secure incomes. Therefore, spouse has to be part of them and share their burdens.

- Finally, more intensive researches on the area should be undertaken especially in the area of women's role on poverty reduction, economic empowerment and any other similar issues that contributes for the well-being of life.

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