

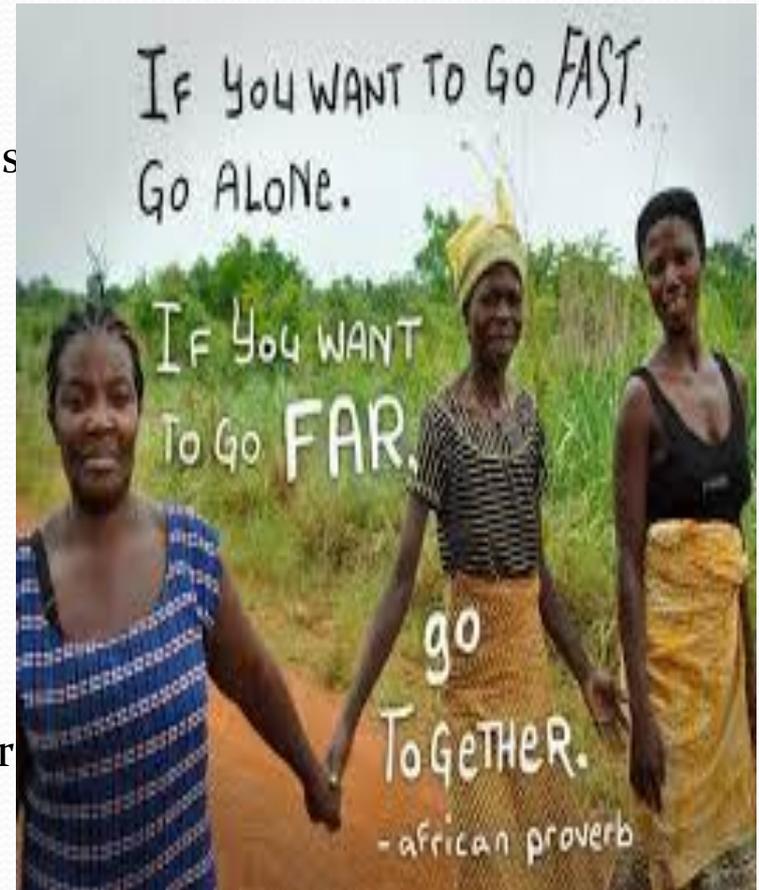
Analyzing women's collective action

A strategy to empower Ethiopian women in the case of the red-pepper value chain



Keywords

- Women's empowerment-- Kabeer's (1999) “the process by which those who have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such ability” (p.435)
- A workgroup --Cohen and Bailey's (1997) group definition--a collection of women who run a business together as an intact entity embedded in a larger social system. Members of a workgroup are interdependent in their tasks; they make all the production and investment decisions together; they share responsibilities for outcomes decisions and for managing their businesses across organizational boundaries.



Why do we need to focus on women?

- centre of this thesis
- focus of scholars, development actors and policy makers
 - women's empowerment---eight primary MDGs ---a key to achieve the other seven
 - in the UN System Task Team report
 - “The empowerment of women and girls and the protection of their rights should be centre-pieces of the post-2015 agenda”
- need to focus on women's empowerment
 - as the process of achieving social justice and human right among all members of a society
 - as a necessary condition for the eradication of poverty in low-income countries

This need can be explained by

- 1st 70% of the poor are women
 - pulling women out of poverty ---pulling the majority of the society
- 2nd women tend to contribute more to their family than men
 - taking women out of poverty ----taking their families out of poverty
- 3rd women represent at least half of population, but they cannot reach their potential as workers, entrepreneurs and consumers
 - unless women contribute fully to the economy, there is a high cost in terms of economic, human and social development

- constraints that inhibit women in low income countries to not reach their potentials
 - interrelated in a kind of vicious circle
- a critical challenge for policy makers and development actors is how to break this vicious circle
 - closing the gender gap in education at all levels
 - increasing women's share of wage employment in the non-agricultural sector
 - increasing the women's participation in the profitable aspects of agricultural value chains

Ethiopian women's participation in the red-pepper value chain

- 85 % of total employment is within agriculture
 - women possible to find better employment opportunities through participation in profitable aspects of agricultural value chains
- to increase women's participation in profitable aspects of agricultural value chain, it is important
 - to analyze women and men access to resources,
 - to identify constraints and opportunities for women in the value chains
 - to study the division of labour, because in most agricultural value chains, tasks are often separated by gender



- Development actors and policy makers agree that it is relatively effective to target women
 - traditionally female activities in agricultural value chain---professionalize those activities
- In Ethiopia, women have a comparative advantage in the processing activity of the red-pepper value chain
 - traditionally a female activity
 - requires neither women's ownership of land nor a large amount of start-up capital
- Red-pepper
 - a spice and vegetable crop produced by many farmers in Ethiopia
 - in the daily diet of most Ethiopians, and its average daily consumption is higher than that of tomatoes and of many other vegetables



***Berberere* ... (red-pepper and other 18 spices)**

- processing of the red-pepper into *berbere* ---time and energy consuming home activity---women have traditionally been responsible for this activity
- groups of entrepreneurial women have recognized their traditional responsibilities in *berbere* processing as a new business opportunity
 - buy unprocessed red-pepper from the market, add value by processing it, and sell it back to the market
- current growth in urban sector and subsequent increasing in demand for processed foods ---expanding the margin of the local *berbere* market
- exporters distribute *berbere* to Ethiopians in foreign countries
 - formal channels
 - informally take the product --travelling abroad



- In the last two decades, the Ethiopian government and developmental organizations
 - organizing women workgroups in the red-pepper processing
 - supporting them in terms of providing working places, business training, finances management, market integration, micro-finances and so forth
- This thesis focuses on these entrepreneurial women workgroups



Research questions

- Despite the great efforts made by the Ethiopian government and developmental organizations in organizing and supporting these women workgroups, little research has been done on the success and effectiveness of these workgroups
 - analyzing factors that may affect their performance
 - achieving their objective of empowering women
- aim of this thesis is to contribute to the closing of these gaps in our knowledge by addressing the following four central research questions:

1. What are the effects of ethnic and religious diversities on the performance of these workgroups?
2. How does intra-group trust and monitoring relate to each other, and how this relation affects the performance of these workgroups?
3. Is there a difference in risk-taking preferences when the members of these workgroups make a decision together compared to when the members make the same decision in isolation, and what are the main individual characteristics affect this difference (if any)?
4. Whether and to what extent that the women's income from these workgroups is translated into empowering them?

Data collection

- field experiment and survey methods
- 508 women from 102 women workgroups in Addis Ababa
- 10 sub cities (Micro and Small Scale Enterprise offices)--six sub cities (large number of workgroups)--64 *Woredas*--270 workgroups --102 workgroups (survey data) then due to budget constraints---72 workgroups (experiment)
- field experiment--intra-group trust (Berg et al., 1995; trust game) and risk-taking (Binswanger, 1980; lottery choice game)
- survey methods-- group performance, diversity, monitoring, empowerment and so forth

Chapters

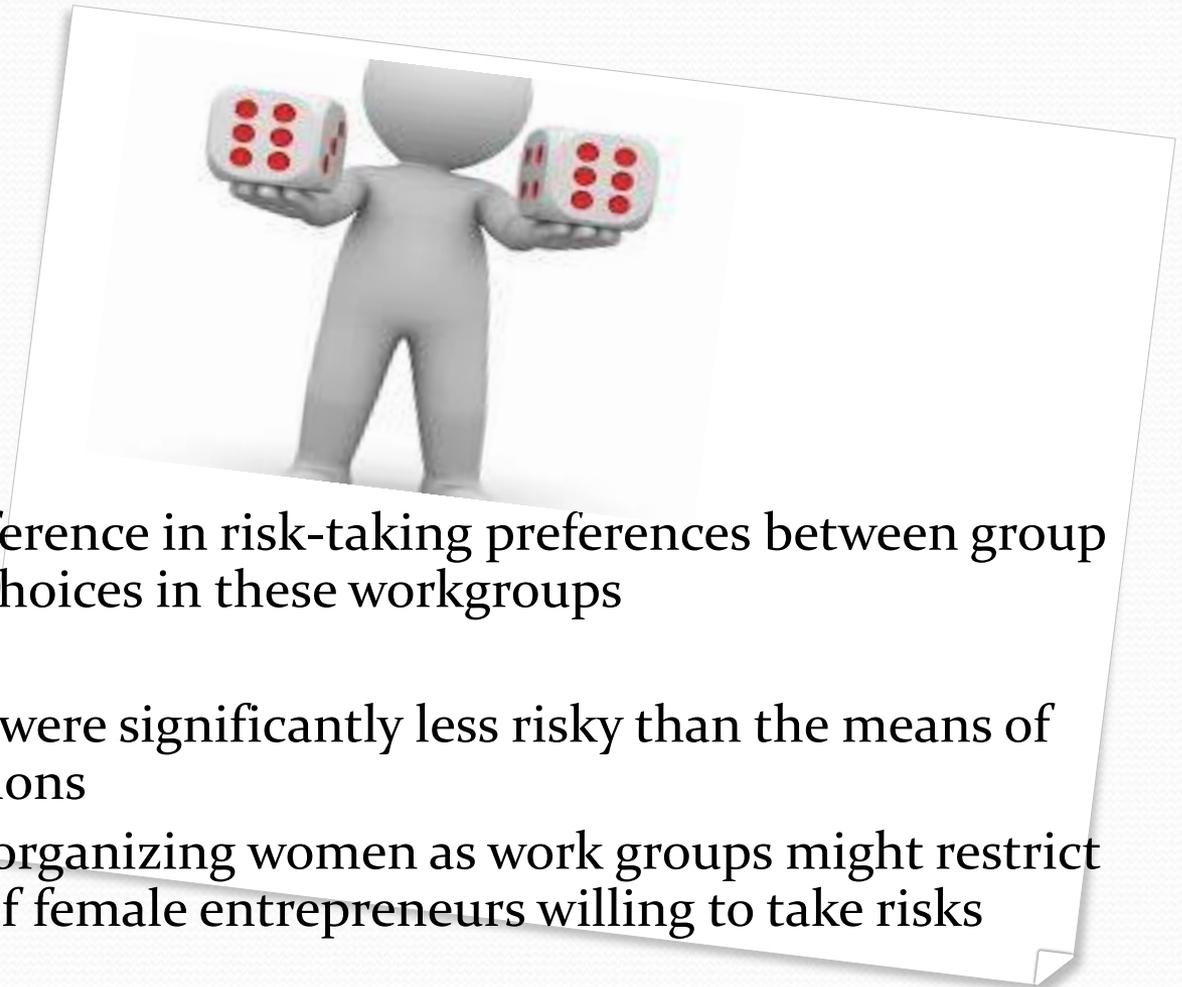
- five chapters
- outcomes of each chapter----contribute
 - to the literature in the field
 - to women workgroups in low income countries in terms of reinforcing women's collective action that supports women's empowerment
 - to developmental organizations promote women's empowerment in Ethiopia in terms of providing important guidance to achieve the goal of empowering women

Second chapter

- Objective
 - examine the effects of ethnic diversity and religious diversity on the performance of these entrepreneurial women workgroups
- Findings
 - ethnic diversity had negative effects on workgroup performance, while religious diversity had positive effects
 - ethnic diversity may cause conflicts among the workgroup members; whereas religious diversity may cause competition
- Recommendations
 - probably need to develop effective strategies to mitigate ethnic conflict that can possibly arise among the members of ethnically diversified workgroups



Third chapter



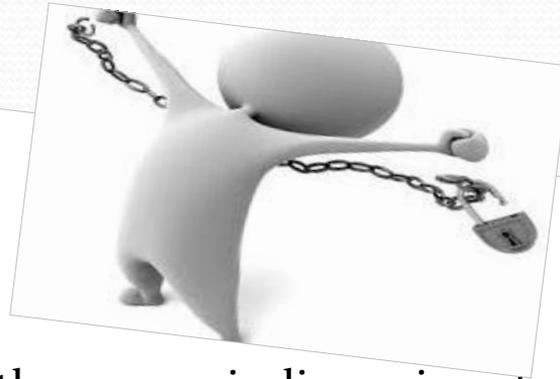
- Objective
 - examine the difference in risk-taking preferences between group and individual choices in these workgroups
- Findings
 - group decisions were significantly less risky than the means of individual decisions
 - suggesting that organizing women as work groups might restrict the emergence of female entrepreneurs willing to take risks
- Recommendations
 - might need to provide opportunities not only in groups but also in separation

Fourth chapter



- Objective
 - examine the relation between intra-group trust and monitoring in these women workgroups, and how this relation affects group performance
- Findings
 - trust is higher in workgroups with more monitoring
 - both trust and monitoring positively affect group performance, and that the effect of monitoring runs through its relation with trust
- Recommendations
 - might need to focus on the importance of monitoring for developing trust in these women workgroups

Fifth chapter



- Objective
 - examine whether and to what extent the economic dimension of empowerment is interrelated to other dimensions
 - most of the empowerment interventions are focused on the economic dimension but empowerment is a multidimensional concept
 - focus on economic---general assumptions ---an economic inequality to be the cause of wider inequalities ---an improvement of this dimension will automatically lead to improvements in other dimensions
 - tested these assumptions empirically using five other dimensions
- Findings
 - shows that the economic dimension was hardly connected to the other dimensions
 - this might be caused by income as a double-edged sword in its relations with other dimensions
- Recommendations
 - should treat each dimension independently and that a broad package of interventions might be needed to achieve the goal of empowering women in all dimensions

Thank you very much!

