

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE CHANGING OF GENDER ROLES AMONG
THE SOMALI WOMEN OF GARISSA COUNTY**

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Declaration

This project paper is my original work and has not been submitted for a degree in any other University.

Signature.....

Date

HASSAN ASHA ABDI

This project paper has been submitted for examination with my approval as University Supervisor.

Signature.....

Date

ISAAC WERE

Dedication

This work was dedicated to my loving husband Ahmed Abdi for his continued encouragement, great resilience in putting up with the long hours of absence during studies, while keeping the kids at bay.

Acknowledgement

This research project report would not have been complete without patient guidance of my supervisor Isaac Were. He has demonstrated endless faith in my ability. The confidence I have gained through working with him is something that will remain with me for the rest of my career. I say thank you for the constant and thorough guidance.

I am also grateful to my most committed lecturers, who have contributed to my academic advancement.

I recognize and thank the institute of Anthropology, Gender and African Studies who were of great support throughout my course; your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Abstract

The main aim of this study is to explore the changing gender roles among the Somali women of Garissa County. Gender roles are the cultural expectations of men and women in a particular society. Gender roles include expectations about the “natural” abilities of men and women, the occupations considered suitable for each sex, differences in temperament and personality. The study reviewed literature on factors influencing gender roles, the effect of change in gender roles and the effect of changing roles in household management and theoretical framework. This study was based on a descriptive study primarily using qualitative analysis. The target population was a total of 60 households since it research being done on the same community. The researcher used simple random sampling in order to acquire the required sample. The researcher used questionnaires with both structured and semi-structured questions in data collection. The questionnaires was then delivered personally and with the help of four assistants who are trained on how to use it. The data collected was analyzed quantitatively using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 20. The findings also show that the changes and flexibility in gender roles which are being evident today has its roots in the changing social structure. Economic factors, advancement in sciences and changed value system. The findings has also brought about the fact that previously in the family system there was a clear-cut division of responsibilities or duties with women looking after the domestic matters and the men taking charge of out of home and financial matters. The study concludes that changing roles to accommodate the social or professional pressures has become a common phenomenon. Women are now taking the main role in domestic decision-making and working in whatever way they can to provide an income for their families.

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1.0 Background of the Study

1.1 Introduction

Nanda and Warms (2013) state that, gender roles are the cultural expectations of men and women in a particular society. Gender roles include expectations about the “natural” abilities of men and women, the occupations considered suitable for each sex, differences in temperament and personality, the kinds of behavior that are most appropriate for men and women and their attitudes toward themselves and others. There is a theoretical position held by many researchers that women’s subordination to men is universal, based on women’s universal role as mothers and homemakers (Rosaldo & Lamphere, 1974).

Households apply customary rules and regulations on a day-to-day basis so much variation exists. Gender roles are affected by many factors such as culture, religion and societal changes. For example in Somalia various societal changes have forced the role of women to change. These changes include the civil war that has lasted in Somalia for a long time, the clan system in Somalia and the fact that Somalia is an Islamic state. These factors have shaped and define the gender roles of both sexes in a very strong manner. (Maxamuud, 2011). Fenstermaker (2002) also notes that gender roles vary from one culture to another based on the age, social class and religious affiliation. He further argues that gender roles differ from one society to another, are not static hence change over time.

The roles played by the various genders vary depending on the culture of the people. Hassan & Nhemachena (2007) noted that married women in Ethiopia and in other parts

of East Africa in general are the household managers, but are subordinate to men who serve as the household head and represent the household to the outside world. However men do play strategic decision making in the family, while women carry on a day to day management and retain primary responsibility for related activities. The main economic activity in arid and semi-arid areas is pastoralism. However in these pastoral communities access to livestock does not necessarily mean control, and it happens in most cases the women are the ones who have the role of managing livestock and the use of products such as milk (Hassan & Nhemachena, 2007). However the decision to dispose of the products is not entirely made by the women but such decisions are likely to be made by both husband and wife. Unilateral decisions concerning the use of livestock assets are considered uncustomary. Custom demands that the husband will have the final word and in some cases a subordinate situation exists where women have little say. Large sales of livestock tend to be controlled by the clan elders (Development Assistance Research Associates, 2011).

1.2 Problem Statement

The social role of men and women, the social expectations of gender roles, and the needs of those concerned have undergone significant changes in the course of history. These changes have been most visible in for example in the labour market, with a steady growth in the proportion of active female workers. The employment of women gained momentum in the second half of the 20th century, as a result of a decline in the average number of children. Just like the rest of the world women in Garissa county have taken up the roles of providing for their families be it in the blue collar jobs or the white collar

jobs. The men who were traditional providers for their families are no longer involved in playing their roles as providers, these has left no room for the women to sit back and watch their children suffer. Instead they have taken it upon themselves to work and provide for the needs of their children. The few educated ones are employed in the county offices while the uneducated ones are involved in the vegetable business ie in the market area, or sell fresh milk from their animals. Fewer children mean better opportunities for work outside the home, but it also limited fertility and the chances of a woman having a larger family.

Gender roles are social constructs or labels given to people based on behavior, societal and cultural norms, and expectations (Unger, 1999). Gender role beliefs shape and are shaped by childhood and adult experiences, thus these constructs change over time. The traditional gender roles of both genders are changing due to the challenges that society faces in the new century. Factors like civil wars, changing of economic activities, migration from rural to urban centres or even to other countries, the empowerment of women and the concept of free impact on the traditional roles of both genders. Very few or No study has been carried in Garris County on the factors affecting gender roles and therefore our study will address this gap.

The aim of this study is geared towards studying changing gender roles of the Somali women; factors that lead to the change, the effect of change in gender roles on the Somali community especially the household and will answer the following questions:

- i. What factors influence gender roles change among the Somali women community?
- ii. What is the effect of change in gender roles among the Somali women community?

1.3 Study Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The main objective of this study is to explore the changing gender roles among the Somali women of Garissa County.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. To identify factors influencing gender roles change among the Somali women
2. To establish the effect of change in gender roles among the Somali women

1.4 Justification of the Study

An assessment of the change in gender roles and responsibilities in any nature of community is significant in many dimensions. The findings of this study will inform policy makers who are challenged with the responsibility of coming up with policies that are not only required to end conflicts in the semi-arid areas but to also improve the social, economic and political livelihoods of the communities in such areas. In line with the changing gender roles and responsibilities policy makers will especially find the results on the factors that lead to the changes very useful as it is from the causes that policies can be established to ease the burden of the responsibilities transferred from one gender to

another. The policies will also address the challenges brought up by the changing gender roles which might conflict with the traditional norms. Policy makers will also be able to formulate policies that will ensure that changes in gender roles do not affect household management; the household is the basic unit in the structure of any society where the children are socialized according to the culture of a given community.

The findings of this study will also be useful to government and Non-Governmental organizations with interest in the semi-arid areas will also find the results of this study useful. The study findings will enable the organizations to better understand the community therefore have good baseline information as they launch out programmes to help the communities. The study will also lead to a better understanding of the cause of conflicts and conflict resolution strategies employed will be suitable for the community in both in Garissa and the bordering Somalia. The findings will be useful to the government as they are the ones charged with security of the country and its borders.

Study findings will provide information to the general public on the changes in gender roles and responsibilities among pastoralists. This information can be related to similar changes in other aspects. More useful this kind of information will be to other scholars studying gender roles as this will use it as a base for empirical findings. The published versions of the study will find its way to library shelves in institutions and digital libraries addition to the knowledge available on the subject finally, the study will be significant in providing research gaps that future researchers can embark on.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

As much as this study is on the changing gender roles and responsibilities among the Somali women in arid and semi-arid communities, the researcher did not carry the study in all such areas but was limited to Garissa County which is one of the arid and semi-arid areas. Gender roles in a society is a broad concept therefore, the study was limited to the factors that affect the change in gender roles, the effect of change in gender roles and the effect of changing gender roles in household management despite other factors that could be studied on the same.

1.6 Definition of Terms

Acculturation- This is the process of adopting the cultural traits or social patterns of another group.

Gender: refers to social construct, gender is a label that is associated with non physiological characteristics that society or specific cultures assign to men and women

Gender awareness: refers to a state of knowledge of the differences in roles and relations of women and men, how this results in differences in power relations, statuses, privileges and needs

Gender Issues: are revealed when relationships between men and women, their roles, privileges, statuses and positions are identified and analyzed

Gender analysis is the study of the different roles and realities of males and females in order to understand what they do, what resources they have and to identify their needs and priorities.

Gender balance is the equal and active participation of women and men in all areas of decision- making, and in access to and control over resources and services

Gender roles: are learned behaviors in a given society/community or other social group, that condition which activities, tasks and responsibilities are perceived as male and female

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter is characterized by review of related literature. The section contains: introduction, factors influencing gender roles, the effect of change in gender roles and the effect of changing roles in household management. A theoretical framework was also be included and a conceptual framework drawn up.

2.2 Factors Influencing Gender Roles Change among the women is Somali community

The Somali society can be described as a male dominated patrilineal and patriarchal society. Traditionally Somali women are regarded as the backbone of society, primarily because they are responsible for the biological reproduction of the lineage and inter-clan alliances. Somali women's role has been to provide all the labor necessary to ensure the daily survival of the family (Maxamuud, 2011). In addition women were always responsible for preparing the family's meals, breeding, caring for and educating children. Intellectual and social activities were usually the domain of the men. This disparity was also reflected in educational matters. Young girls were more likely to be engaged in physical labor and domestic chores, whereas young boys had greater opportunities to develop their intellectual skills. Women's social activities were further hampered by their daily obligations, which would absorb most of their time.

In a study done by Tube (2013) among the Somali community in Garissa revealed that women often face discrimination and persistent gender inequalities, with some women

experiencing multiple discrimination and exclusion in economic empowerment because of various social cultural factors. The study also revealed various factors that affected the economic empowerment of women and one of them was gender roles. In an example given in the study, women were pressured to stay at home, look after children and care for the husband and family which limited women from economic development as women had to cope with taking care of their families. Another factor revealed that hindered women economic empowerment was gender stereotyping. The study further showed that family responsibilities affected women economic empowerment. For example, women roles in the family, such as child bearing hindered their economic empowerment (Tube, 2013). The community believed in women staying at home while the Somali customs also do not recognize women economic empowerment. The Somali community valued women who stayed at home to look after children.

However in another study by Nkumbuku (2013) noted that men are slowly accepting women leadership and their participation in community development. This is contrary to the fact that socio-cultural factors have a lot of influence on women's participation in decision making and conflict resolutions. Women usually consulted their male relatives since they felt that leadership role was a reserve for men in the society. The study also revealed that the society expected men to take decision making role and conflict resolutions with women only being left as spectators (Nkumhuku. 2013). This is because the community's culture had a role to play in allocating gender role. A traditionally ascribed role that is in terms of gender, determines women's careers and progress.

2.3 Effect of Change in Gender Roles

In a study done by Khalid (2011) he noted that Pakistani migrants to UK, before their departure, live in a traditional Muslim and patriarchal society where gender roles are organized in terms of sex and age of its members. In the host industrialized society they experience living in a more liberal and egalitarian environment where segregation of sexes is not practiced, relationships between men and women are more informal and gender roles are more flexible and permissive. Shared responsibility for housework and childcare is more likely to be practiced by Pakistani couples in UK than in the country of their origin.

Scott (2006) notes that in the last couple of years there has been a transformation of women's roles, particularly in terms of their participation in the labour market. There is also increasing secularization which is likely to have eroded the traditional religious base of many moral absolutes associated with family issues and behaviours, like divorce, adultery, homosexuality and abortion. This has resulted in the general pattern of change in household and family structures in Western European families has seen marriage rates fall, divorce and cohabitation on the increase and a marked drop in overall fertility, despite the increased numbers of children born out of wedlock (Scott, 2006). Such trends are used as evidence that the importance of family life is declining, with dire consequences for social integration.

Women's gender roles have been stretched beyond traditional limits to meet the new domestic, social and economic needs of the family and local community. Many women are now taking the main role in domestic decision-making and working in whatever way they can to provide an income for their families, even where men are present in the household. On the other hand, she notes that men's gender roles have tended to contract and that overall men remain in control of the political domain and women remain excluded but men have reduced economic and decision-making power in the home. Many men are no longer the family breadwinner instead they are now financially dependent on their kinswomen (Ellis, 2000)

2.4 Theoretical Framework: Social Role Theory

According to social role theory that was developed by Alice Eagly who was a social psychologist states that, behavioral sex differences arise from the differential social roles inhabited by women and men, especially those concerning the division of labor (Eagly, Wood,& Dickman, 2000). 1-historically, because of economic, ecological, social, and technological pressures, women and men were assigned to labor tasks that were suitable to their physical attributes. Thus naturally, men were more likely to fulfill tasks that required speed, strength, and the ability to be away from home for expanded periods of time. On the other hand, because women were primarily responsible for childbearing, they were more likely to fulfill tasks related to home and family. As a result of these differential social roles played by men and women based upon this division of labor, gender roles developed concerning expectations about the characteristics and behaviors of women and men. (Wood & Eagly. 2002).

Descriptive and injunctive social norms help to maintain adherence to traditional gender roles. For example, descriptive norms provide people with information about how similar people behave in specific situations (Cialdini, Kallgren, & Reno, 1991). Thus, people look to the behaviors of same-sex others to determine the appropriate way to behave in specific situations, especially situations that are ambiguous or confusing (example concerning what gender appropriate clothing should be worn to a party).

Injunctive norms on the other hand, are expectations about how people are supposed to behave. Thus, they provide guidelines as to behaviors that are likely to elicit disapproval or shame (Cialdini, Kallgren, & Reno, 1991). Men and women who violate injunctive norms concerning gender role behavior (example, men should provide for their families) are likely to experience social disapproval. Together, descriptive and injunctive norms work to help maintain individuals' adherence to traditional gender roles because deviations from these are likely to produce unpleasant social interactions. Today, more women and men are violating traditional gender role norms as they take on social roles that are traditionally held by the other sex (example, male homemakers, and female leaders). As predicted by social role theory, their perceived gender role orientations (masculine or feminine) become linked to the social roles they occupy rather than to their sex (Eagly, Wood, & Diekmann, 2000). Thus, women and men in leadership roles are more likely to be perceived as agentic (i.e., masculine gender role orientation.), whereas women and men in nurturing roles, such, as homemakers, are more likely to be perceived as communal (i.e., feminine gender role orientation). Support for social role theory comes

from research that shows that perceptions of the gender role orientations of women are influenced by the social roles they fulfill.

The theory is relevant to our study because it applies to the Somali community in that they are a traditionally pastoralist community that was patriarchal but the changing climatic patterns ,civil wars and economic times have forced them to change their traditional gender roles. Somali women's role has been, to provide all the labor necessary to ensure the daily survival of the family (Maxamuud. 2011).But that has significantly changed as the women have to take the men's role to provide for their children. Since the men are no longer reliable, due to either drug addiction, some have been killed in inter clan wars, others are polygamous and opt not to provide for the many children the leave behind among other reasons.

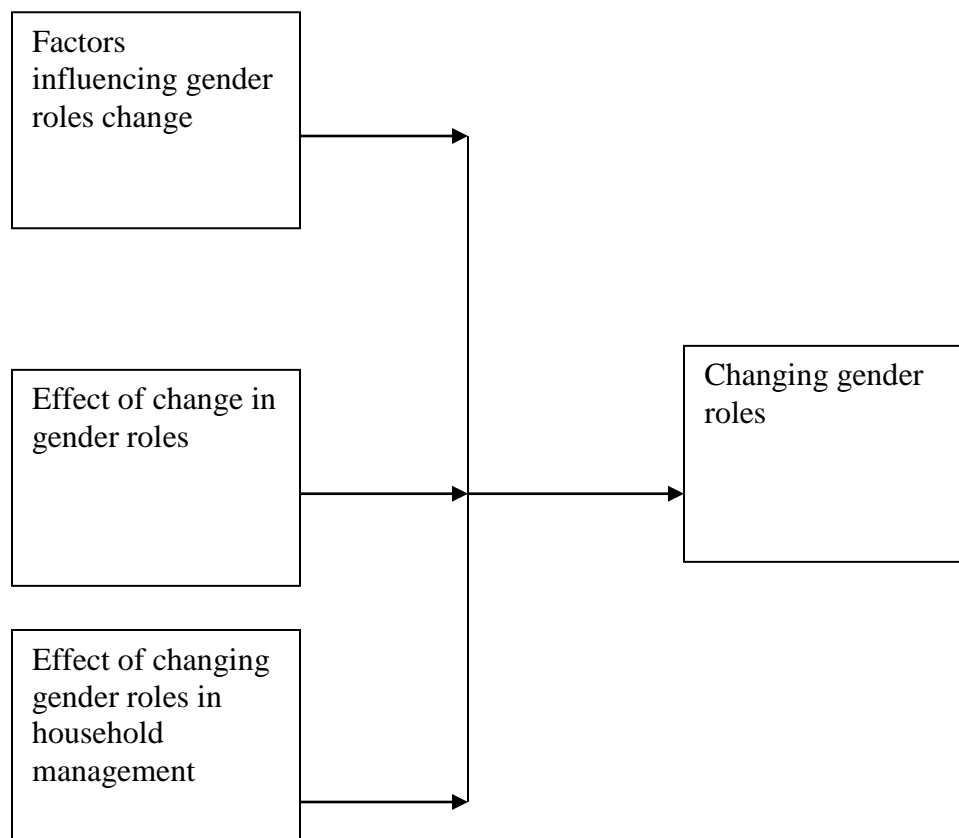
The theory was developed to help us better understand social functioning and behavior. The theory, used with research on family systems, is built on the premise that men and women behave differently based on societal expectations. These behavioral differences emerge in the home, the workforce, and other social situations. Social role theory explains gender roles, authoritative roles, roles that are specific to situations, role switching, and stereotypes. Gender roles are a reflection of the expectations that are associated with various roles of men and women.

The study will be based on the following assumption:

- i. That the Somali tradition and community in general expect the men to be the breadwinners of their families and that women's role is limited at household level.
- ii. The women in the community cannot take up positions or even get involved in the labour market, or compete fairly with the men to get an income. But given the opportunity women can equally provide for their families and perform all kinds of work.

2.5 Conceptual Framework

Figure 2.1 Conceptual framework



Source: Researcher (2014)

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This section discussed the research design, target population, data collection methods, procedures and instruments used in data collection as well as analysis and presentation of the collected data. It also outlined the ethical issues. Kothari (2004) defines research methodology as a systematic way of solving the research problem.

3.2 Research Design

This study was based on a descriptive study primarily using qualitative analysis to determine the changing gender roles among the women of arid and semi-arid community. The advantages of descriptive studies are that it's a quick and inexpensive method of study and the researcher had control over selection of subjects. The researcher also used household questioners that targeted Female Headed Households Focus Group Discussion to collect further information from the Community's different committees with emphasis on women groups that was randomly picked to represent at least three the different constituency. Key Informant Interview were also used to gather information from the local authority concerning how these changes are affecting the community and also families at household level. The methods is preferred in this study because it provides an in depth analysis. It aimed at collecting information from respondents (Garissa County residents) on the changing gender roles among women the arid and semiarid community.

3.3 Target Population

The target population in this study consisted of households from various sub-counties in Garissa County. The target population was a total of 60 households since it research

being done on the same community that share many similarities and face the same challenges . The target population is chosen from each of the sub-counties in Garissa. A population is a group of individuals, objects or items from which samples are taken for measurement. It is the entire group or elements that have at least one thing in common (Kombo & Tromp, 2006). According to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), a population is a well defined as a set of people, services, elements and events, group of things or households that are being investigated. The target population is shown below in table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Target Population

Sub-county	Target population
Garissa township	10
Fafi	10
Dadaab	10
Lagdera	10
Balambala	10
Ijara	10
Total	60

3.4 Sample Design

The researcher used simple random sampling in order to acquire the required sample. Cooper and Schinder (2003) define sampling as a selection of few items (sample) from a bigger group (Population) to become the basis for predicting a situation or outcome regarding a bigger group.

3.5. Sampling Technique

The researcher used simple random sampling where every individual in the group stands an equal chance to be selected.

3.6 Sample Size and Determination

Sample size was determined using the formula as designed by Fischer et al (1998)

$$n = Z^2 P \frac{(1-P)}{d^2}$$

Z- is the corresponding confidence level (i.e. 1.96 for 95% confidence interval)

d- is the margin of error (i.e. 0.05 = ± 5%)

p-is the estimated value for the proportion of a sample that has the condition of interest.

P- 50% (the most conservative estimate) = 0.5

Table 3.2 Sample size

Sub-county	Target population	Target sample
Garissa township	36780	10
Fafi	9339	10
Dadaab	18608	10
Lagdera	21054	10
Balambala	11629	10
Ijara	10783	10
Total	107,783	60

Source: County Population Statistics 2015

3.7 Data Collection

The researcher used questionnaires in data collection. It consisted of both structured and semi-structured questions. Before the research tool is administered to participants, pre-testing was carried out to ensure that the questions are relevant and, clearly understandable. This pre-testing involved three households. The responses that was gotten was not included in the final analysis. Expert opinion were requested from the supervisor on the representativeness and suitability of questions and suggestions of corrections to be made to the structure of the research tools. This helped improve the content validity and reliability of the data that was collected.

3.7.1 Validity of Research Instrument

This study used content validity which fully measure the constructs of interest, questionnaires were formulated for a pilot study to determine which questions need to be

modified or discarded altogether. Bernstein (1994) defines validity as the extent to which the instrument measures what it purports to measure.

3.7.2 Reliability of the Questionnaires

The researcher used a scientific reliability coefficient test from the pilot study to determine the reliability of the questionnaires. The questionnaires was then delivered personally and with the help of four assistants who are trained on how to use it. There will be also a supervisor who was in charge of the research assistants. The questionnaires were designed on a 5-point Likert scale because of its easiness to develop, use and filling. The questionnaires also have open ended questions that helped to acquire more in depth information.

3.8 Data Analysis and reporting

The data collected was analyzed quantitatively using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) Version 20. The computed data was analyzed using descriptive statistics including frequencies, means, and percentages. Interpretation of the data will be done within the frame of reference of the research problem.

3.9 Ethical Issues

The data that was collected and moved from the field in flash disk and CD ROMs and virus protection put up in place. Only authorized persons had access to the raw data. Confidentiality was observed by moving the data in sealed envelopes and ensuring no unauthorized persons access the data. The names of persons was not indicated in the

report though the data is available for academic verification. This ensured that the identities of the respondents remain anonymous.

The researcher did not interview anyone outside the study and also had not interviewed the target sample without a mutual understanding between them. The respondents was assured of confidentiality and protection. It was also made clear that the information gathered was solely used for this study. Confidentiality was also taken seriously by the researcher. Thus each participant's response was treated in confidence and not released to any other party for whatever reasons.

4.0 Data Analysis and Interpretation

4.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an analysis of data collected from the field. The results have been presented in tables, figures and content delivery to highlight the major findings. They are also presented sequentially according to the research questions of the study. Mean scores and standard deviations analyses have been used to analyze the data collected. The raw data was coded, evaluated and tabulated to depict the changing gender roles among the Somali women of Garissa County. Questionnaires were distributed to 60 respondents and only 55 were returned fully completed. This constituted a response rate of 91.6%. According to Mugenda Mugenda (1999), a response rate of more than 80% is sufficient enough for the study.

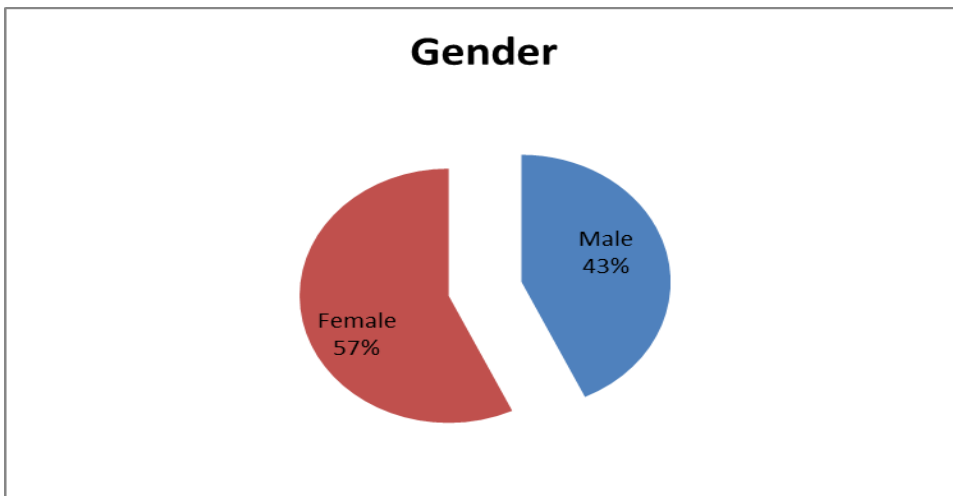
4.2 Demographic Characteristics

The study sought to establish the information on the respondents employed in the study with regards to the gender, education level, age, marital status and their major economic activities. These bio data points at the respondents' appropriateness in answering the study questions

4.2.1 Gender

The respondents were asked to show their gender, this was expected to guide the researcher on the conclusions regarding the degree of congruence of responses with the gender characteristics. The figure below shows the results of the findings based on the gender analysis.

Figure 4.1: Gender

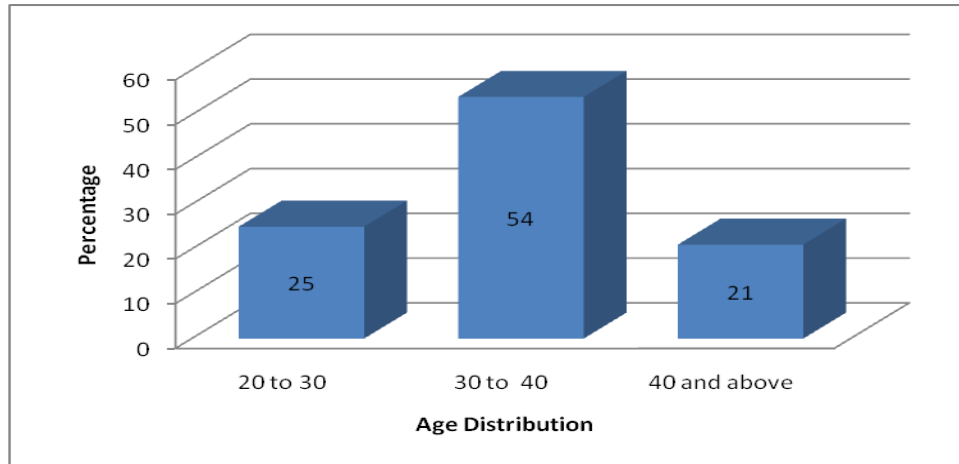


The results as in the figure 4.1 show that majority of the respondent were Female at 57% while male was 43% implying that most of the women opt to work to provide.

4.2.2 Distribution of Age Group

The respondents were asked to disclose their age. The figure 4.2 below shows the study finding on the distribution of age of respondents.

Figure 4.2: Distribution of Age Group

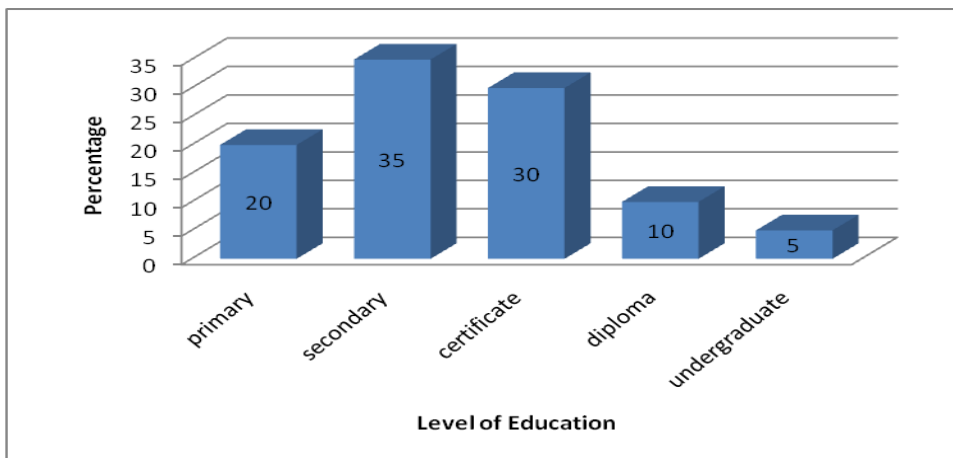


The results presented in figure 4.2 show that a large proportion of 54% the respondents were aged from the ages of 30 to 40 years; this was followed by a significant percentage 25% that were aged from 20-30 years while 21% of the respondents were aged above 40 years.

4.2.3 Education Level

The respondents were asked to indicate their education level. Figure 4.3 shows the study findings

Figure 4.3: academic background

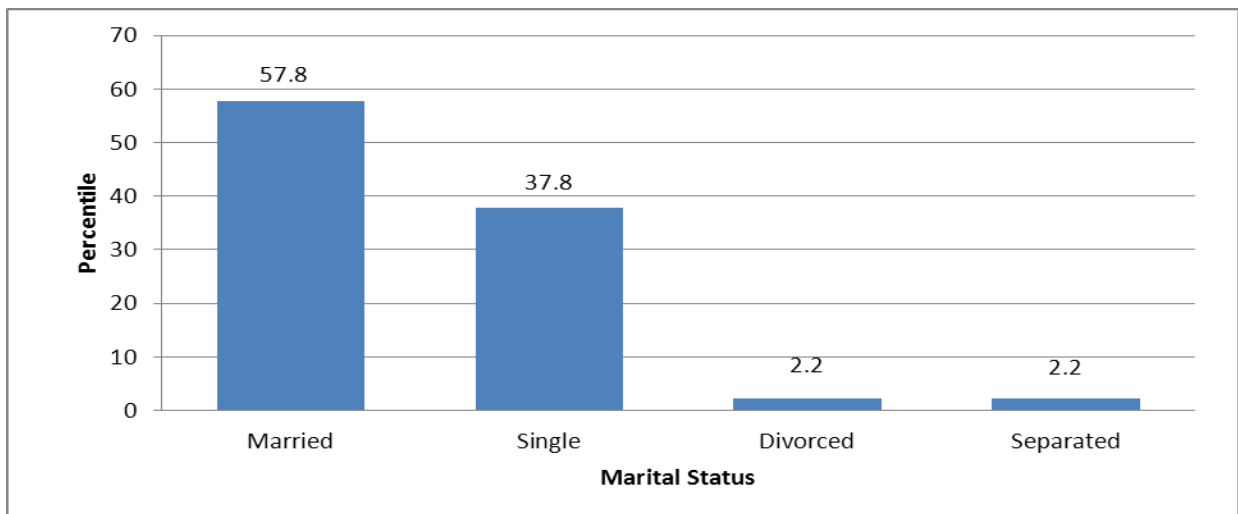


Results show that majority 35% of respondents had attained education up to secondary level. 30% were certificate holder. 20% had attained education up to primary level, 10% were diploma holders while 5% were undergraduates.

4.2.4 Marital Status

The respondents were asked about their marital status, the figure below shows the study findings

Figure 4.4: Marital Status

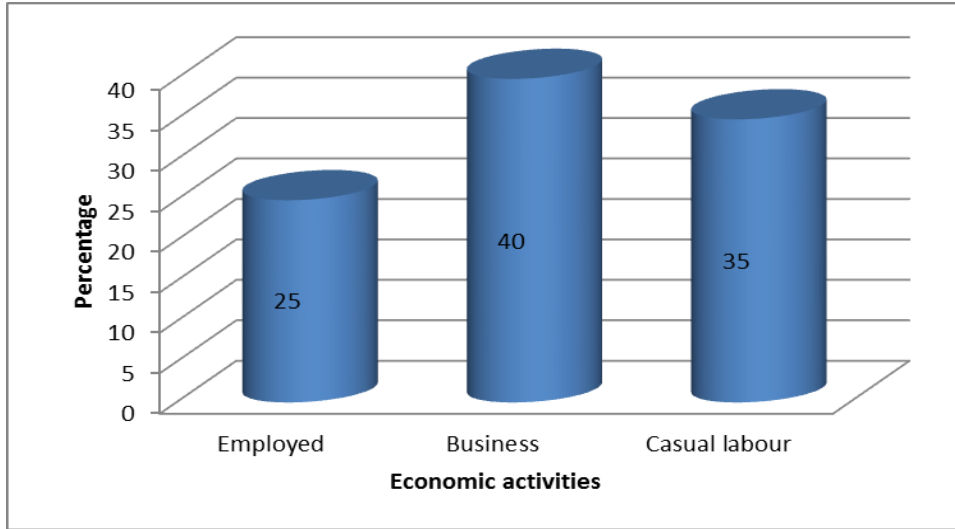


The findings show that majority of the respondents 57.8 percent who participated in this study were married followed by singles 37.8 percent whilst divorced and separated formed the least number 2.2 percent each.

4.2.5 Economic activities

The respondents were asked to indicate their major economic activities. the figure below shows the study findings

Figure 4.5: Economic activities



The results show that majority 40% of the respondents were in business, followed by 35% who were casual labourers and 25% were employed.

4.3 Roles or beliefs concerning each gender

The respondents were asked to rate the following factors on roles or beliefs concerning each gender.

Table 4.1: Roles or beliefs concerning each gender

Factors Under Consideration	Mean	Standard deviation
Women are supposed to take care of the children	4.4029	0.6653
Women are the backbone of society	4.3658	0.8688
Men are supposed to be the bread winners of the family	4.5517	0.7541
Women should not own any property	4.2154	0.6857
Women should not engage in business or any economic activity	4.0357	0.6648

The results show that majority of respondents strongly agreed that people believe that men are supposed to be the bread winners of the family as agreed with a mean of 4.5517. The respondents agreed that women are supposed to take care of the children with a mean of 4.4029 followed by those who agreed that women are the backbone of society with a mean of 4.3658 and they agreed that people believe that women should not own any property with a mean of 4.2154. The respondents finally agreed that people believe that women should not engage in business or any economic activity as indicated with a mean of 4.0357.

4.4 Factors influencing the roles of each gender

The respondents were asked to rate the following factors on the influence of each gender role.

Table 4.2: Factors influencing the roles of each gender

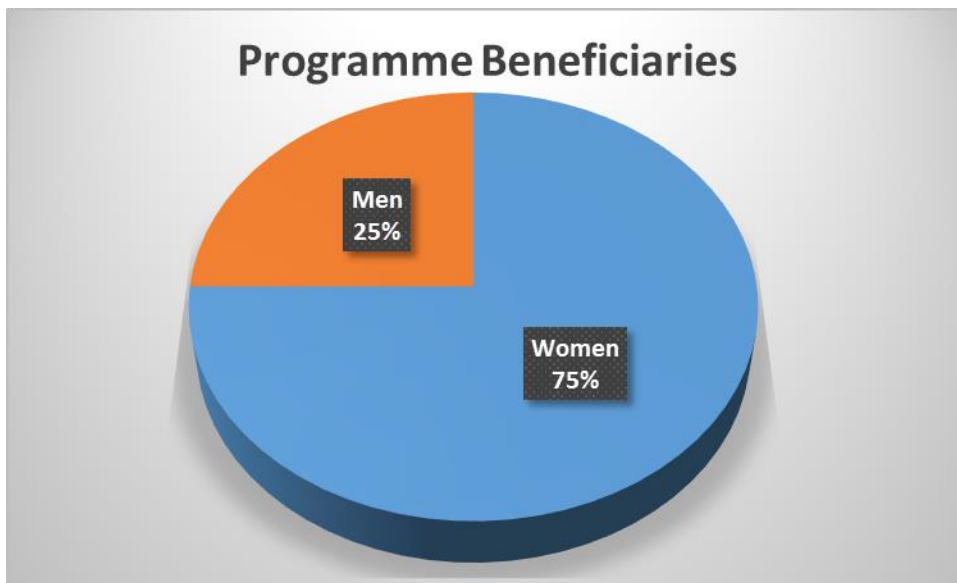
Factors Under Consideration	Mean	Standard deviation
War and conflict	3.6779	0.8655
Immigration to foreign countries	3.0524	0.8651
Recent policy changes by the government	3.0625	0.3265
Death of husband	2.0741	0.5554
Poverty	4.3873	0.4124
Family violence	4.0651	0.8647
Unemployment of men	4.1233	0.8101
Higher education levels for women	4.2215	0.3261

The results show that the respondents agreed that poverty influences each gender role with a mean of 4.3873. This was followed by those who indicated that higher education levels for women as indicated with a mean of 4.2215. Higher education levels for women was agreed with a mean of 4.2215 and unemployment of men was agreed on as a factor that influences each gender role with a mean of 4.1233. It was indicated that war and conflict influences each gender role with a mean of 3.6779. The respondents moderately agreed that recent policy changes by the government influences each gender role with a mean of 3.0625 and Immigration to foreign countries was rated with a mean of 3.0524. The respondents disagreed that death of husband influences each gender role with a mean of 2.0741

4.4.1 Programme Beneficiaries

The respondents were asked to indicate whom the programmes which are run by various organizations during war benefit the most.

Figure 4.6: Programme Beneficiaries

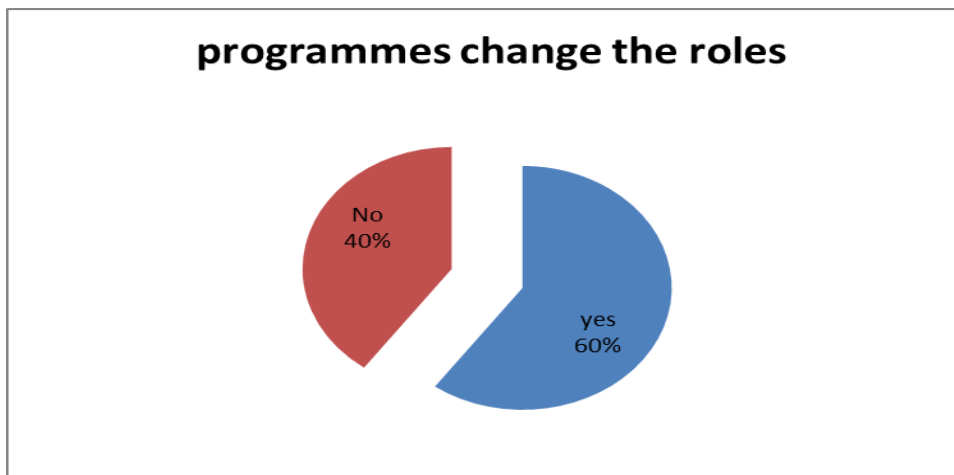


The findings show that a majority of 75% of the respondents indicated that programmes which are run by various organizations during war benefit women the most. While 25% indicated that the programmes which are run by various organizations during war benefit men the most.

4.4.2 The Programmes change the Roles

The respondents were asked to indicate whether the Programmes change the Roles

Figure 4.7: The Programmes change the Roles



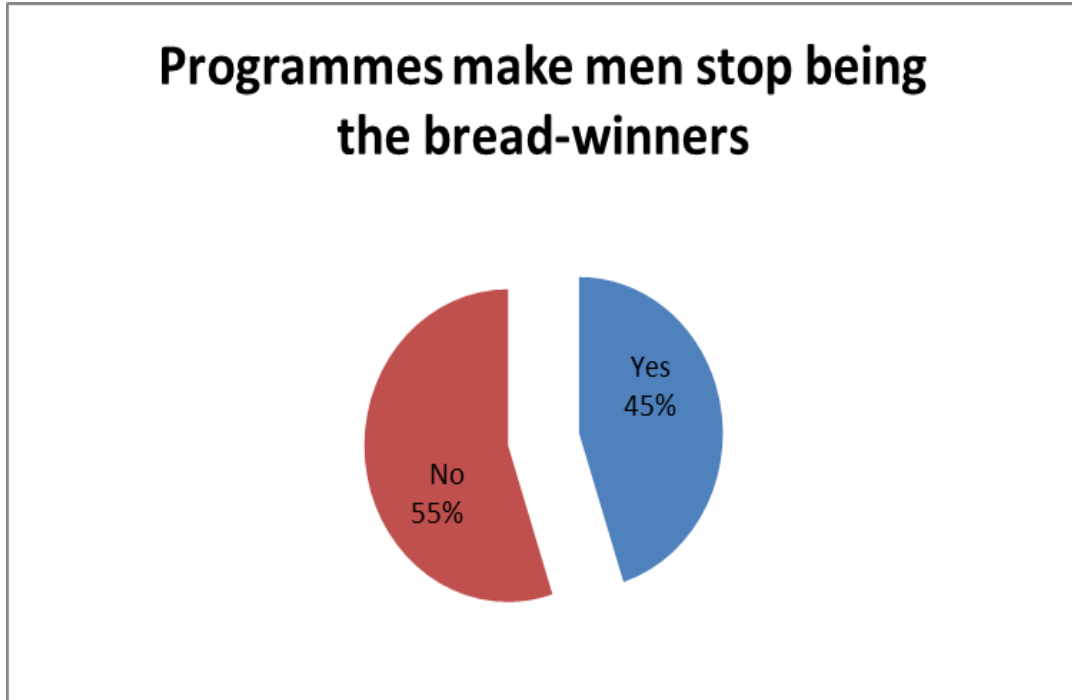
It was found that the programmes change the roles since a majority of 60% of the respondents agreed while 40% did not agree that programmes change the roles.

4.5 Effect of Change in Gender Roles

4.5.1 The Programmes make men stop being the bread-winners

The respondents were asked to indicate whether the programmes that are run by organizations that benefit the women make men stop being the bread-winners of their families.

Figure 4.8: Programmes make men stop being the bread-winners



The study shows that majority 45% of the respondents were on the view that programmes that are run by organizations that are women centred make do not make men stop being the bread-winners of their families while 55% of the respondents were on the view that programmes that are run by organizations that are women centred make not make men stop being the bread-winners of their families.

5.5.2 Factors on effects of changing gender roles

The respondents were asked to rate the following factors on effects of changing gender roles

Table 4.3: Factors on effects of changing gender roles

Factors Under Consideration	Mean	Standard deviation
Competition between men and women	4.0325	0.9654
Increased women empowerment	4.2653	0.4325
Increased drug abuse among men especially chewing Khat	4.3876	0.6758
Increased marital violence	3.9854	0.4356
Increased role strain as women also act as breadwinners	4.0029	0.6063
Increased numbers of women-led families	3.9658	0.8568
Increased migration of men to towns to seek employment	3.8517	0.7651
Increase participation of women in leadership	4.2054	0.6327
A decrease in number of forced marriages	3.5357	0.6008
Increase in the number of girls to school	3.9029	0.6963

The results show that majority of the respondents agreed that there was Increased drug abuse among men especially chewing Khat with a mean of 4.3876 since they had nothing to do, followed by those who indicated that there was increased women empowerment with a mean of 4.2653. Increase participation of women in leadership was rated with a mean of 4.2054 and there was increased role strain as women also act as breadwinners as rated with a mean of 4.0029.

The respondents continued to agree that there was Competition between men and women with a mean of 4.0325. Another effect was that there was increased marital violence as

rated with a mean of 3.9658, there was an increase in the number of girls going to school as rated with a mean of 3.9029 and there was increased migration of men to towns to seek employment rated with a mean of 3.8517. The respondents finally agreed though not so highly that there was a decrease in number of forced marriages with a mean of 3.5357.

5.0 Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents summary of findings as discussed in chapter four and interpretations of the data analysis, conclusions and recommendations based on the findings.

5.2 Summary of findings

This study was done to explore the changing gender roles among the Somali women of Garissa County. The findings show that by identifying the factors influencing gender roles change among the Somali women and establishing the effect.

The findings also show that the changes and flexibility in gender roles which are being evident today has its roots in the changing social structure. Economic factors, advancement in sciences and changed value system. Consequently the ambit of economic and household responsibilities has changed.

The findings has also brought about the fact that previously in the family system there was a clear-cut division of responsibilities or duties with women looking after the domestic matters and the men taking charge of out of home and financial matters. It has been realized that today the nuclear set-up allows for no such demarcation the man is no longer the sole bread-winner and woman no longer a mere caretaker of the house. This is also due to the economic compulsions. With the financial security provided by joint

family system no longer available and cost of living ever increasing there is a need for an extra earning member to supplement the income of the family. The women are thus forced to earn as well to meet the cost of domestic demands. In the initial stages of this phase the women were not offered any help in domestic affairs and she performed both the supplementary role of an earning member and her natural role of a housewife. Gradually the attitude of men is changing to a certain extent that men adopted the woman's role at least when compulsion to do so arose.

Findings also show that due to the large numbers of men overseas in the military, women are now holding jobs that traditionally belonged to men. Despite rigid prescriptions of appropriate gender roles, some men cope with economic stress by adopting new roles in the household as women becomes the new breadwinners women in their desperation to keep the family together and provide food for their children, poor women have emerged in large numbers in the informal sector, despite the risk and discrimination they face. They make up only one percent of the formal labor force. As men become unemployed and under-employed, households increasingly depend on women's incomes in jobs, which are often considered marginal or degrading.

5.3 Conclusion

The study concludes that changing roles to accommodate the social or professional pressures has become a common phenomenon. Women are now taking the main role in domestic decision-making and working in whatever way they can to provide an income for their families. They do so even where men are present in the household. Men's gender

roles have tended to contract and that overall men remain in control of the political domain and women remain excluded but men have reduced economic and decision-making power in the home. Many men are no longer the family breadwinner instead they are now financially dependent on their kinswomen. This has continued to shape the way men and women view gender roles today. Whereas maintaining a home had always been considered a woman's job, there have been increases in male contributions to housework. Men continue to attach significance to the breadwinner role as the primary way of producing a masculine. Much of this attachment is due to the idealization of male employment, and the fact that paid employment is most often the only source of masculine identity available to men.

5.4 Further studies suggestion

Future research could also be performed on the ways in which maternal employment, race, political orientation, and religiosity affect gender role attitudes. The mechanisms through which these effects arise also merit investigation. Also, analyses could be conducted in the future to determine whether other background variables shape gender role attitudes, and whether such factors operate in the same way for women and men.

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Appendices

Appendix I: Questionnaire

I am carrying out a study on changing gender roles among the women in the Somali community of the Garissa county, Kindly provide the information as required by the questionnaire. The findings will be used solely for the purposes of the research and no individual shall be intimidated based on their response. The study results shall be availed to the interested parties upon request.

Section Three: Demographics

1. Gender: Male Female
2. Education level: None Primary Secondary Certificate
Diploma Degree Masters PhD
3. Marital Status: Married Separated Divorced Single
4. Age group: 18-23 24-29 yr 30-35 36 and above
5. Economic activity: Employed Business Woman Casual labour

Section two: Factors Influencing Gender Roles Change

1. On a scale of 1-5 where 1- very much disagree, 2- disagree, 3- not sure, 4-agree and 5- very much agree state how much you agree with the following statements regarding the roles/beliefs concerning each gender

Description	Response				
	1	2	3	4	5
Women are supposed to take care of the children					
Women are the backbone of society					

Men are suppose to be the bread winners of the family					
Women should not own any property					
Women should not engage in business or any economic activity					

2. On a scale of 1-5 where 1- very much disagree, 2- disagree, 3- not sure, 4-agree and 5- very much agree state how much you agree with the following statements regarding the factors influencing the roles of each gender

Description	Response				
	1	2	3	4	5
War and conflict					
Immigration to foreign countries					
Recent policy changes by the government					
Death of husband					
Poverty					
Family violence					
Unemployment of men					
Higher education levels for women					

3. i) During war many organizations run various programmes. To whom do these

programmes benefit the most? Men Women

ii) Do these programmes change the roles played by either gender? Yes No

Section three: Effect of change in gender roles

1. Are the programmes that are run by organizations that are women centred make men stop being the bread-winners of their families? Yes No

2. On a scale of 1-5 where 1- very much disagree, 2- disagree, 3- not sure, 4-agree and 5- very much agree state how much you agree with the following statements regarding the effects of changing gender roles

Description	Response				
	1	2	3	4	5
Competition between men and women					
Increased women empowerment					
Increased drug abuse among men especially chewing khat					
Increased marital violence					
Increased role strain as women also act as breadwinners					
Increased numbers of women-led families					
Increased migration of men to towns to seek employment					
Increase participation of women in leadership					
A decrease in number of forced marriages					
Increase in the number of girls to school					

Appendix II: Map of Garissa County And Different Constituencies

