



CHAPTER 5



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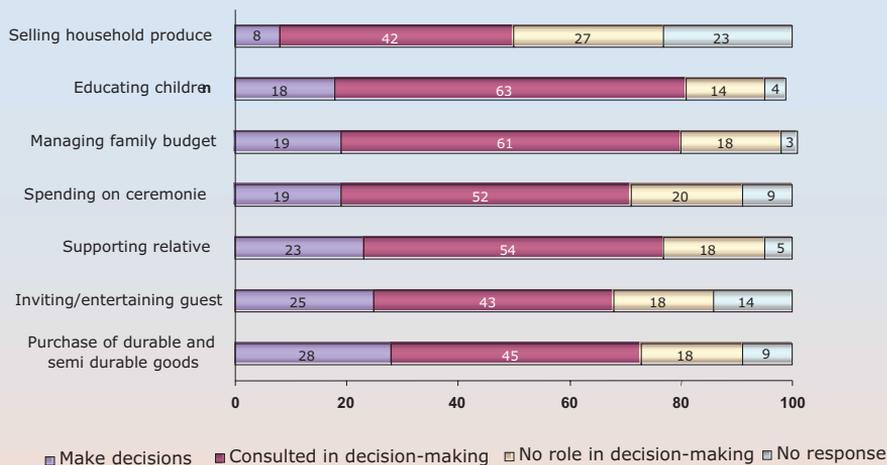
Participation of Women

Traditionally, Somali women were considered to play a passive role in both family and public spheres. However, it is now thought that they are becoming more active in the economic and social front after the civil war. The survey schedule incorporated a section to assess the role of women in household decision-making and their participation in various economic and social activities. These questions were administered only to the female members of the households. Compared to all other questions, the rate of non-response was highest for this section.

Women's Participation in Household Decision Making

A cross-section of social and economic activities were identified to assess the participation of women in decision-making. Women are either consulted or they make decisions on purchasing durable/semi-durable household items (73%), entertaining guests (68%), supporting relatives (77%), spending on ceremonies (71%), managing the family budget (79%), educating children (81%) and selling household produce (50%). The pattern is similar in both urban and rural areas.

Chart 5.1 - Women's participation in household decision making (%)





Women's Participation in Selected Socio Economic Activities

Female members of the household were questioned on their participation in women's group and local councils. A popular community based women's group is *uruurka haweenka* normally formed at district level by female representatives from different communities. 6.4 percent and 16.8 percent of the urban households and 3.6 percent and 13 percent of the rural and nomadic households confirmed regular and occasional participation in women's groups respectively. Women from 71.2

percent of the households in urban and 78 percent from non-urban areas stated that they have never participated in any women's group. Similarly, their participation rates in local councils are quite low. Even though comparative figures are not available for the pre-war period, the general impression is that these rates represent an upward trend. This is evident in women's participation in economic activities. About 21 percent of households reported women working regularly on family farms/herding, 11 percent running a shop or kiosk and 8 percent undertaking wage employment.

