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The Role of Informal Sector for Female-Headed Households Security in Sekota Town, Wag Himira Zone

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The Role of Informal Sector for Female-Headed Households' Food Security in

Sekota Town, Wag Himira Zone

By

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Abstract

Urban poverty and unemployment have been increasing in several Ethiopian cities. Many people, particularly the urban women and other impoverished groups of society, were pushed into various income-generating activities in the informal sector as a result of these factors. Thus, the purpose of the study was to investigate the role of the informal sectors in improving FHH's food security in Sekota town. The study employed a mixed-methods approach. The quantitative data were collected using a structured questionnaire administered to 116 randomly selected women informal operators of the town and the qualitative data were gathered using FGD and key-informant interviews. Quantitative data were analyzed using univariate, bivariate, and multivariate techniques. Qualitative data were analyzed thematically. The study was guided by sustainable livelihood framework and self-assessment indicators of household food security situations were used to evaluate food security. The findings showed that the informal sector businesses have important contributions towards enhancing the food security status of the FHHs. Of all sampled respondents 56% were food secured. The major factors that influence the household food security status of women informal sector operators were age, family size, income level, saving status, and experience in the business. The study found out that women informal operators in the study areas lack access to a variety of livelihood resources and opportunities, particularly credit, basic infrastructure, and workspace. The findings have implications to policy, social work intervention, and future research.

Keywords: Informal sector, Food security, Female-Headed household, Sustainable livelihood.

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List of Acronyms

ACSI	Amhara Credit and Saving Institution
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANRS	Amhara National Regional State
CSA	Central Statistics Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FHH	Female-Headed Household
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILO	International Labor Organization
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SSA	Sub-Sahara Africa
WFP	World Food Program
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment: Globalization and Organization

Chapter One: Introduction

Background of the Study

Food insecurity is related to three major factors namely availability, utilization of food, and accessibility to food or a combination of these factors (Burke, 2010 in Chibende, 2011). About 850 million people are malnourished and live in dehumanizing, abject poverty. Hunger and malnutrition kill more people every year than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined, and more people die from hunger than in wars (Shaw 2007: in Even-Zahav, 2016). At the center of this human tragedy is food insecurity, the inability to access the safe and nutritious food necessary for a healthy and active life. According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2019) reports, around two billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity, of which over 98 % are in developing countries. In developing countries, hunger and malnutrition remain serious problems (FAO, 2010). Thus, food insecurity has become a major concern in development discussions in developing countries.

In developing countries, rapid urbanization expands urban poverty and food insecurity (Tolossa, 2008; Kinyanjui, 2014; Skinner & Haysom, 2016; Yuki, 2012). Around 40% of the urban population in Africa is living below the poverty line (Crush & Frayne, 2010). Moreover, the prevalence of food insecurity is high in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region which faces the challenge of chronic food insecurity, with an estimated 23.2 % of its population being food insecure (WFP, 2020).

As a developing country, Ethiopia is also deeply affected by food insecurity (Martínez, Feddersen & Speicher 2016). According to CSA (2014), about 30% of the population lives in

poverty, and 40% of Ethiopian households are food insecure. Despite efforts to improve the food security situation, it was proven that the number of people in Ethiopia who are affected by food shortages has remained relatively high.

Many developing countries' food security evaluations indicated that it has concentrated on rural areas. However, the global increase in cereal and pulse prices, as well as the global financial crisis, have created challenges and increased food insecurity in developing country cities (Gebrie, 2012). According to Crush et al. (2010), food purchase is critical in urban areas, and in most countries, food prices are rising faster than inflation, with deleterious consequences for household food security amongst the poorer segment of society. In urban areas, residents are the most vulnerable populations with low household income and food insecurity. Urbanization is occurring faster in developing countries which may lead to the development of slums and pose a considerable threat to all dimensions of food security because the majority of urban dwellers are net food buyers and spend a large part of their disposable income on food (Gebrie, 2012; Epherem, 2015).

The informal sector is the major source of livelihood particularly for the urban population in developing countries (ILO, 2002). According to Yuki (2007), urbanization is associated with sizable job creation in the informal sector thus large urban poor, unskilled, migrant, and unemployed urban residents earn their livelihood from the urban informal sector business activities. As ILO report (2018), More than 61 % of the world's employed population earns their livelihoods in the informal sector. Informality exists in all countries of the world regardless of the level of socio-economic development, but the prevalence of informal sector business activity is very high in developing countries. Similarly, the sector plays a central role in

Ethiopia's labor market, accounting for an estimated 71% of urban employment (CSA, 2003). Therefore, the formal sector serves as a vital source of income and safety net for the urban poor.

According to International Labor Office (ILO) (2018), the informal economy became the way out of unemployment and a source of livelihood for the majority of global women. Assessing the outcome of informal sector business activities specifically its role for female-headed household's food security is significant because out of the 2 billion workers in informal employment worldwide, more than 740 million are women (ILO, 2018). As ILO report (2018), in Africa, 89.7 % of working women are in informal sector activity in contrast to 82.7 % of men. In general, the informal sector has become feminized in that increasing numbers of women look to the sector as a survivalist economy, one that they depend on in order to sustain their children and households.

In Ethiopia, CSA (2003) reported that 59.99 % of urban micro-enterprise operators were women. The informal sector benefits the urban poor, socially marginalized, women, those who lack the skill for formal jobs through the creation of employment opportunities and income generation activities. The sector has an important contribution towards enhancing the food accessibility and livelihood condition of the urban poor (Gebre, 2012; Fillmon, 2011; Tegegne & Meheret 2010; Samirawit, 2011).

Wag-Himra is one of Ethiopia's chronically food-insecure areas, with the majority of households are unable to produce enough food for their own consumption (Solomon, 2017). People in the area believe that temporary and permanent rural-urban migration is their only way to improve their living conditions. During the 2015 drought, more than 80% of the population was subjected to temporary handouts, and more than 3000 households in the Zone seasonally

migrate as a coping mechanism (Solomon, 2017). As a result, economic factors like drought, poverty, and food insecurity are pushing residents from various Woredas in the Wag Himira Administrative Zone to come to Sekota town. As a result of rural-urban migration, the number of persons seeking jobs in informal business operations has increased, particularly among women.

Due to the severe economic problems in the Zone, women are highly affected than men. Despite the fact that women are concentrated in the informal sector, as a livelihood strategy the outcome or the role of informal sector business activities in ensuring food security in female-headed households (FHH) has not been investigated. Furthermore, food insecurity and vulnerability in the research area appear to be rising rather than reducing over time. As a result, residents in the Zone are constantly threatened with food insecurity, famine, and migration. This suggests that the importance of the informal sector on food security should be examined further. Therefore, this study investigated the role of the informal sector-preparing and selling local beverages and foods in contributing food security, as well as the major factors affecting women informal operators' household food security levels and the capital assets that women operators in the study area accessed.

In order to analyze the findings of this study, the study employed sustainable livelihood approach (SLA). One of the ways to understand SLA in this study was analyzing the livelihood strategies and livelihood outcome particularly household food security status of women informal operators in the study area. The SLA makes the connection between people and the overall enabling environment that influences the outcome of livelihood strategies and brings attention to bear on the inherent potential of people in terms of their skills, social networks and access to physical and financial resources.

Statement of the Problem

According to Samirawit (2011), Ethiopia like many other African countries, has experienced rapid population growth due to rapid urbanization, which has been fueled by natural increases and high rates of rural-urban migration. Due to the formal jobs in urban areas necessitate schooling, specific ability, and training the formal economy fails to provide economic opportunities for those seeking work since the majority of people do not meet these minimum criteria. On the other hand, creating job opportunities for the country's unskilled and illiterate population is a major challenge. The informal sector is the primary source of livelihood and it is a means of income generation for the urban poor, especially for those who migrate from the rural areas.

Individuals need a variety of livelihood assets to attain positive livelihood outcome; no single asset category can provide all of the many and varied livelihood outcomes that people want (DFID, 2000). Women who work as informal operators encounter a number of issues relating to their livelihood assets. The principal livelihood asset related hurdles experienced by women who work in the informal sector are a lack of capital equipment, a lack of space, difficulties with existing regulations, financial problems, and a lack of basic infrastructure (Samirawit 2011; Peprah, Buor, & Forkuor 2019). Nonetheless, the informal sector provides jobs to the urban poor, especially women, and it helps them overcome various obstacles to survival that the formal sector does not. According to Becker (2004), if government policies, laws, services, and institutions support the sector, it will ensure food security. Several factors have been considered as factors influencing food security situation of households and the factors include

age of the household head, marital status, education level, family size, experience, saving status and credit access.

A study conducted by Fillmon (2011) asserts the significant role of informal sector activities towards household livelihood in Mekelle. This study mainly focuses on open space informal business activities namely street vending. The study discovered that the informal sector is a tool for poverty alleviation and can help households boost their food security. Samirawit (2011) demonstrates the importance of the informal sector business activities for food security in Addis Ababa. The study analyzes the food security and vulnerability status of informal operators, as well as the challenges they face, and the concentration of women in the sector. In addition, Ephrem (2015) found that urban poor rely on different livelihood strategies to cope with their income and food insecurity. The study does not show the food security situation of the urban poor in small towns that engaged in informal business activities. Though the studies listed above have yielded interesting results, our understanding of the role of informal sectors in improving household food security is limited in Ethiopia. As a result, this study was carried out in order to close the gap that had been identified.

Chronic and transient urban food insecurity is common in Ethiopia (Tolossa, 2008). In Sekota town, where people are chronically food insecure, the informal sector is a major livelihood strategy that provides a source of income and jobs for a large number of people. According to a report from the town's Micro and Small Enterprises Office, there were 2,310 people working in the sector to meet their basic needs in the year 2018 EC. The number of people working in the sector in 2020 EC was increased to 4,901 of which 2,147 were men and 2,754 were women (Sekota Town's Micro and Small Enterprises Office, 2020). The report shows

that informal sectors provide livelihoods, employment opportunities, and income for urban residents especially for women. As a result, using data collected from Sekota town, this study attempted to assess the role of the informal sector for FHHs food security by investigating the sector's contribution to food security.

The town was chosen for the study because there is an increase in women informal operators in the town from time to time, and no research has been conducted in the town regarding the informal sector outcome specifically for food security to the best of the researcher's knowledge. To escape rural poverty, many women migrate from different woredas to Sekota town, the administrative capital of the Wag Himira Administration Zone. There are also unemployed female youth who are illiterate or have completed formal schooling. These migrant and unemployed women are frequently involved in the informal sector. As a result, it's critical to pay more attention to zonal towns like Sekota, where many women are migrating for better opportunities but end up working in the informal sector.

Objective of the Study

General Objective

The overall objective of this study is to assess the role of the informal sector business activities for women-headed households' food security and identify the capital assets of women informal operators in Sekota town.

Specific Objectives

1. To investigate women informal operators household food security level in Sekota town

2. To assess the major factors affecting the FHH food security situation in Sekota town.
3. To identify the capital assets of women informal operators who prepare and sell local beverages and foods in Sekota town

Research Questions

1. What is the level of the women informal operator households' food security in the study area?
2. What are the major factors affecting the food security situation of FHH in the study area?
3. What are those capital assets accessed by women informal operators in the study area?

Significance of the Study

In Ethiopia's small towns and cities, the informal sector has become a popular business operation, creating job opportunities for the poor. At the same time, due to insufficient job prospects in the formal sector and rural-urban migration, this practice is unavoidable. Local and higher government officials and politicians, on the other hand, failed to consider the sector's role for food security, instead of concentrating on the sector's job opportunities. Women who work in the sector need adequate experience, infrastructure, financial support, and institutional support. At the same time, if they are handled well, they will alleviate their household food insecurity while also contributing to the town's income and the smooth operation of informal business activities.

Therefore, the study will assist Sekota town administration in developing an effective strategy for women in the informal sector to contribute to their household food security as well as the town's overall growth. It will also allow for gender analysis so that tailored strategies for

women in the informal economy can be developed. Furthermore, this research will assist planners and policymakers in mainstreaming the issue of women informal sector operators because the success and design of any strategy or policy affect women's lives directly or indirectly. The findings of this study will be served as an input for social work practitioners to take appropriate interventions that can create sustainable food secure communities. Finally, it will serve as a cornerstone for others to encourage researchers who want to conduct further studies on the issue.

Scope of the Study

The informal sector involves both open-air and home-based activities carried out by people who do not have access to formal jobs. Due to gender restrictions, their active and reproductive roles, and low educational opportunities/skills to enter the formal sector, women are concentrated in the informal sector. As a result, the study focuses on urban women who work in the informal sector; however, due to a lack of time and resources, the study only considers home-based informal sector operators who live and work in Sekota town. There are several different forms of informal business activities that women do at home, but the study only collect data from purposively chosen informal business activities, preparing and selling local beverages and foods.

Limitation of the study

Since, the Wag Himira Administration Zone is bordered by the Tigray National Regional State, the current political situation in our country was the major problem that hampered data gathering; it cut off access to the internet and electricity. Due to several security-related meetings and being preoccupied with their work, office experts and women informal operators were

unable to attend during appointment. However, the researcher overcame this obstacle by employing a different mechanism, such as allowing enough time for office experts to respond to questions in the best possible manner and visiting their offices on a regular basis to make use of their free time, and the researcher used other options for power outages.

Another challenge encountered during data collection was that some respondents attempted to hide their true situation, which is a true reflection of their household food security status, in the hope of receiving food aid, which could lead to bias. However, before filling out the questionnaire and holding focus group discussions, the researcher made it clear to all participants that the study's objective is solely academic.

Operational Definition of Terms

Female-headed household is a household where a majority of economic support for household maintenance is provided by women.

Informal sector is a home-based small business activity owned by women and mainly run by family labor.

Food Security is the accessibility of adequate food in women-headed households.

Tela is a traditional alcoholic beverage; prepared from maize, sorghum, and Gesho, a local plant used.

Teji is a traditional alcoholic beverage; prepared from honey and Gesho, a local plant used.

Injera is fermented Ethiopian traditional staple food which is prepared usually from teff flour.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

Concepts of Informal Sector

There is no single widely agreed definition of the informal sector due to the diversity of its truth. As a result, definitions have differed from country to country, and also within a country. Keith Hart, a well-known British anthropologist, coined the term "informal sector" in 1971. As defined by Hart (1973), informal work is an economic activity in which the employees operate in unregulated markets, use labor-intensive technology and local resources, and learn their business skills outside of school.

Statistical based definition of the sector includes all unregistered enterprises below a certain size and micro-enterprise owned by informal employees who employ one or more workers on a continuous basis and own account operations owned by individuals who may employ, contribute family workers and employees as an occasional basis (Chen, 2012). The employment-based definition of the informal sector which is recommended by Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organization (WIEGO) consists of all non-standard wage workers who work without a minimum wage, workers of informal firms, domestic workers, casual workers, home workers, temporary workers, and unregistered workers as informal sector workers.

In developing countries, the informal sector refers to household enterprises that aimed at generating income and employment for households (ILO. 2002). According to ILO (2002), informal employment includes both wage employment in informal sectors and self-employment in informal enterprises. The informal sector attracts a large number of people who are marginalized and live in poverty of which the majority are women.

In Ethiopia, the informal sector is defined as household-type activities mostly operated by the owners alone or with few workers. They are unregistered and operating on a very small scale and with a low level of production and income. They tend to have little or no access to regulated markets, credit institutions, modern technology, formal training, and various public services. They may not have a fixed position where they are held. They are not accepted by the government, and they are excluded from social security, labor laws, and other workplace protections (CSA, 2003).

In general, the informal sector includes activities that are not taxed, unregulated and unregistered because their turnover is below the level of required registration for tax purposes or due to their illegal status. It consists of very small-scale producers and distributors of goods and services and independent self-employed persons in urban and rural areas which are carried out without formal approval from formal authorities. In developing countries like Ethiopia, informal sector activity has largely been associated with household enterprises whose main purpose is generating income and work opportunities for the household members.

Theories and Debates on the Informal Sector

The conceptualizations of the informal sector, its operators, and activities can be better understood if discussions are set along the path of different theories. The debate on the large and heterogeneous informal economy has crystallized into three dominant schools of thought regarding its nature and composition as dualistic, structuralism, and legalist school of thoughts (Chen, 2012). For better understanding, the informal sector discussed along with the above different perspectives. Each school of thought provides a different causal theory of what gives rise to the informal economy.

The dualist school is popularized by ILO in the 1970s. Dualists perceive the informal sector of the economy as comprising marginal activities distinct from and not related to the formal sector that provides income for the poor and a safety net in times of crisis. They assert that informal workers are excluded from modern economic opportunities due to disparities between the growth rates of the population and of advanced production jobs, and an imbalance between improve quality and the system of modern economic opportunities. They see the informal sector as a disadvantaged sector and advocate for governments to build more jobs and provide more opportunities (Chen, 2012).

Feminists who embrace the dualist viewpoint typically acknowledge the informal economy as a source of income that helps women gain self-empowerment (Horn, 1994, in Mabilo, 2018). They believe that by accumulating economic resources in the informal sector, women can increase their household decision-making power and ensure the welfare of their children. Supporters of the dualist viewpoint claim that government policy should aim to empower women in the informal sector.

Structuralism view the informal economy as subordinated economic units and workers that serve to reduce input and labor costs to increase the competitiveness of large capitalist firms(Chen, 2012). They see both informal enterprises and informal workers as subordinated to the interests of capitalist development. According to structuralism, privileged capitalists in the informal sector attempt to erode job ties and delegate petty producers and traders in order to lower their labor and input costs and increase their competitiveness. They argue that policymakers should control both commercial and employment relationships to

resolve the unequal relationship between big businesses and subordinated producers and employees.

Feminists who use this systemic viewpoint stress how marginalized women are in this field, characterizing women's involvement in the informal economy as poverty entrapment (Willman-Navarro, 2010 in Mabilo, 2018). Women's presence in the informal sector, feminists say, is a way of subsidizing male jobs in the formal sector. They believe that government policies need to provide women with opportunities to move out of this sector and attain formal job opportunities.

The legalist view of the informal sector sees it as a collection of brave micro-entrepreneurs who choose to operate without formal registration to save time, money, and effort. They see informal work as a legitimate answer by informal workers to circumvent government restrictions and bureaucracies. People participate in the informal sector, according to legalists, because of bureaucratic procedures, business registration requirements, heavy bureaucracies, or formal legislation that makes it impossible for individuals to engage in formal sector business activity (Chen, 2012). Therefore, according to the legalist perspective the hostile legal system of government leads individuals to operate informally with their own informal legal norms.

Any single theoretical perspective cannot fully explain the position and characteristics of Ethiopia's urban informal sector (Chalachew, 2018). According to Chalachew (2018), the existence of an excess unskilled labor supply in Ethiopia as a result of high rural-urban migration, exacerbated by an informal sector that isn't developing fast enough to absorb it, was consistent with a dualist perspective. From a legalist viewpoint, government policies favoring

pro-poor, labor-intensive growth initiatives have resulted in a work crisis as a result of measures taken during the privatization program. The lack of capital and skills as barriers to the growth of informal activities in Ethiopia was clarified from a dualist viewpoint, suggesting that the sector's capital and ability requirements are low.

Feminization of the Informal Sector

In the majority of countries (56 %), the proportion of women working in informal jobs outnumbered that of men (ILO, 2018). Some scholars and studies put different arguments about the concentration of women in the informal economy. According to Hart (1991), women concentrate on informal sector activities because formal sector structures are insufficient to fulfill their multiple household obligations. For Chen (2012), women's overrepresentation in the informal sector directly related to their lower levels of education, skills, and other socio-cultural constraints.

As ILO (2013), the concentration of women in the informal sector is due to a variety of factors such as the parent's decision to favor the education of sons, early marriage and pregnancy, social norms hindering girls schooling, the burden of household chores and lack of training for skills in demand in the formal economy. Ebisa (2012), identifies high population growth coupled with migration and the incapability of the formal sector to absorb the ever-rising job seekers as the major pushing factors for the concentration of women in the informal sector. The above and other related factors push women to engage in informal sector activities. Mass entry by women into informal sector participation relative to men made the sector highly feminized.

In many developing countries, it is likely that informal sector activities have been women's occupations. The percentage of women workers who are informally employed in developing countries (92%) is higher than the percentage of men workers (87%). Women in rural areas, those with less schooling, women with small children, and migrant women are more likely to work in hazardous and informal employment (ILO 2018). In Ethiopia, 59.99% percent of urban micro-enterprise operators were women (CSA, 2003).

Women are more likely to work in the informal sector's most vulnerable segments, such as domestic workers, home-based workers, or contributing family workers (Berg, 2016). Different literatures show that informal sector activities are considered as women's work and the activities are feminized. The formal sector is attracting more attention, but the informal sector is the only hope for a large number of women who are unable to find jobs in the formal sector (Ebisa, 2012). The study illustrates how local government administrators' attitudes toward the sector affect women's informal business operators' future plans. To eliminate urban unemployment, more attention is paid to formal industries in order to maximize their absorption of the new labor force.

The Role of Government on informal Economy

In poor countries like Ethiopia, the informal sector plays a critical role in food security, poverty alleviation, job creation, and socioeconomic growth. According to Becker (2004), to promote the contribution of the informal sector to the development process, the sector needs significant involvement and funding from governmental institutions and other stakeholders. Governments, on the other hand, must establish policies and strategies to understand the importance of the informal sector, increase its competitiveness, improve working

conditions, and limit and control it. The concentration of vulnerable populations in need of food security development initiatives is increasing in urban areas as a result of rapid urbanization.

Many developing countries adopt policies and strategies that acknowledge the informal economy's and its workforce's contributions. For example, the Kenyan government recognized the informal sector as having the greatest potential for job development in 1992 and incorporated it into national economic policy. Direct assistance to individuals and small businesses, encouragement of the informal economy to generate low-cost alternatives, promotion of cooperatives for credit, community purchasing and marketing, information, and assistance with new technology are all part of the program. South Africa, likewise, has established an informal economy strategy that has been active in integrating street vendors into city planning processes (Becker, 2004).

Ethiopia, like other developing countries, has a propensity to value the position of the informal sector, which has been incorporated into various development strategies. Ethiopia has integrated the informal sector into its micro and small business growth policy and strategy, as well as its national employment policy and strategy. Technological innovation, market growth, financial and credit services, human resource development, and institutional capacity building are all recognized as support strategies in micro and small business development policy and strategy. Ethiopia's national job policy and plan, on the other hand focuses on policies for growing the informal sector's competitiveness. As strategies to improve the competitiveness and productivity of the informal sector enterprises, the policy provides guidance for the activity of the informal sector, capacity growth, access to working premises, access to finance, the creation of associations, and ensuring decent working conditions. These strategies take gender

mainstreaming into account when creating employment. Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for food security, poverty alleviation, sustainable growth, and the achievement of all millennium development goals when jobs are created for them.

Concepts of Food Security

According to FAO (2010), food security refers to a situation in which all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to enough, clean, and nutritious food to fulfill their dietary needs and food preferences in order to live an active and balanced life (pp.4). The definition encompasses the dimensions and components of food security, such as temporality and shocks; physical, social, and economic access to food; adequate quantity and quality of food to meet nutritional requirements; food safety; and individuals' ability to make choices and eat culturally appropriate and desired foods, as well as relating the definition of food security to major productivity and health outcomes.

Food security has four dimensions; availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability and any one of these dimensions can have an effect on livelihoods and health (FAO, 2014). These dimensions are hierarchical in nature, with availability necessitating but not requiring access, and access necessitating but not requiring usage, thus access necessitating but not requiring sustainable food availability.

According to FAO 2014, food availability refers to the physical presence of food, which may come from own production, domestic market purchases, or imports from other countries. It also refers to the physical presence of food stocks for consumption, whether from one's own production or from the market. On the other hand, food access refers to a household's resources

to procure food, either by self-production or through purchasing it. Individuals must also have assets or incomes in order to generate and buy the foods they need to sustain their consumption. It depends on household income, income distribution within the household, market food prices, and individual market access, as well as social and institutional rights.

Food utilization refers to nutritional benefits derived from food intake which is linked to proper food production, storage methods, adequate nutrition awareness, and the availability of adequate health and sanitation services. That is, adequate biological food use necessitates a diet rich in energy and essential nutrients, as well as knowledge of food storage, processing, basic feeding, child care, and illness management. Food stability refers to the long-term stability of all other dimensions of food security. As a consequence, the concept of stability can be extended to both the access and availability dimensions of food security (FAO, 2009).

Food Security Measurements

There are different methods for measuring food security status. FAO method for estimating calories available per capita at the national level, anthropometry, household consumption and expenditure surveys, individual's dietary intake, and experience-based food insecurity measurement scales. FAO method for estimating calories available per capita at the national level focuses on estimating dietary energy intake at the country level on a per-capita basis. The anthropometry method measures food security by collecting data on body size, weight, body proportions, and, eventually, food composition. Household consumption and expenditure surveys measure the average daily per capita calorie intake when adjusting for culturally appropriate food availability (Bashir & Schilizzi, 2012, FAO 2010).

Since Wag Himira zone is one of the country's most food aid-dependent areas, measuring food security by using the above methods will make the findings shaky. Therefore, the researcher used self-assessment indicators to measure the food security situation of respondents in the study area. The method focuses on respondents' perceived assessment of an individual or household food security situation (Migotto, Davis, Carletto, & Beegle, 2005). The method has successfully implemented by a number of developing countries and many recent standard national household surveys, such as the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Surveys (LSMS). It is captured by asking direct questions from the head of the household about the food security situation without subjecting it to standard food security indicators (Fawole & Ozkan 2017).

Sharp & Devereux (2004) and Devereux & Sharp (2006), used the self-assessment indicator method to measure household wellbeing and food security situation in Wollo Ethiopia. The data were collected by asking direct questions from the head of the household about their household situation. The finding of Devereux et al. (2006) shows contradiction with a survey done using household income and consumption expenditure which focuses on income and consumption-based data. Therefore, the self-assessment indicator method was employed to evaluate the food security situation of the sampled households in Sekota town.

Women Headed Households and Food Security

According to Barros & Mendonca (1997), a female-headed household is one in which a female adult member bears responsibility for the care and management of that particular household. It can also be defined as a circumstance in which a woman, regardless of her marital status, is the primary decision maker and economic provider for a household. On the other hand, according to Gowele (2011), the female head is a woman who legally becomes the head of the

family when there is no permanent male partner, such as because of death, desertion, divorce, separation, or single motherhood. Female-headed households, for the purposes of this study, are households in which women, regardless of their marital status, are considered the head of that particular family, with authority in decision-making and income-earning responsibility for themselves and their family members to cope with the changing urban context.

Household food insecurity has been identified as a problem for vulnerable groups such as children, women, and the elderly. Women's essential role as food producers, natural resource managers, income earners, and caretakers of household food security and nutrition is increasingly recognized. According to Adepoju, Ogunniyi & Agbedeyi (2015), women in Nigeria play a significant role in ensuring household food security. The study revealed that women's empowerment will be a vital component in maintaining national and family food security. As the value of women as income earners has grown, measures have been developed to address the injustices and restrictions that limit women's ability to work productively.

According to Osman (2009), women play a crucial role in providing and improving household food security in Sudan. The study revealed that income from income-generating activities (outside agriculture) helps to keep household food security sustainable and improves the overall well-being of families in the study area. From an economic standpoint, the findings of this study show that women are more rational than men when it comes to allocating relatively scarce resources (income and food) in order to maximize the utility or satisfaction of their household families. The study further finds that women are more likely than males to use available resources and abilities to improve their family's welfare, particularly in the areas of nutrition and health.

The study conducted in Sudan by Shamsu-Deen (2014) found women's positive contribution towards household food security. The study identified decision making, access to education, access to the credit facility, female household headship, and subordinate roles played by women as major socio-cultural factors that affect women's roles in household food security. The above empirical evidence shows that even though women earn less than men, they spend the bulk of their earnings on household expenses in developing countries. As a result, improving household food security in developing countries means focusing on the role of women because they play a critical role as food producers and income earners for their families. Increasing the production and productivity of women entrepreneurs, on the other hand, entails removing the barriers to their work and enhancing their access to resources and information so that they can assist themselves.

Factors Affecting Households Food Security status

Food security is influenced by a variety of factors. Household food security is determined by their access to natural, social, physical, and human resources, as well as their degree of production, income, and consumption (WFP, 2009). According to WFP 2009, the major factors of food security in Addis Ababa city are educational level, age, sex, household size, household income, infrastructure, asset level, livelihood strategies, and credit access. According to Samirawit (2011) and Gebire (2012), the age of the household head, saving status and borrowing variables have a positive impact on the food security situation of urban households. On the other hand, Nzeyimana (2020), finds that household access to financial services (loans) has no significant effect on food security for the low-income households in the City of Kigali.

Mutiah & Istiqomah (2017), finds a significant positive effect of education of household head and household income and a significant negative effect of household size on household food security. A study conducted by Ndobu (2013), in South Africa found gender, household size, marital status, and household income was the most significant predictor of household food security and was found to be positively related to household food security. According to Ephrem (2015), factors associated with food security include the level of income, household size, and educational status of household heads. The study found that income and education level influence household food security positively and household size influences household food security negatively. On the other hand, some empirical works indicate that there is a positive relationship between family size and food security (Ejigayhu & Abdikhalil, 2012).

The Role of Informal Sector in Household Food Security

Rural and urban residents have different approaches to ensuring household food security. For the urban poor, informal sector market practices are their primary means of survival. For the majority of people who lack proper social safety nets and employment opportunities, particularly those who are discriminated against from formal sector employment due to a lack of expertise and capabilities, the sector is an essential means of survival. In many developing countries, the informal economy plays a critical role in poverty alleviation, especially in terms of food access.

The growth in the number of individuals who are working in the informal economy improves the level of urban household food security. However, it is dependent on the person who receives and manages the income. Women's earnings go straight into enhancing family wellbeing, while men's earnings are more likely to be spent on luxury products or prestigious pursuits (Clark, 1985. in Bassey, 2002).

Bassey (2002) found that the informal sector makes a major contribution to household food security from a gender perspective in Nigeria. In most households, the informal sector provides food, revenue, and jobs. It demonstrates that the informal sector can help households boost their food security and meet their basic needs. As a result, women's participation in the urban informal sector is critical in ensuring household food security by providing food, generating income, and creating job opportunities. The study investigates a strong relationship between household food security and sociological factors such as gender, marital status, ethnic origin, income, education, occupation and access to resources.

According to Fraser et al. (2014), Food security in the urban Sub Sahara Africa (SSA) intersects with the informal sector in many ways and the sector is a primary source of employment opportunities to marginalized groups, such as women. Accra, Ghana, Nairobi, Kenya, and Lusaka, Zambia were chosen as regional members of SSA in the study to demonstrate the role of the informal economy in addressing urban food insecurity. They discovered that the informal sector employs 61 % of the workforce in the city, and that it is a tool for poverty alleviation and addressing increased urban food insecurity. The study suggests targeted social protection programs that enhance livelihoods in the informal sector, gender mainstreaming, creating a conducive regulatory environment, and strengthening municipal level capacity to address the relationship between urban food insecurity and the informal economy in the region.

Informal sector employment has a significant contribution towards enhancing the food security status of operators (Samirawit, 2011). According to Samirawit (2011), 63.7 % of informal sector business operators in Addis Ababa who participate in shoe shining, tea and

coffee vending, and agricultural product vending receive enough money to cover their food expenses. The income generated by various informal sector livelihood strategies covers the food costs of informal business operators and their families. Income earned from different informal sector livelihood strategy cover food expenses of informal business operators and their households.

Tegegne et al. (2010) tried to show the role of the micro and small enterprises in changing the livelihood condition of operators in Ethiopia. The livelihood impact of micro and small enterprises was discerned by looking at the levels and changes in asset, consumption and income level of operators. The research found that there are some positive changes in asset possession and income from micro and small enterprise business is the main source of livelihood for the operators. The research evaluates the perception of operators on their livelihood accordingly, 62% of the respondents consider themselves as non-poor or middle-income individuals.

Even-Zahav (2016) evaluates the contribution of the informal economy to food security in South Africa by using a pragmatic approach. The research found that the informal sector plays a significant role as a daily and weekly food access and utilization especially for low-medium income and black informal settlement residents in South Africa. The informal workers in this study chose to work in the sector rather than being pressured by external forces; the only obstacle they face is the seasonality of the work. As a result, people can elect to operate informally after weighing the costs of formality versus informality.

According to research from Zimbabwe by Chidoko & Makuyana (2012), the informal sector is becoming increasingly important in creating jobs and alleviating national poverty in the

country. The study found that low productivity and earning as the major problems of the informal sector. The study suggests policies and initiatives such as pro-poor macroeconomic policies, the expansion of credit facilities, enhancing linkages with the formal sector, providing training, developing infrastructure, expanding social security, and promoting self-help groups and business and workers associations to increase productivity and earnings in the sector.

The study conducted in Sudan by Osman (2009), shows the significant contribution of informal sector employment to foster household food security from a gender viewpoint. It states that women spend a greater percentage of their income on food for their families than males. As a result, women's participation in the informal sector is critical to maximizing household food access.

Skinner et al. (2016) tried to show the role of the informal sector for food security through analyzing policy response to the informal sector. The finding of the paper shows that the informal economy is critical in ensuring food security for the poor in South Africa. If policy approaches fail to formally acknowledge the importance of the informal sector, the negative consequences will include not only a reduction in employment, but also an increase in food insecurity, which will manifest in the short, medium, and long term, putting additional strains on the state and society.

A study conducted in Ghana shows that informal sector activities are viable in reducing poverty among women (Peprah et al. 2019). According to Peprah et al. (2019), informal sector activities become a source of income and employment for poor urban women who are with socio-cultural constraints and formal job market barriers. This study mainly focuses on open space informal business activities namely food vending, petty trading and hawking of general

goods and service providers. The study identifies a lack of customers, nonpayment of debts, heavy taxes and license fees, unavailability of finance, lack of capital equipment, lack of space and difficulties with existing regulations as major challenges faced by women who involve in the informal sector activities.

In many developing countries, food security is becoming a major issue for urban FHHs. Unfortunately; researchers seem to be ignoring the food security of urban FHHs. From foreign Osman (2009) shows that the significant contribution of the informal sector for household food security from a gender perspective by comparing the expenditure patterns of men and women. In Ethiopia, Samirawit (2011) demonstrates the importance of the informal sector business activities for food security. The study analyzes the food security and vulnerability status of informal operators, as well as the challenges they face, and the concentration of women in the sector, but the data is gathered from both men and women informal operators and the food security situation of households was analyzed by employing household dietary diversity measurement. Household dietary diversity measurement calculates food security level using food groups such as Cereals, White roots and tubers, Meat, Fish, Eggs, Milk and dairy, Oils and fat, Fruits, Vegetables, Pulses, legumes and nuts, Sweets, Spices, condiments, and beverages.

Therefore, the aforementioned lack of research endeavors on the role of the informal sector for FHH necessitates this study to be carried out and doing this research assumed to fill the gaps mentioned above about the contribution of the informal sector for FHH food security, factors affecting FHH food security and capital assets accessed to women operators by using normative measure and sustainable livelihood framework in the case of chronically food insecure area.

Approach to Study Food Security/Livelihood Outcome

A livelihood is made up of the skills, properties, and activities needed to make a living. It is considered sustainable when it can withstand and recover from stresses and shocks, as well as retain or improve its capabilities, assets, properties, and activities in the present and future, without jeopardizing the natural resource base (Serrat, 2008). In the 1990s and 2000s, the livelihood approach as a model for poverty reduction became the principal focus of many international development efforts. It is a pro-poor development tool that has been used in poorer nations as part of a policy, project planning, or as a foundation for further in-depth study (Morse & McNamara, 2013). Food security is inextricably tied to issues of livelihood (Serrat, 2008). Food security is not only essential for individuals, but also for society to function and development. Due to this, food security is an essential element of the sustainable livelihood approach to growth.

A sustainable livelihood framework is a tool for better understanding poor people's livelihood strategies and it is focused on people. The framework was created to present the most important factors that influence people's livelihoods, as well as the traditional relationships that exist between them. The framework creates a holistic view of livelihoods that goes beyond defining poverty primarily in terms of a lack of income and consumption to include the lack of other capabilities required to meet these needs, such as financial, physical, social, and natural capital.

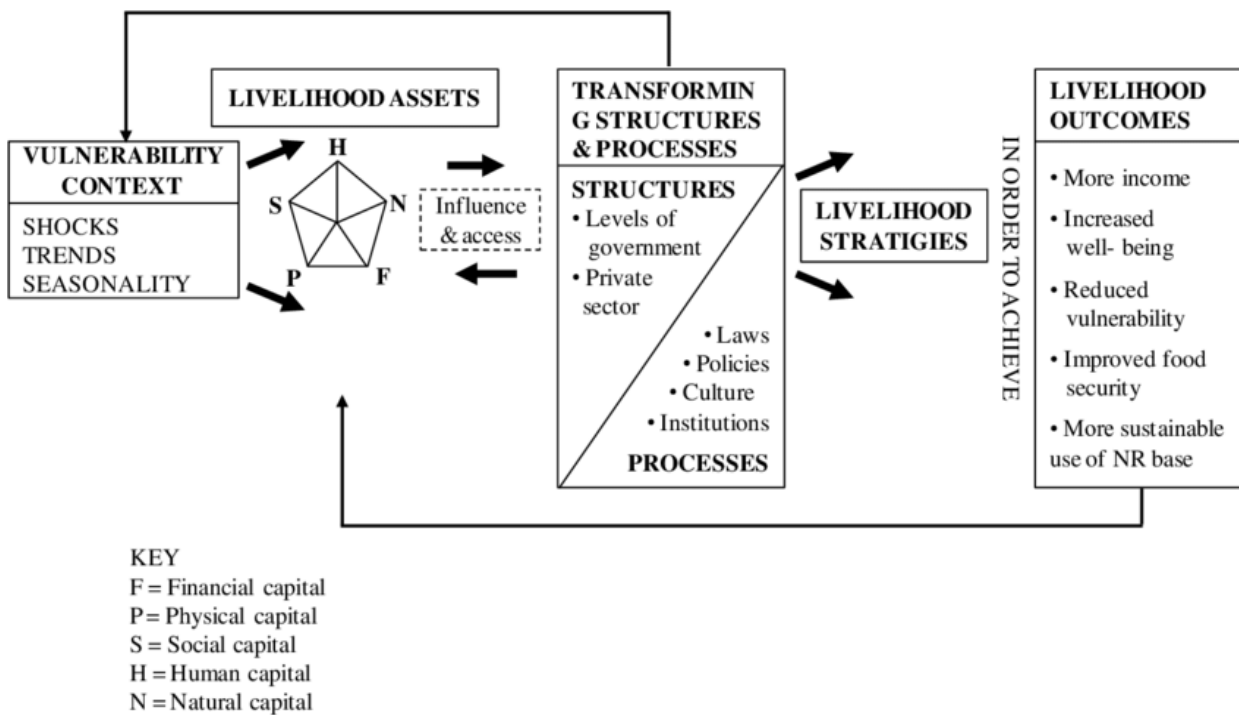
Accordingly, assets owned by the poor such as natural capital, physical capital, financial capital, human capital, and social capital will enhance the ability of the poor to improve their food security and achieve sustainable livelihoods. As the result, financial capital, natural capital,

physical capital, human capital, and social capital will increase people's access to food, reducing household food insecurity and improving food security (Serrat, 2008).

A sustainable livelihood strategy is used to guide this research. This is because of its eclectic tendency to assess households' resource base, the way they mix their assets, pursue certain livelihood activities in order to achieve desired livelihood outcomes (food security in particular). Therefore, the approach enables to identify which livelihood assets are accessible for women informal operators. It enables to assess the role of livelihood strategy toward desirable livelihood outcomes specifically household food security. It also helps to show the role of institutions and policies in improving livelihood strategies or informal sector business activity.

The model is often used to collect data and formulate the research question. In general, the approach enables to examine how preparing and selling local beverages as a livelihood strategy as well as pro-poor policies adopted by the national government help local beverage and food producers and sellers in order to improve their household food security level. Figure 1:

Sustainable livelihoods Framework



Source: DFID, 1999

Components of the Sustainable Livelihood Framework

The sustainable livelihood framework (SLF) has five elements: Livelihood resources, Livelihood strategies, livelihood outcomes, vulnerability context, and Institutional processes and

organizational structures. According to Serrat (2008), the components of the sustainable livelihoods framework are discussed below.

Livelihood Assets

Livelihood assets or capitals are at the heart of the framework, which can be used to achieve desired results and reduce household vulnerability (Serrat, 2008). The livelihoods approach is primarily concerned with people. It aims to get a clear and realistic picture of people's strengths (assets or capital) and how they try to turn these into positive livelihood outcomes. According to Serrat, 2008, access to food by individuals in a household is pervasively related to the control they have over household resources and the access they have to household income.

The approach is based on the concept that people require a diverse set of assets in order to attain positive livelihood outcomes; no single asset category can provide all of the various and varied livelihood outcomes that people want. This is especially true for the impoverished, who have very restricted access to any given category of assets. As a result, they must find new ways to nurture and combine the assets they do have in order to assure their survival (DFID 1999). The sustainable livelihood approach is based on the notion that people require a diverse variety of assets in order to attain positive livelihood outcomes. As Rakodi and Lloyd (2002), indicated human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital, and financial capital are the five categories of assets or capitals upon which livelihoods are created.

Financial capital; Financial capital, according to SLA, refers to liquid assets such as cash, credit or debit, savings, and other economic assets that enable one to make ends meet in the pursuit of a

livelihood (Scoones, 1998). Savings habits and access to credit (borrowing) are critical financial capital for the urban poor people's livelihood. Formal and informal savings, credit and debt, remittances, pensions, and wages are all examples of financial capital.

Physical capital; According to Rakodi & Lloyd (2002), physical capital includes the basic infrastructures that enable people to pursue their livelihoods. It includes the basic infrastructure (roads, vehicles, safe shelter and buildings, water supply and sanitation, energy, and communications) as well as the tools and technology that enables people to pursue their livelihoods.

Natural capital; According to the SLA natural assets are the natural properties that individuals rely on for their survival and improvement. As part of a household's assets, urban land serves as an indicator of socioeconomic status. Many urban livelihood writers compared the function of housing in urban poor livelihoods to the role of land in rural poor livelihoods (Ephrem, 2015). According to Ephrem (2015), house ownership is a preferred poverty-reduction strategy, particularly for urban women. It offers improved security as well as a place for home-based business activities. Furthermore, the possession of a house serves as collateral for struggling households necessary in order to obtain credit and loans.

Human capital: the labor resources available to households, which include both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. The quantitative elements relate to the number of household members and the time available to engage in income-earning activities. The qualitative aspects refer to the household members' educational and skill levels, as well as their health. In general human capital also includes things like health, nutrition, education, knowledge and skills, job capacity, and adaptability.

Social capital; Social capital is a key asset for the urban poor. According to Meikle et al. (2001), by tapping into networks of mutual support that exist inside and across homes, extended families, and communities, people can use social capital to gain access to loans and information. It played a significant role in various livelihood activities mainly as a means to address the financial needs of people. Social capital has an economic context as strategies for getting access to livelihood assets (Tolosa, 2009). It includes connections and social networks, trust, mutual understanding, and support, formal and informal groupings, shared values and behaviors, common rules and consequences, collective representation, decision-making systems, and leadership. People can use social capital to access loans and information by tapping into networks of mutual support that exist inside and between households, extended families, and communities (Meikle, Ramasut, & Walker, 2001).

Livelihood Strategies and Outcomes

According to Gowele (2011), people's livelihood strategies are the organized set of lifestyle or behavioral choices individuals make to make a living, such as how they get food, earn money, allocate labor, land, and resources, spend their money, manage and protect their assets, respond to shocks, and use coping methods. Natural-resource-based operations, non-natural resource-based and off-farm activities, migration, and remittances, pensions and grants, intensification versus diversification, and short-term versus long-term outcomes, to name a few, may all be weighed when deciding on livelihood strategies.

The accomplishments or outputs of livelihood strategies are known as livelihood outcomes. People's livelihood strategies may be influenced by their access to various degrees and combinations of assets (DFID, 1999; Gowele, 2011). More income, enhanced well-being,

reduced vulnerability, improved food security, more sustainable use of the natural resource base, and restored human integrity are all potential livelihood outcomes, but there may be tension between them. Food security is among the major outcomes of the sustainable livelihood strategies. Other livelihood outcomes will almost certainly fail if food security does not exist, and attempts to secure food will be priority.

Policies and Institutions

According to Serrat (2008), the environment of structures and processes influences livelihood options and outcomes, which are not only dependent on access to capital assets or confined by the vulnerability situation. The environment of structures and processes has an effect on livelihood strategies and outcomes. Structures are public and private sector institutions that set and enforce policy and laws, provide utilities and buy, sell, and do a variety of other things that impact people's lives. The rules, regulations, procedures, organizational arrangements, agreements, social norms, and behaviors that define how systems work are referred to as processes.

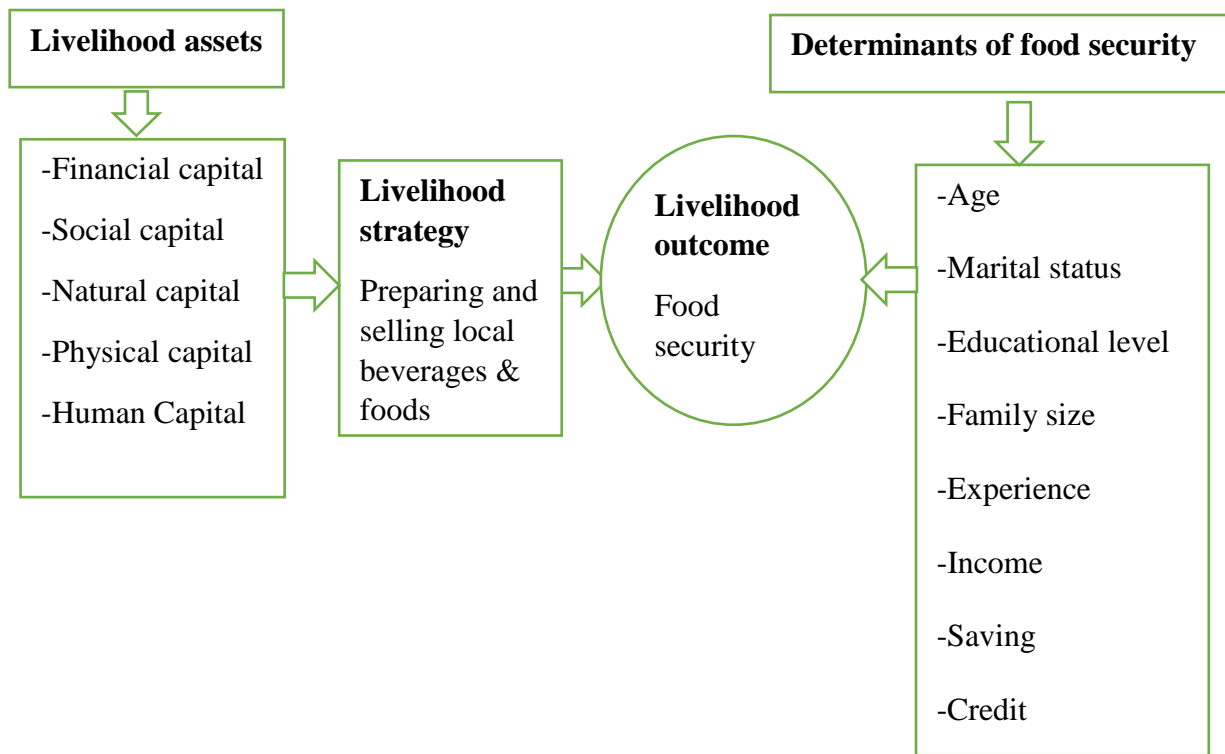
In the absence of adequate institutions and processes by which policies can be enacted, policy-making structures would be ineffective. Every part of one's life revolves around processes. They offer incentives to encourage people to make better decisions. They have the power to grant or deny access to properties. They make it possible for people to exchange one type of asset for another. They have a big effect on how people interact with each other. One of the key issues facing the poor and vulnerable is that the mechanisms that shape their livelihoods may systematically limit them unless the government adopts pro-poor policies that trickle down to legislation and even less structured processes.

Conceptual Framework of the Study

SLF provided the conceptual framework for this study, which is a holistic approach in which pro-poor and participatory methodologies have been established as extremely advantageous for policy formulation, development program planning, and management. In order to understand and analyze the role of the informal sector for FHH food security is necessary to look at how women informal operators get access to various livelihood assets and their connections to various infrastructures and service provisions. It is important to look at the contribution of producing and selling local foods and beverages in ensuring a desirable outcome which is household food security. It is also important to look at how different demographic and socioeconomic factors determine the livelihood outcome or food security status of FHH.

Transforming structure and process is the other important aspects of the livelihood framework in the present study. It has a significant influence on the livelihood strategies of the urban poor. Policies and institutions have the power to grant or deny access to different livelihood assets. There is a pro-poor policy adopted in micro and small business development policy and national job policy of the country. Therefore, looking at the pro-poor policies enables the researcher to assess the role of government bodies in improving the livelihood strategy of women informal operators.

Figure 2. Conceptual framework of the study



Source: own computation, 2021

Chapter Three: Research Method

Description of the Study Area

The study was carried out at Amhara National Regional State, Wag Himira especial administration zone in Sekota town. Sekota is the capital city of Waghimra administrative zone in Amhara regional state. The town is far from 720km Addis Ababa the capital city of Ethiopia towards the north direction. It is located 460 km far from the Amhara region, Bahir Dar city. The Wagshums, the rulers of the town and the surrounding area formerly known as Lasta, have their historic seat in Sekota. The Wagshums claimed to have an unbroken lineage going back to the Zagwe dynasty's last king.

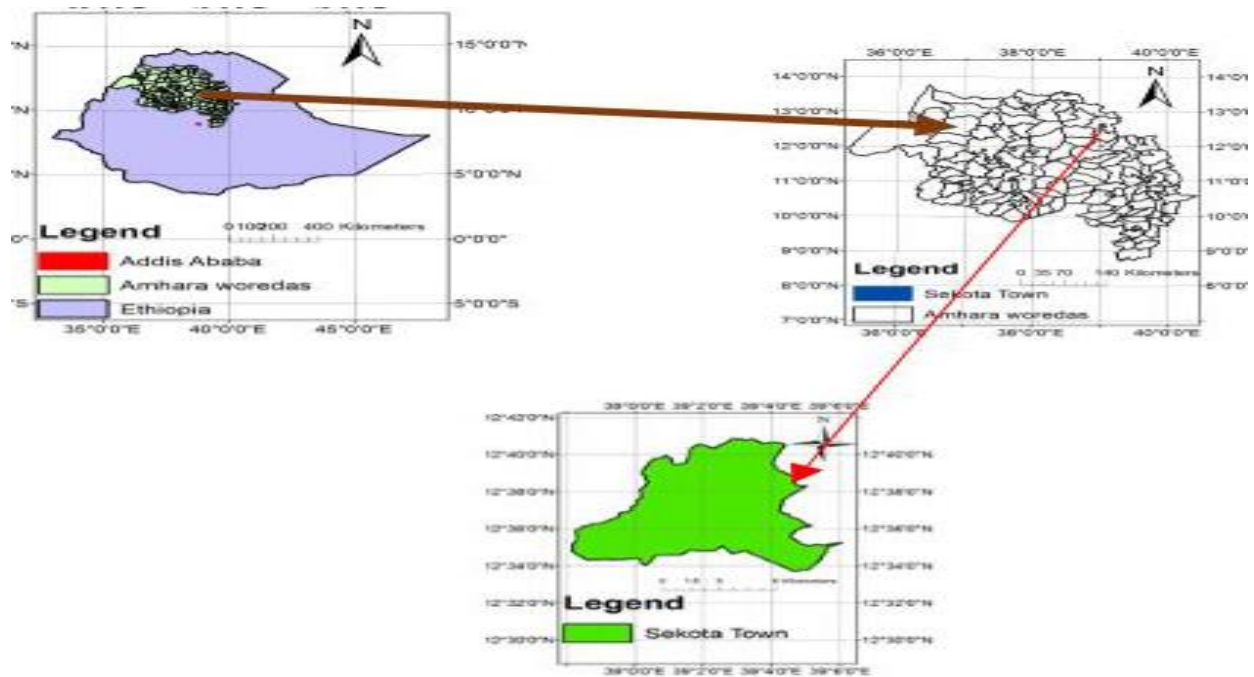
Sekota is located on the world map at latitude 12° 38' 24" north of the Equator and longitude (39.03 degrees) 39° 1' 48" east of the Prime Meridian. According to the current master plan, the town's actual land area is 93.7 hectares. Environmentally, the town's climate (locally known as woyina dega) receives the annual rainfall during the summer season. Since, the area is regularly hit by natural and manmade hazards that severely affect crop and animal production and productivity, chronic poverty is prevalent in the area.

According to projections from the Central Statistics Agency (CSA), the town's total population in 2019 was 132,076 residents, with 65,675 men and 66,401 women. The town's municipal report 2012 shows that the town is connected to the surrounding towns and kebeles through the main route and a rural road. Other basic infrastructures and services like telecommunication, postal service, education service, health service, power supply, and water supply are available. However, an educational quality which considered the most basic public service that provides the foundation for equity in society is not ensured in Sekota town. In

addition, a large portion of Sekota town is populated by urban poor who live in substandard housing with insufficient water supply.

Most women dwellers in Sekota town are engaged in informal business activities. The town’s micro and small enterprises office 2020 report shows that the number of the population migrates from rural woredas to the town is extremely rising, the number of women engaged in informal business activities also increasing. The government and other stakeholders have attempted to put in place their efforts to improve the informal sector which is considered as the main source of urban food security but still, the problems are increasing and many governmental strategies to address the issue have not had success(Sekota Town's Micro and Small Enterprises Office, 2020).

Figure 3: Map of Sekota town



Source: Abirham Assefa, 2016

Research Approach

The study employed mixed-method research that combines both qualitative and quantitative forms. The fact that the quantitative and the qualitative research approaches are not only compatible but also complementary calls for the mixed methods research approach having its own philosophical worldview: pragmatism (Creswell, 2014; Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014). Therefore, mixed methods involve integrating both qualitative and quantitative data and analyses for a more multidimensional approach to inquiry (Miles et al., 2014; Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2010). The basic assumption of using the mixed methods approach is that both quantitative and qualitative methods, in combination, provide a better understanding of the research problem and question than either method by itself (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2011; Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2010). Therefore, the study employed a mixed-methods approach in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the role of the informal sector in female-headed households' food security by combining qualitative and quantitative approaches.

Quantitative Method

The Study Design

According to Kothari (2004), the research design is a blueprint that specifies the system and procedures for gathering and analyzing data in order to address research questions. The researcher used a survey design, which features the use of self-report measures on carefully selected samples. Survey design allow researchers to collect a large amount of data in a relatively short period by employing closed-ended survey questions based on a random sampling of a known population. As a result, depending on the nature of each research objective, the study

used a survey design to obtain valid and extensive data quickly and less expensively from women informal business operators.

Population and Sampling

It is difficult to research the entire informal sector activities of women in the sector due to its heterogeneity. As a result, the researcher used a judgmental or purposive sampling technique to pick women-dominated informal business activity. According to Creswell (2007), purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique in which sample individuals and sites are chosen based on the researcher's knowledge and judgment. The researcher has chosen preparing and selling local beverages and foods from a variety of informal sector activities because it is dominated by women in the study area. According to the micro and small enterprises office in Sekota, there are 163 women who prepare and sell local beverages and foods such as *Tela*, *Teji*, *Enjera*, *Shiro*, and pepper. The Taro Yamane (1967), statistical formula was used to determine the sample size of respondents.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

Where;

N = population of the study

e = degree of error

n = sample size

$$n = \frac{163}{1 + 163(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{163}{1.4075}$$

$$n = 115.8 \approx 116$$

As a result, 116 women were chosen from a list of all women who work as informal workers preparing and selling local beverages and foods using a systematic random sampling technique. The population's list of respondents was obtained from the Sekota Town Micro and Small Enterprises Office.

Data Collection Method

Questionnaires were administered to collect data from women who engaged in preparing and selling local beverages and foods in the study area. It was structured in accordance with the study's objectives and in a sequential manner that allows respondents to react quickly and efficiently while minimizing unnecessary effort during the analysis. The questionnaire was translated into Amharic to avoid any language barriers. To collect quantitative data, closed-ended questions are employed. One data collector received a brief training before data collection. On each of the questionnaire items, the researcher and data collector interviewed all respondents and filled out the questionnaire responses. Respondents who were busy were given other and more convenient schedules in order to maintain their willingness. The response rate is 100 % in this manner.

Data Analysis Procedures

According to Creswell & Plano Clark (2007), data analysis in a mixed research process entails analyzing quantitative data using quantitative methods and qualitative data using

qualitative procedures (p. 128). As a result, the SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) computer software was used to evaluate the quantitative data collected from the questionnaire. Descriptive statistics like frequencies, percentages, maximum, minimum, averages and standard deviation are used to analyze the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics, food security level and livelihood assets of respondents. The Chi-square test were employed to find the variables that vary significantly between food secure and food insecure households.

The multivariate logistic regression analysis was applied to investigate and classify the determinant elements of household food security status. Taking food security status (food secured and food insecure) as a dependent variable and the set of independent variables were included the following: age of the household head, education, family size, marital status, experience, income, access to credit and saving status. As the researcher tried to explore different articles which are related to this topic, the independent variables that affect the food security are somehow similar to the researchers supposed factors but they are area specified factors.

Description of Variables

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable in this study is FHH food security status, which is measured by self-assessment indicators of the food security situations. To measure the household food security situation, respondents were asked to evaluate their household food security level. The following questions were asked from the sample respondents and the responses were recorded and analyzed as follows “How do you evaluate the food security status of your household?”

destitute who could not maintain household food security, staggering who struggle to address their household food security with other concerned bodies, food secured who address the household food security and better-off who are food secured and can support others. After getting the food security situation among households the households were classified into two food security groups. The 'destitute' and 'staggering' categories together can be considered 'food insecure' and the 'food secured' and 'better-off' categories together can be considered 'food secure'.

The household food security level is influenced by a number of main demographic and socioeconomic factors that vary by location. The variables that are directly related to the food security of FHHs are described below.

Independent Variables

Age of household head: it is a continuous variable denoting the age of the household head in years. As the age of the household head increases, it is estimated to have a better familiarity with informal business activities of the area and to collect wealth. This implies that as the operators become more matured the probability of their food security status improves (Samirawit, 2011).

Marital Status of the Household; it is a categorical variable, living with pairs will reduce the cost that would have been spent separately. Households headed by a single person are less expected to be food secure than those who are married.

Education level: it is a categorical variable; educated households have a positive relationship with food security. According to Mutiah et al. (2017), education found to a positive effect on the food security status of the households. Households whose families are educated and more

educated believed to have a chance to have better income and be able to live a situation. So, in this study, a positive relationship between education and food security was expected.

Household family size: it is a continuous variable. Studies done by WFP (2009) point that this variable has a negative effect on food security, due to the increment of the family size need more food to fulfill their food requirement.

Access to credit: it directs the amount of money borrowed from different sources. According to Gebire (2012), when informal business operators receive credit the probability of their food security status improves. Therefore, a positive relationship between food security and access to credit was expected.

Saving: it will be assumed to have a positive relationship with the food security status of the FHHs.

Household income: it is the total earning of an informal operator per month. It will have a significant impact on the food security status of informal sector workers. Household income has a major effect on food security in households (Ndobo, 2013).

Experience: it is the number of years spent in similar business activities. Since more people stay in a similar business, they may have better work experience and more customers, which will be expected to create differences in food security status among households.

Name of variables	Measurement
Household food security status	1= if, secured; 0= Insecure
Age of household head	Number of Years

Education level of household head	1= if, Literate: 0= Illiterate
Marital status	1= if, Married, 0= Single
Household family Size	Number of Family Members
Experience of employment in the informal sector	Years of experience
Saving	1 = if Yes, 0 = No
Household Income	Birr
Access to Credit	(1=access and 0= no access)

Validity and Reliability

Validity and reliability allow the researcher to balance the strength and weaknesses of the selected approaches. Reliability deals with the consistency, dependability, and replicability of the results obtained from a piece of research and validity refers to whether the means of measurement in the study are accurate and whether they are actually measuring what they are intended to measure (Mabilo, 2018). For validity, the instruments were first subjected to an expert evaluation in which its adequacy was assessed given the study objectives. In addition, the questionnaire was pre-tested on 30 purposively selected women informal operators in Sekota town. The outcome of the pre-tested questionnaire has assisted the researcher to re-phrase some of the questions. Results of the expert evaluation and pilot survey were used to update the study instruments.

Reliability of a measure is concerned with the stability and consistency with which the instrument measures the concept. Stability refers to the degree to which outcomes are consistent throughout time. On the other hand, internal consistency is concerned with the homogeneity of

the items that measure the concept. For reliability, the study used survey items that had been tested for reliability by other researchers. As a result, the researcher ensures that the data analysis process' outcome is reliable, secure, and accurate based on the facts, pieces of evidence, and stated objectives.

Qualitative Methods

The Study Design

As Creswell (2007) clarified, a case study is a good approach when the researcher has easily identifiable cases with boundaries and wants to include an in-depth understanding of the cases or a comparison of several cases. The design is appropriate when the cases may involve an individual, several individuals, a program, an event, or an activity. As a result, a case study design allows the researcher to go beyond the quantitative findings and gain a deeper understanding of the role of informal sector for FHHs food security and identify capital assets that informal sector operation access to women attempting to secure their household's food security.

Selection of Study Participants

The researcher used purposive sampling techniques to select participants of focus group discussion and key informant interviews depending on their relevance. According to Creswell (2002), this technique is commonly used in qualitative research to identify and select individuals or groups of individuals who are knowledgeable about the study interests. For the purposes of supervision and regulation, Sekota town macro and small scale enterprise office has grouped women local beverage and food producers and sellers into a 24 1 to 5 network.

Accordingly, to collect qualitative data, 1 to 5 network leaders of local food and beverage makers and sellers, as well as Micro and Small Enterprise Office and Women, Children, and Youth Affairs Office experts are chosen.

Inclusion Criteria's

The researcher purposefully picks research participants based on their importance to the research's target. Each participant's inclusion was determined after they have met the following criteria:

- The informal business operators those who were engaged in preparing and selling local beverages and foods
- The operators who are female
- The operators who were 1 to 5 network leaders.
- Office experts who were directly concerned with the issue

Exclusion Criteria's

1 to 5 network leaders of local beverage makers and sellers, as well as office experts, who were not volunteer to participate in the research, were excluded from the study. Furthermore, 1 to 5 network leaders who were not present in the study area at the time data were collected were excluded.

Data Collection Method

Focus group discussion was used to gather qualitative data. FGD is preferable for the following advantages: it can receive a wide range of responses during one meeting, it can allow

participants to ask questions on each other helps people to remember issues they might otherwise have forgotten helps participants to overcome inhibitions, especially if they know each other (Dudley, 2011). Accordingly, three focus group discussion was conducted with women informal operator who led their 1 to 5 network the total number was 21. The focus group discussions were mainly conducted to collect information on the contribution of local food and beverage selling toward food security and the livelihood asset accessibility of women informal operators.

The key informant interviews were used to examine the public sector's roles and obligations in supporting women informal operators and to look at the implementation of pro-poor policies in the study area. Key informant interviews were conducted with 3 government experts, who selected by purposive sampling from Sekota town Micro and Small Scale Enterprise and Women, Children and Youth Affairs Office.

Data Analysis Method

Analyzing qualitative data can be done in a variety of ways. According to Dudley (2001), theme analysis is important to identify patterns or themes evident in several cases, a present portion of the theme analysis independently, ensure consistency, and avoid repetitious ideas. It is a relevant analysis technique for limitless qualitative data that are obtained through primary data sources to produce consistent and reliable information by grouping results together to make it meaningful. Therefore, the researcher used theme analysis to analyze countless data gathered from key informant interviews and focus group discussions. To analyze, the data researcher was transcribed the FGD and key informant interview, identify themes, assign a code to each theme, categorize the group comments together by theme, label each of them, identify variations in each theme, look for other themes and present the results.

Trustworthiness of Study

Credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability are the techniques that were used to ensure the study's trustworthiness. To build a favorable environment and increase confidence with participants, the researcher can make a consistent presentation of the study's goal and intent through sustained interaction. Persistent engagement, iterative questioning, and review of the previous studies in the area are the methodological procedures to increase credibility. Dependability and conformability maintained through a clear and in-depth methodological description that allows the study to be repeated. During FGD and key informant interview sessions, the researcher uses iterative questions that help to check the accuracy of the expected data from an informant by going back and raise earlier asked questions.

Ethical Considerations

Before starting to conduct the study, the researcher received a letter of cooperation from Bahir Dar University that assures permission from the selected study area. The purpose of the study is for academic sake was explained to the participants. Willingness to engage or refuse was respected. The responses gathered for the study were only from those participants who gave their informed consent. Their answers were not used in any way or meaning to get the better of them or harm any of the participants. In general, common social work ethical values of autonomy of a person and justice were respected.

Chapter Four: Results of the Study

To investigate the role of the informal sector on FHH household food security one hundred sixteen (116) women local beverage and food producers and sellers were surveyed. From the 116 distributed questionnaires 116 were collected. This chapter presents and discusses the study findings regarding the role of the informal sector for FHH food security in the study area. It starts by discussing the socio-demographic characteristics of sampled respondents. The chapter then discusses the food security situation of FHHs. The chapter further discusses the numerous factors that are affecting the food security situation the households. Lastly, the major capital assets accessed by women informal operators are identified and discussed.

Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

With reference to table 4.1 below, the average age of the sampled household heads was 39.7 years with a standard deviation of 8.5. The minimum and the maximum age of the sampled households are 23 and 65 years respectively. This indicates that informal business is helping a significant number of youngsters and adult working women through employment opportunities so that they can generate income for their livelihoods.

The data results show that among those engaged in preparing and selling local beverages and foods, 42.2% were married. Single women constituted 31%, and the remaining 20.7% and 6 % of the respondent were divorced and widowed respectively. From the results, one can draw that the chance of women being informal sector operators will increase when they are single. This means woman wants to do a job to generate livelihood income because of the reality that the household responsibility will increase when they lead a household alone. The

involvement of married women in the informal sector is lower than those who live without male partners.

The data results in table 4.1 below show that out of 116 women informal sector operators that took the questionnaire, only 4.3 % took some level of secondary education. Those with primary education and only writing and reading constituted 17.2 % and 27.6% respectively. The remaining respondents who have not attended any formal education but engaged in producing and selling local beverages and foods are 50.9 %. The data result shows the family size of the sample respondents' total mean was 5.4 with a standard deviation of 1.5. The maximum and minimum sample households' family size was 1 and 9.

The data results below show that 30.2 % of the respondents are born in Sekota town, about 69.8 % of the sampled respondents are migrated to the town. This means most women's informal operators are migrated from the rural area which is significantly above 50 %. This shows that the linkage between rural-urban migrations and being an informal sector operator. From the total migrants, 41.3 % came to Sekota town to get job opportunities, 18.8 % were by following relatives/friends, 15 % were due to family displacement, 13,8 % were due to inaccessibility of rural farmland and 11.3 % were through marriage.

The respondents had different employment backgrounds. As shown in the table below, about 44.8 % % of the respondents were unemployed which reflects the informal sector is capable of absorbing a large proportion of the new entrant women into the labor force. The remaining 31 %, 19.8 %, and 4.3 % of respondents were daily wage laborers, domestic workers, and housewives unemployed respectively. The number of women who are joining this specific activity has been increasing and the average experience of sampled respondents was 5.9 with a

standard deviation of 1.86. The minimum and the maximum work experience of the sample respondents are 1 and 10 years respectively.

Table: 4.1. Distribution of respondents by sociodemographic characteristics (n=116)

Socioeconomic characteristics	n (%)
Average Age	39.7(9.05)*
Marital status	
Single	36(31)
Married	49(42.2)
Divorced	24(20.7)
Widowed	7(6)
Educational level	
Illiterate	59(50.9)
Only writing and reading	32(27.6)
Primary school	20(17.2)
Secondary school	5(4.3)
Average Household size	5.4(1.5)*
Place of Birth	
Sekota town	35(30.2)
Outside sekota town	81(69.8)
Previous occupation	
Daily wage laborer	36(31)
Domestic worker	23(19.8)

Housewife	5(4.3)
Unemployed	52(44.8)
Average Experience in year	5.9(1.8)*
Food security status	
Food insecure	51(44.0)
Food secure	65(56.0)

*= mean (standard deviation)

Source: Survey data, 2021

Food Security Status of the Sample Respondents'

As discussed in the previous section, this study tries to investigate the food security status of households using the self-assessment indicator method of food security measurement. Based on the information presented in table 4.1 from all sampled households 56.0% were food secure and 44% were found as food insecure.

FGD discussants agreed that preparing and selling local beverages and foods play a crucial role in providing and improving household food security. According to the participant of the FGD women who head their household and prepare and sell local beverages and foods in the study area are struggling for family survival and they spend the bulk of their earnings on household food requirements. Alemitu the mother of 5 from the FGD narrated the role of preparing and selling local beverages for food security.

I'm a single mother with no additional means of income. Household expenses are covered by producing and selling *tela* and *teji* alone. When I have a financial problem

that prevents me from covering my food expenses, we consume the cereal that I use to make beverages.

According to the town's Women, Youth, and Children Office experts, women who prepare and sell local beverages and foods are more self-sufficient than other women. The representative from the government office noted that most of them sustain their families without seeking assistance from the town administration; instead, they seek workplace, credit, and other institutional support to help them grow their businesses.

In addition to their food security status, the respondent were also asked to indicate the number of meals served per day. In view of that 75% of respondents and their family members were able to take food three times per day, whereas the remaining 17.2% and 7.8% of the respondents and their family members were able to take food twice and more than three times per day respectively. The majority of (75%) households achieved to maintain a normal consumption of three meals per day. Generally speaking, the average household meal served per day by the informal business operators was 2.91.

Table: 4.2. Household meal served per day

Meal served per day	Frequency	Percent
Twice	20	17.2
Three times	87	75
More than three times	9	7.8
Total	116	100.0
Average meal served per day	2.91	

Source: Survey data, 2021

Household's food security and well-being are heavily influenced by their income earning potential. The survey result shows that 56.9% of respondents claim that the income that they earn from their informal sector livelihood strategy is adequate to cover food expenses of themselves and their household members whereas 43.1% of respondent's income is inadequate to cover their food expenses.

Background Characteristics and Food Security Status of Respondents

In this subtopic, the background characteristics of the sample respondents' are analysed to identify the food secured from the food insecure households. It includes age, marital status, education level, family size, experience, saving status, credit access, and income of women informal operators. Table 4.4, revealed that the average age of food secure household heads was 36.61 years with a standard deviation of 6.23. On the other hand, the average age of food insecure household heads was 33.8 years with a standard deviation of 9.48. The married and single (divorced and widowed) household heads were accounted for about 44.89% and 43.28% were found to be food insecure respectively. Whereas, food secure households consisted of married and single were found as 56.71%, and 55.10% respectively.

Education can help women informal operators by increasing their knowledge and enhancing their capabilities to detect and evaluate business opportunities. All these factors enhance profitability and improve the accessibility of enough food. The survey result showed that 50.9% of the women informal operators were illiterate. From this category, 56.87% was from food insecure and 46.15 % was from food secure. The literate women informal operators who can read and write, take primary and complete secondary level education were 57%. From

the literate women informal operators, 53.85 % were food secure and 43.14 % were food insecure.

The sample respondents' household size didn't display a significant difference in mean household size between food insecure and food secure. Food insecure households' family size mean and the standard deviation was 5.43 and 1.54 respectively. Similarly, the mean and standard deviation of food secure sample households' family size was 4.48 and 1.58 respectively. Experience have a positive effect on informal business productivity as well as food security status because it provide the ability to learn and adapt to changing circumstances. The result revealed that the average experience of food secure household heads was 6.21 years with a standard deviation of 2.58. On the other hand, the average experience of food insecure household heads was 4.8 years with a standard deviation of 2.15.

The gathered data reveals that 63.8% of total respondents have no other source to generate income in addition to their business. The result shows that informal sector is the major source of income for urban women in the study area. Respondents' distribution by income level food security status shows 46.5% of total operators earn between 6,001 and 9,000 ETB monthly. From these women informal operators 75.92 % were food secured and 24.07% were food insecure. Almost 26.72% of total respondents earn between 3,001 and 6,000 ETB per month, from these informal operators 74.19% were food insecure and 25.85% were food secured. Around 15.5% of women informal operators earn above 9001 ETB per month, from these women operators 72.2% were food secured and 27.7% were food insecure. The remaining 11.2% women informal operators earn less than 3,000 out of the sampled food secure households and insecure households was 23.07% and 76.92% respectively. Those informal operators who earn

less than 6,000 birr are at a risk to fill their basic needs considering the current cost of living. The data shows that 70.7% of the total respondents have a large food share from their income. The result revealed that female's income is usually shared to meet obligations of household members in terms of food.

Saving encourages people to build up their capital, which can help them improve their businesses and deal with challenging situations like food insecurity and other financial crises. Regarding the saving habit of the respondents, 80.2% have saved from their earning and the remaining 19.8% have no saving from their earning. From these women informal operators who have saving 58.36% were food secured and 37.63% were food insecure. Whereas, from these women informal operators who have no saving 30.43 % were food secured and 69.56% were food insecure. Findings from key informant interviews revealed that women local beverage and food producers and sellers have good saving habits. But, women informal operators prefer to save their money on informal associations than formal financial institutions of the town.

Credit access to the women informal operator gives a chance to expand the existing business and to be engaged in other income producing activities that enable them to strengthen financial capacity and purchasing power of the household to escape from the risk of food insecurity. As can be seen from table 4.4 only (21.6%) women informal operators have borrowed money while quite a large number of respondents (78.4%) did not borrow money. From these women informal operators who have obtained credit service 24% were food secured and 76% were food insecure. Whereas, from these women informal operators who have didn't obtain credit service 64.83% were food secured and 35.16 % were food insecure. The FGD and key informants' interview information displays that women informal operators' particularly local

beverage and food producers and sellers have not got access to credit from formal financial institutions. The group lending and the high interest rate of the Amhara Credit and Saving Institution (ACSI) bankrupted most women informal operators.

Table:4.3. Respondents' background characteristics and food security status (n=116)

	Variable category	Food security status	
		Insecure n (%)	Secure n (%)
Age	Mean(SD)	33.8 (9.48)	36.6(6.23)
Marital status	Married	22(44.89)	27(55.10)
	Single	29(43.28)	38(56.71)
Education status	Illiterate	29(49.15)	30(50.84)
	Literate	22(38.59)	35(64.40)
Family size	Mean (SD)	5.43 (1.54)	4.48 (1.58)
Experience	Mean (SD)	4.8 (2.15)	6.21(2.58)
Income level	Income less than 3000 birr	10(76.92)	3(23.07)
	Income 3001-6000 birr	23(74.19)	8(25.8)
	Income 6001-9000 birr	13(24.07)	41(75.92)
	Income above 9001 birr	5(27.77)	13(72.22)
Saving habit	Yes	35 (37.63)	58(62.36)
	No	16(69.56)	7(30.43)
Credits service	Yes	19(76)	6(24)
	No	32(35.16)	59(64.83)

Source: Survey data, 2021

Factors Affecting Respondents' Household Food Security

To identify the major factors that influence the food security status of FHHs, the dependent variable was analyzed using the multivariate logistics regression analysis. From the result of the multivariate logistics regression analysis, the variable age, experience, family size,

income level and saving status have significant effect on the status of food security at 5% level of significance ($p \leq 0.05$).

As change by one year, the probability of an individual to be food secured is decreased by 38% than that of the elder one. Therefore, as the age of the household heads increases the food security status of FHHs will also increase. In relation to work experience, this study finds that as experience increased by one unit the food security of individuals had increased 38% while for one family size increment, there is a 43.3% decrement in food security in households. This implies that a household with more family members will have less advantage to be food secured than a household with fewer family members. Saving status was hypothesized to have a positive relationship with the food security status of the FHHs. The multivariate logistics regression result revealed that households that had no saving habits were 0.302 times less likely to be food secured than individuals who had saving habits (AOR=0.302, 95% CI = 0.08, 0.19). As a result, households who haven't saving practice were more vulnerable to food insecurity than those who have. The total earning of an informal operator was assumed to have a significant impact on the food security status of FHHs. For the factor income households who had income above 9000 ETB were 13.37 times more likely to be food secured (AOR=13.37, 95% CI= 2.30 , 77.71), income 6001-9000 ETB were 10.69 times more likely to be food secured (AOR= 10.69, 95 CI = 2.77, 41.31) and individuals who had an income of 3001-6000 ETB were 25.13 times more likely to be food secured (AOR= 25.13, 95 % CI = 2.22, 284.02) as compared to the household whose income was less than 3000 ETB.

Table: 4.4. Multivariate logistic regression analysis of factors affecting food security

Variable	β	S.E	AOR	AOR [95% CI]	P-value	
Constant	-1.3	0.61	0.28	0.004	18.302	0.55
Age	0.12	0.038	0.88	0.82	0.97	0.006*
Experience	0.328	0.21	1.39	1.04	1.86	0.028*
Family size	-0.433	0.29	0.65	1.06	2.23	0.023*
Education status (R. =illiterate)						
Literate	0.505	0.89	1.66	0.56	4.78	0.349
Marital status (R. = married)						
Single	0.25	0.67	1.28	0.46	3.550.631	
Income (R. = less than 3000 birr)						
Above 9000 birr	2.59	12.01	13.37	2.30	77.71	0.004*
6001- 9001 birr	2.37	7.38	10.69	2.77	41.31	0.001*
3001-6000 birr	3.22	31.09	25.13	2.22	284.02	0.009*
Saving status (R. = Yes)						
No	-1.12	0.21	0.302	0.08	0.19	0.037*
Credits (R. = No)						
Yes	0.89	1.8	2.44	0.58	10.37	0.226

* $p < 0.05$ (significant at 5% level of significance)

AOR: Adjusted Odds Ratio

CI: Confidence Interval

R: reference

Major Capital Assets of Women Informal Operators

Based on the study's conceptual framework and sustainable livelihood approach, this section identifies various livelihood assets that have an impact on FHH's livelihood strategies and outcomes. In this study, therefore, an attempt was made to identify and explore respondents' access to financial capital, human capital, physical capital, natural capital, and social capital.

Financial Capital

The data reveals that only (21.6%) women informal operators have borrowed money while quite a large number of other respondents (78.4%) did not borrow money. The major source of initial capital, almost 44.8% of respondents used, is from informal money lenders in which most of the informal lenders charge much higher interest on loans. Approximately 26.7% of the respondents obtain initial capital from gifts that are freely given from families, relatives or friends. The remaining 16.4% and 12.1% of respondents get their initial capital to launch their business from financial institutions and own savings.

The data from Sekota town Women, Children, and Youth Affair office and Micro and Small Scale Enterprise office indicates that women informal operators' particularly local beverage and food producers and sellers have not got access to credit from formal financial institutions. The nature of their business and a lack of collateral are the key reasons behind this. As stated by Micro and Small Scale Enterprise Office experts of the town, there are 2 formal microfinance institutions that provide saving and credit services to urban communities who engaged in microeconomic activities whose cash requirements are small. Since the main objective of the microfinance institutions is the delivery of financial services like providing

micro-loans and micro-savings to micro and small entrepreneurs in a cost-effective and sustainable way the loan extended to any single borrower by a formal institution should not at any time exceed 5000 ETB. The microfinance institutions give priority to formal business operators and group-based income generating projects.

Formal microfinance institutions of the town provide loans in groups to overcome some of their barriers especially collateral. The loan size, repayment period, and repayment frequency of group loans affect the contextual circumstances of women informal operators. Emebet, a beneficiary of group loan narrated.

Before two years, ACSI offered a group loan to seven people who were involved in various informal business activities. The loan was for 4000 birr per person, with a one-year repayment period. We repaid the money without boosting our business. One of our group members refused to repay his loan, and the institution accused us to repay his loan within a month. I sold my phone at the time to pay off another person's loan, and I advised my friends to avoid taking out loans like this.

The above group loan recipient case shows that the group loan is low and the repayment time is very short, causing unneeded stress on women who are informal operators. Beneficiaries of group loans are liable for repaying other individual debts. During the focus group, all participants agreed that the ACSI group loan is insufficient to expand their businesses and transform their lives. Furthermore, rather than enhancing women's efforts to alleviate poverty, it increases their stress and losses.

Regarding the saving habit of the respondents, the majority (80.2%) of women informal operators have saved from their earning. Results further reveal that around 29.9% of all respondents save between 301 and 400 birrs per month, 22.1% of respondents save between 401 and 500 birrs per month, 19.5% of respondents save between 101-200 birr per month and 15.6% of respondents save between 201 and 300 birr per month. The percentage shares of sample respondents who save above 500 Birr per month are 13%. The reason put forward by the respondents for saving money is 63.6% to expand the current business, 19.5% to household consumption, 13% to start other business, and 3.9% to house furniture. The majority of respondents save money to expand their business that is important to better improve the ability of a household to accomplish livelihood outcomes.

Physical Capital

In the current study, physical assets are basic services and infrastructures, such as water supply, electricity, and sanitation which facilitate informal operator's productivity and livelihood strategies. The study revealed that only 34.5 % of respondents have access to different infrastructures and 65.5% of them have no access to basic infrastructures. The largest proportion (55.3%) of the respondents were not accessible for water, 28.9% of them were not accessible for both, water and electricity and the remaining 11.8% and 3.9% were not accessible for electricity and toilet.

Table 4.5. Access to Basic Infrastructural Services

Infrastructures	Frequency	Percent
Water	42	55.3

Electricity	9	11.8
Toilet	3	3.9
water and electricity	22	28.9
Total	76	100.0

Source: Survey data, 2021

The expansion of basic infrastructure improves productivity and working conditions of informal sector enterprises. But, participants of the study stated that basic infrastructure development prioritizes formal business operators and group-based income-generating projects. FGD discussants reveal they are facing challenges in infrastructure and service facilities in their daily activities. Lemelem, narrated the problem of infrastructure.

I live in a rented home without access to water, a toilet, or power. For ampoule purposes, I share one balboa with three neighbors. I buy firewood to cook family meals and roast beverage and food cereals. I had to pay a lot of money to get water from private groundwater sources. During the dry season, I pay 6 birrs for 25 litter water, which is frequently contaminated with worms or various diseases.

As the data indicated local beverage and food producers and sellers inhabited in residential areas consist of decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or incomplete infrastructure. Therefore, they live in a condition where there is a lack of access to water, lack of access to sanitation facilities, and a lack of adequate living areas. They are also highly tired because of exhausting household tasks like carrying water and roasting beverage cereals.

Natural Capital

As can be seen from the table 10, below a great majority of local beverage producers and sellers 62.1% have no access to urban land. The findings of this study revealed that 76.1% of local beverage and food producers and sellers were operating their business in a privately rented house, 16.9% of women operate their business in kebele rented houses, and the remaining 7% of women operate their business in a relative's house.

Table.4.6. Land ownership of respondents

Land ownership	Frequency	Percent
Yes	44	37.9
No	72	62.1
Total	116	100.0

Source: Survey data, 2021

Study participants indicated that most local beverage and food producers and sellers operate their business activity at rental houses and they are not accessible for resources like land ownership. This study found that problem of working place is the main challenge for women who produce and sell local beverages and foods in the study area. As stated by key informant interview participants of the study working places (containers and shads) are provided for formal operators who are licensed. As a result, most of the women informal operators were run their business in individual rented and crowded houses. Similarly, FGD discussants agreed that the cost of house rent is unaffordable for women informal operators. The result of this study indicates that many women informal sector operators have no their own houses; as a result, they are highly exposed to high house expenses.

Social Capital

The survey result revealed that the majority of sampled respondents (88.8%) have participated in informal social institutions while insignificant proportions (11.2%) of the respondents were not involved in informal institutions. Sample respondents further mentioned that their participation in such informal associations helped them to get credit access, to improve their saving culture, to get support in times of crisis, and to strengthen their social network.

Table.4.7. Respondent's participation in informal institutions

Participation in informal institutions	Frequency	Percent
Yes	103	88.8
No	13	11.2
Total	116	100.0

Source: Survey data, 2021

As stated by FGD participant's most women local beverage and food producers and sellers are a member of an informal social association like Ekub and Mahiber. They meet regularly for saving and discussion, which helps them better their social interactions and business. Participants have noted that one of the benefits they gained from this organization is the ability to borrow money without paying interest when they confront social and economic difficulties.

The FGD discussants agreed that the traditional association delivers better credit service in comparison to the existing formal microfinance institutions of the study area. As a result, women informal operators prefer to save their money on these informal associations than

formal financial institutions of the town. In general, both quantitative and qualitative results show social capital is a strong livelihood asset for women informal operators in the study area.

Human Capital

According to SLA human capital of any household includes both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. The quantitative elements relate to the number of household members and the time available to engage in income-earning activities and the qualitative dimension of human capital includes the skills and knowledge of informal operators. Since both quantity and quality are important to the effectiveness of livelihood strategies the current study gathered evidence from both dimensions. According to the findings, about three out of every five household members participate in the preparation and sale of local beverages and foods.

According to the data from key informant interview participants, women informal business operators participate in different kebele level business training. However, key informant interview participants revealed that the majority of institutional support for women informal operators focuses on converting them to the formal sector rather than assisting them in improving their businesses.

Chapter Five: Discussion

The following discussion was made based on the major findings that are significant to achieving the stated research objectives.

Food Security Status of the Sample Respondents'

A study conducted by Samirawit(2011) showed that informal sector business operators in Addis Ababa who participate in shoe shining, tea and coffee vending, and agricultural product vending receive enough money to cover their household food expenses. In addition, as stated by Osman, (2009) &Even-Zahav (2016) the informal sector business has a significant contribution towards enhancing the food security status of informal operators. Therefore, this study comes up with the same result with the aforementioned scholars since, most of the respondents (56%) revealed that their household is food secured.

Majority of (70.7%) of the respondents in this study have a large food share from their income. The result revealed that female's income is usually shared to meet obligations of household members in terms of food. It was also mentioned during FGD and key informant interview that women who prepare and sell local beverages and foods are more self-sufficient than other women. The result of this study is consistent with the finding of Shamsu-Deen (2014) &Osman (2009). The findings of these studies show that even though women earn less, they spend the bulk of their earnings on household expenses, and they are more rational when it comes to allocating income in order to maximize the utility or satisfaction of their families.

Livelihood strategies are a set of activities and decisions that people adopt in order to attain their livelihood goals, which include food security and poverty alleviation. According to

DFID (1999), if poor people's livelihood strategies are to be sustainable, they must increase earnings, enhance well-being, reduce vulnerability, and improve food security. As it is shown from this study finding, the majority of (56.9%) of respondents claim that the income that they earn from their informal sector livelihood strategy is adequate to cover food expenses of their household members. The majority of respondents (75%) households also achieved to maintain a normal consumption of three meals per day. Therefore, preparing and selling local beverages and foods is considered a sustainable livelihood strategy in the study area.

Factors Affecting Respondents' Household Food Security

In this study age of household head positively affect the food security status of FHHs. As the age of the household heads increases the food security status of FHHs will also increase. The possible explanation of this result could be, as the age women informal operators advance the household will be able to accumulate more experience and wealth. This result is in line with Gebire (2012).

Experience is among the most important factors that determine FHH food security status. As it is shown from this study finding, since more women informal operators stay in a similar business, they may have better work experience and more customers, which will be expected to create differences in food security status among households. This finding is consistent with Samrawit(2011).

In this study family size measured in the number of household members was found significant and negatively affect the food security of FHHs. This implies that a household with more family members will have less advantage to be food secured than a household with fewer family members. This finding is consistent with results of studies done by WFP (2009), Ephrem

(2015) & Ndobu, (2013) as they displayed that each additional member of a household increases household food insecurity. On the other hand, the finding is not consistent with that of Ejigayehu & Abdikhalil (2012) founds that a positive relationship between family size and food security status.

Saving status was hypothesized to have a positive relationship with the food security status of the FHHs. Based on the finding; households who haven't saving practice were more vulnerable to food insecurity than those who have. This result is in conformity with the findings of Samirawit (2011) & Gebire (2012).

According to the finding, income is one of the predictor variables of FHHs food security status. The majority of informal operators' income for those who are food insecure is low. The findings of this study is similar with the studies of Ephrem (2015), Mutiah *et al.*, (2017) & Ndobu, (2013) as they check most of the food insecure households have lower income.

In general, the result of the study reveals that as women informal business operators become more matured, work for long a long period of time, have small family size, earn more and develop saving habit the probability of their household food security status improves.

Major Capital Assets of Women Informal Operators

Financial capital, according to SLA, refers to liquid assets such as cash, credit or debit, savings, and other economic assets that enable one to make ends meet in the pursuit of a livelihood (Scoones, 1998). Savings habits and access to credit (borrowing) are critical financial capital for the urban poor people's livelihood. For instance, if access to credit service is available and open for female informal operators, they can sufficiently build their economic capacity by

expanding their business activities for covering their basic household expenses. However, coming to the study area, women informal operators have saved and borrowed money from informal moneylenders in which most of the informal lenders charge much higher interest on loans. The finding of the study was not concordant with the Ethiopian micro and small business growth policy and strategy, as well as its national employment policy and strategy. As stated in micro and small business growth policy and strategy and national employment policy and strategy of the country it is mandatory for informal business operators to provide financial and credit services.

According to Rakodi & Lloyd (2002), physical assets are basic services and infrastructures, such as water supply, electricity, and sanitation which facilitate informal operator's productivity and livelihood strategies. However, the study revealed that only 34.5 % of respondents have access to different infrastructures, and they live in a condition where there is a lack of access to water, lack of access to sanitation facilities, and a lack of adequate living areas. Therefore, the finding of the study not concordant with the national employment policy and strategy of Ethiopia that provides direction for the activity of the informal sector access to basic infrastructures.

Since both quantity and quality are important to the effectiveness of livelihood strategies the current study gathered evidence from both dimensions. As defined by CSA of Ethiopia (2003), the informal sector is defined as household-type activities mostly operated by the owners alone or with few workers. Therefore, as a livelihood asset labor force participation of household members is crucial for effective informal business activity. According to the findings, majority of household members participate in the preparation and sale of local beverages and foods. On the other hand the qualitative dimension of human capital includes the skills and knowledge of

informal operators. Participants revealed that government officials didn't provide business related assistance and the most of institutional support for women informal operators focuses on converting them to the formal sector rather than assisting them in improving their businesses.

According to the SLA, natural assets are the natural properties such as land that individuals rely on for their survival and improvement. Where it is possible, house ownership is a preferred poverty-reduction strategy, particularly for urban women. It offers improved security as well as a place for home-based business activities. Furthermore, the possession of a house serves as collateral for struggling households necessary in order to obtain credit and loans. But, the result of this study indicates that many women informal sector operators have no own houses; as a result, they are highly exposed to high house expenses. Therefore, the finding of the study not concordant with the national employment policy and strategy of Ethiopia that provides direction for the activity of the informal sector access to working premises.

The results of the present study revealed that social capital played a significant role in preparing and selling local beverages and foods business activities mainly as a means to address the financial needs of women operators. The survey result revealed that the majority of sampled respondents (88.8%) have participated in informal social institutions. It was also mentioned during FGD that the traditional association delivers better credit and saving service in comparison to the existing formal microfinance. This is consistent with the idea of Tolosa (2009) that social capital has an economic context as strategies for getting access to livelihood assets. In general the findings of this study are similar with the core idea of SLA households' ability to participate in various livelihood strategies, as well as their effectiveness, is determined by their accessibility of different livelihood resources and assets.

Chapter Six: Conclusions and Implications

Conclusions

The informal sector is a promising sector for the urban poor women who missed the opportunity to join formal employment. According to the survey majority of women operators in the sector are young, single, and migrant. The study depicts that most women informal operators have not attended any formal education and are dropouts from school. Women operators stay in the informal sector longer due to a lack of employment opportunities outside of it.

The findings of this research showed the informal sector activities have a significant contribution towards assuring the food security status of FHHs. The other finding of this study showed among the hypothesized variables, age, experience, income level, and saving status are found to be significant and positively affect food security. On the other hand, family size negatively affects household food security. The negative and significant effect of family size showed a high population growth rate in the study area. Moreover, unlike the hypothesis, credit service was not found to be significant but this variable was significant and positively affects food security in other studies. This implies such government policies in the study area are not functioning properly.

According to the findings of this study, working in the informal sector allows the majority of women to generate enough money to pay their household's food expenses. Furthermore, the sector enables women informal operators to accumulate money for future use. It increases women's productive potential by allowing them to expand and grow their businesses.

The women informal operators' status of asset ownership, in the light of livelihood approach, shows that women informal operators in the study towns were characterized by low physical capitals, natural capitals and had limited access to financial capital specifically credit service. On the other hand, they were characterized by high social capitals, human capitals, and had a good saving habit.

In general, informal sector business activity is a means of achieving FHH's livelihood outcomes, which primarily include meeting household food needs and improving food security status. However, the findings of this study revealed that informal sector livelihood strategies are constrained by multiple asset constraints, and women operators in the sector face a lot of problems.

Implications of the Study

Implications for Policy

In Sekota town the involvement of women in the informal sector is directly linked to the alarming rate of migration from rural to urban areas and illiteracy. So in order to control this regional and local government should work on local development to create alternative job opportunities in their own locality.

The research findings show that the informal sector provides a lot of contribution to food security situation improvement of female-headed households. Therefore, the local government should help women informal sector operators by creating a more favorable

environment by implementing the already launched gender sensitive package appropriately, with the main emphasis on women's economic empowerment which is a prerequisite for food security and poverty alleviation.

The negative association between family size and food security indicates that the research area is experiencing rapid population growth. As a result, in addition to supporting the informal sector, the government and NGOs, particularly those working at the grassroots, should prioritize family planning and integrated health services.

Credit service was not shown to be significant, contrary to the hypothesis; nonetheless, this variable was proven to be significant and positively affect food security in other similar studies. Similarly, women in the informal sector do not have access to major capital assets such as institutional credit, working space, and basic infrastructure. This shows that government strategies in the study area are ineffective, and women informal operators have lost access to some potentially useful instruments for improving their businesses and household food security. Therefore, the Sekota town administration, in partnership with other concerned stakeholders (NGOs, etc.), should develop solutions for women informal operators to easily access capital assets.

In general, the town's Micro and Small Enterprise and Women, Youth, and Children Offices should focus on organizing the informal sector in a much more planned and calculated manner in order to generate more employment, as well as to use it as a tool for poverty reduction and food security status improvement for the most vulnerable and low-income members of society, particularly women and the less educated.

Implications for Social Work Intervention

Food security is an essential component of social justice which is the core value of social work. Therefore, social work practitioners can put their own influence on policy and practice to increase the role of informal sector business for FHH food security. The target group of the social worker is women informal operators with their families and other relevant stakeholders. The focus is on improving the food security of women informal operators through improving capital assets and addressing the factors that influence the food security status of FHHs.

Accordingly, the social worker's intervention might take a variety of forms. First, the social practitioners can focus on the personal needs of the women informal operator. The needs may be financial, social, institutional, and infrastructure problems of the workers which affect their effectiveness or profitability which directly related to their household food security status. It could be, therefore, possible to work on solving the problems of the informal operator through a collaboration of the operator or linking the women with available resources. Next, it could be also possible for the social workers to prioritize the major needs of women informal operators.

Here interventions of the social worker could be financial asset accessibility of women informal operators, natural asset accessibility of women informal operators, physical accessibility of women informal operators, and institutional support for women operators. In general, the social worker has an inherent responsibility to address the needs of women informal operators through collaboration with themselves, linking them with available resources, and advocating for the effectiveness of informal sectors to make it a sustainable livelihood strategy for urban poor women.

Implications for Future Research

The present study focused only on the role of the informal sector for FFH food security at Sekota town. Consequently, the findings of this study may be difficult to generalize at the national and regional levels. Therefore, this study can be improved further if it is done at the national or regional level by comparing different areas having a variety of sampling in a wide range of informal sectors or livelihood strategies. The research also focused on only the four components of SLA that are livelihood assets, livelihood strategies, structures and institutions, and livelihood outcome and its determinants, future research might focus on the vulnerability context.

Food security has had limited visibility in social work education, practice, and research when compared to its significance to individual and social wellbeing. Therefore, future research should explore food security issues from a social work perspective to examine the growing trends in food security as well as to explore individuals' experiences and meanings.

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Appendix-I: Questionnaire to be filled by respondents

Dear respondent, this research questionnaire is formulated for partial fulfillment of the master's program in social work. The research is regarding the role of informal sector for FHHs food security in Sekota town, Wag Himira Zone. I would like to kindly request that you fill in my questionnaire. The information you provide will help me to better understand the role of the informal sector for FHHs food security. Because you are the one who can give me a correct picture of the issue, you are kindly requested to respond to the questions frankly and honestly. Your time and assistance would be greatly appreciated. Please note that the information contained in this questionnaire will only be used for academic research purposes and your anonymity is guaranteed. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

Kebele _____ Ketena _____ Household code number: _____

Part one: General Information about Household's Socio-Demographic

1. Age of the respondent (in year) -----
2. Marital status of the respondent

A. Single	C. Married
B. Divorce	D. Widow
3. The education level of the respondent

A. Illiterate	B. Only writing and read
C. Primary school	D. Secondary school
4. How many members are there in your household? -----
5. Where is your place of birth? A. Sekota town B. Outside Sekota town
6. If your place of birth is outside Sekota town, what was your reason for coming here?

A. Marriage	D. Inaccessibility to farmland
-------------	--------------------------------

B. Following relatives or friends

E. Family displacement

C. To get job opportunities

F. Other (Specify) -----

7. What was your previous occupation?

A. Daily wage laborer

D. Housewife

B. Student

E. Unemployed

C. Domestic worker

F. Other (specify) -----

8. How many years did you spent on this informal business activity? -----

Part two: Household food security situation related questions

9. How do you evaluate the food security status of your household?

A. Destitute (could not maintain the food security)

B. Staggering (struggle to address the food security with others e.g. Government or NGO)

C. Food secured (address the household food security)

D. Better off (food secured and can support others)

10. On average how many times did you and your family take food per day?

A. Once

C. Three times

B. Twice

D. More than three times

11. Is your income adequate enough to supply food for your household?

A. Yes

B. No

Part three: Household income

12. Do you have other source of income?

A. Yes

B. No

13. How much is your average monthly income? -----(ETB)

14. What is the major monthly expenditure of your household?

- A. Food
- B. Health
- C. House rent
- C. Education
- D. Labor cost
- E. Other specify-----

Part four: Saving

15. Do you have saving from your earning?

- A. Yes
- B. No

16. If yes, how many birr do you save from your monthly earning??

- A. Less than 100
- B. 100-200
- C. 200-300
- D. 300-400
- E. 400-500
- F. More than 500

17. For what purpose you saved the money?

- A. For consumption
- B. For starting other business
- C. For housing furniture
- D. For expanding the current business
- E. for other purpose specify-----

Part five: Credit Access

18. What was your initial source of capital to start this business activity?

- A. From own saving
- B. Borrowing from formal financial institutions
- C. Borrowing from informal money lenders
- D. Gift from relatives/Friends

19. Do you have received credit from formal financial institutions?

A. Yes

B. No

Part six: Household labor participation

20. How many members of your household participate in preparing and selling local beverages? -----

Part seven: Participation in social institutions

21. Do you participate in traditional social institutions like Equib and Mahber?

A. Yes

B. No

22. If yes, what benefit you received from traditional institutions?

A. Saving

C. Assistance in the time crises

B. Credit

D. Strengthen the social network

Part eight: Access to workplace

23. Do you have your own workplace/house?

A. Yes

B. No

24. If your answer for question 26 is no where did you operate your business?

A. Kebele house

C. other specify -----

B. Renting/private house

Part Nine: Access to basic infrastructure

25. Do you have access to basic infrastructures?

A. Yes

B. No

26. If your answer for question 28 is no which infrastructure is/are you do not have?

- A. Water
- B. Electricity
- C. Toilet
- D. All

Appendix-II: FGD Guide Questions for Women Informal operators

Dear participants - My name is Asresu Getaway, a social work MSc. student at Bahir Dar University. I am conducting academic research on the role of informal sector for FHHs food security in Sekota town. The objectives of this study are investigating women informal operators' household food security level, assessing the major factors affecting the FHH food security situation of FHHs and identifying the capital assets of women informal operators who prepare and sell local beverages and foods in Sekota town. To realize these objectives your genuine response is very important. Therefore, I kindly request you to give the correct response. Note that, all your responses will be kept confidential.

1. Do you believe informal sector business/ preparing and selling local beverages and foods can improve FHHs food security status? How?
2. How do you describe your access to formal credit services?
3. How do you describe your saving habit?
4. How do you describe your access to land/workplace?
5. How do you describe your access to different infrastructure? like water, electricity & toilet
6. How do you describe your household member's participation in preparing and selling the local beverages and foods?
7. What form of support system/ network do you have? like Ekub and Mahiber
8. What kind of support do you receive from the social networks?

9. How do you describe the current roles of government/office in supporting and empowering women informal operators?

Appendix-III: Key informant Interview Guide Questions

Dear interviewee: - My name is Asresu Getaway, a social work MSc. student at Bahir Dar University. I am conducting academic research on the role of the informal sector for FHHs food security in Sekota town. The objectives of this study are investigating women informal operators' household food security level, assessing the major factors affecting the FHH food security situation of FHHs and identifying the capital assets of women informal operators who prepare and sell local beverages and foods in Sekota town. To realize these objectives your genuine response is very important. Therefore, I kindly request you to give the correct response. Note that, all your responses will be kept confidential.

1. How do you see the contribution of the informal sector/preparing and selling local beverages for FHHs food security in your town?
2. What is the opportunity and asset distribution to women informal operator in the town looks like? Workplace/land ownership, infrastructure, institutional support, training and capital.
3. You think female informal operators have credit access in the town? 1=Yes, 2=No
If yes, formal/informal, if no, why
4. You think female informal operators saving culture improved in the town? 1=Yes, 2=No
If yes, formal/informal, if no, why

11. ወርሃ ዊገቢ ዎቹ ተሰብኦ ን ምን ዓይነት ስራ ንበቲ ነው? 1. አዎ 2. አይደለም

ክፍል ሶስት: የገቢ ሁኔታ

12. ሌላ የገቢ ምንጭ አለዎት? 1. አዎ 2. የለኝም

13. ወርሃ ዊገቢ ዎ ምን ያክል ነው? ----- ብር

14. ዋናው ወርሃ ዊገቢ ተሰብኦ ዎ የት ነው ነው?

- 1. የምንገባው ጭ
- 2. የጤና ወጭ
- 3. የቤት ኪራይ
- 4. የትምህርት ወጭ
- 5. የሰራተኛ ወጭ
- 6. ሌላ-----

ክፍል አራት: ቁጠባ

15. ከገቢ ዎ ላይ ይቆጥባሉ? 1. አዎ 2. አልቆጥብም

16. ለጥያቄ ቁጥር 17 መልስ ዎ አዎ ከሆነ ምን ያክል ብር ይቆጥባሉ?

- 1. ከ 100 ብር በታች
- 2. ከ 101-200 ብር
- 3. ከ 201-300 ብር
- 4. ከ 301-400 ብር
- 5. ከ 401-500 ብር
- 6. 501 ብር እና ከዚያ በላይ

17. ለምን አላማነው የሚቆጥቡት?

- 1. ለምን ብር ጆታ
- 2. ሌላ አዲስ ስራ ለመጀመር
- 3. የቤት እቃ ለማሟላት
- 4. የምስራውን ስራ ለማስፋፋት
- 5. ሌላ-----

ክፍል አምስት: የብድር አገልግሎት

18. ይህን ስራ ለመጀመር የገንዘብ ምንጭ ዎ ምን ነበር?

1. የግልቁጠባ3. የግለሰብብድር

2. የአብዳሪተቋምብድር4. የቤተሰብ/የንደኛስጦታ

19.ከመደበኛየአብዳሪተቋምብድርተመድረውያውቃሉ? 1. አዎ2. አላውቅም

ክፍልስድስት:የቤተሰብአባላትተሳትፎ

20.ምንያክሉየቤተሰብአባላትበስራውይሳተፋሉ?-----

ክፍልሰባት:ኢመደበኛአደረጃጀትላይያለተሳትፎ

21.በአካባቢዎባለእቁብእናማህበርይሳተፋሉ? 1. አዎ 2. አልሳተፍም

22.ለጥያቄቁጥር 24 መልስዎአዎከሆነምንአይነትጥቅሞችንያገኛሉ?

- 1. ቁጠባ3. በችግርጊዜመረዳዳት
- 2. ብድር4. ማህበራዊግንኙነትንማጠናከር

ክፍልስምንት:የመስሪያቦታአቅርቦት

23.የግልየስራቦታአለዎት? 1. አዎ2. የለኝም

24.ለጥያቄቁጥር 26 መልስዎየለኝምከሆነየንግድስራዎትንየሚሰሩትየትነው?

- 1. ከቀበሌቤት3. ሌላካለይገለጽ-----
- 2. ከግለሰብቤትኪራይ

ክፍልዘጠኝ:የመሰረተልማትአቅርቦት

25.የመሰረተልማትአገልግሎትያገኛሉ? 1. አዎ2. አላገኝም

26.ለጥያቄቁጥር 28 መልስዎአላገኝምከሆነየትኛውመሰረተልማትነውየሌለዎት

- 1. ውሃ 3. ሽንትቤት

2. መብራት-4. ሁሉም

Appendix-V: የተተኪሪቡድንውይይትጥያቄዎች

1. በኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.የስራ-መስክመሰማራትየእማወራቤተሰብንየምግብዋስትያሻሽላልብላችሁታምናለችሁ? እንዴት?
2. የብድርአቅርቦትበአከባቢዎከሴትኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.ነጋዴዎችተጠቃሚነትአንጻርእንዴትትገልጹታላችሁ?
3. የቁጠባልምዳችሁንእንዴትትገልጹታላችሁ?
4. ለሴትኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.ነጋዴዎችያለውየመስሪያቦታአቅርቦትእንዴትትገልጹታላችሁ;
5. የመሰረተልማትአቅርቦትእንደውሃ፣ መብራትእናሸንትቤትበአከባቢዎከሴትኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.ነጋዴዎችተጠቃሚነትአንጻርእንዴትትገልጹታላችሁ;
6. በተሰማራችሁትየንግድስራላይየቤተሰብአባላትተሳትፎምንመስላል?
7. ምንአይነትየመረዳጃመንገድአላችሁ? እንደአቁምወይምማህበር?
8. ከነዚህየመረዳጃመንገዶችምንአይነትድጋፎችንታገኛላችሁ?
9. በአሁኑስአትሴትኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.ነጋዴዎችን/ባህላዊመጠጥሻጮችን)በመደገፍበኩልየመንግስትን ሚናእንዴትትገልጹታላችሁ?

Appendix- VI: የቃለመጠይቅጥያቄዎች

1. ኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.የስራ-መስክለእማወራቤተሰብየምግብዋስትያለውንሚናእንዴትያዩታል?
2. ለሴትኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.ነጋዴዎችያለውየሃብትእናየተለያዩእድሎችስርጭትምንይመስላል?
እንደመሬትባለቤትነት፣ መሰረተልማት፣ ካፒታልእናየመሳሰሉት?
3. በከተማችሁሴትኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ.ነጋዴዎችየብድርእድልይመቻችላቸዋልብለውያስባሉ? 1.
አዎ(መደበኛወይስኢ.መ.ደ.በ.ኛ) 2. አይመቻችላቸውምለምን?

4. በከተማችሁ ያሉ ሴት-ኪሎሜትር መደበኛ ነጋዴዎች የቁጠባ ባህል አላቸው ብለው ያስባሉ? 1.
አዎ (መደበኛ ወይስ ሴት-ኪሎሜትር) 2. የላቸው ምላሽ ምን?
5. የሴት-ኪሎሜትር መደበኛ ነጋዴች/ባህላዊ መጠጥና ምግብ አዘጋጆችና ሻጮች/
ውጤታማነት ላይ ተጽእኖ የሚያሳድሩ የተለዩ ጉዳዮች ምን ምን ናቸው?
6. በአሁኑ ስድስት-ከተማ አስተዳደር እነዚህን ሴቶች/ባህላዊ መጠጥና
ምግብ መዘጋጀት እና መሸጥ ላይ
የተሰማሩ ሴቶችን/ለመደገፍ እና እራሳቸውን ለማስቻል ምን ምን ተግባራትን እፈጸመኛለሁ?
7. በጉዳዩ ዙሪያ መቅረት የሌለበት የሚሉት ሃሳብ ካለ ማንሳት ይችላሉ።