

Chapter one

Introduction

1.1 Introduction:

In recent decades, the new form of families emerged. Families headed by women have become more significant phenomenon worldwide in the last half of 20th and 21st century (Baros & Fox, 1997, p. 231). In 1960 only 9 percent of families with children headed by women; by 1999 the number was over 20 percent. (Min & Michael, 2003)

A more recent occurrence in this direction is the increasing number of women headed families in developing countries that are emerging as economic changes result,, economic downturns and social pressures, rather than as a product of cultural patterns. In many countries in the third world, like Africa, Asian or Latin American countries, in recent years, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of female-headed families (FHF's).

Therefore, this study is focuses on the socio- economic impact of families headed by women in the Sudanese communities. Families headed by women are recently growing worldwide. This study is going to examine the problem of headship of female in Sudanese communities, and the social and economic impact of female-headship on their families.

The headship of the family is identifying with the person who has the greater authority in the family. Power and authority in turn may be vested on the member who has control over the general affairs of the family unit, including decision-making concerning its economic, social and political social processes (Sanni, 2006).

Very little research has been done on the socio economic impact of female-headed families in Sudan, Studies of female-headed families in African, Middle-Eastern and Asian countries indicate that male out-migration was largely responsible for the emergence of female-headed households (Makinwa-Adebusoye, 1989).

Female-headed families are defined as women with children, who are widowed, unmarried mothers or caretakers and women who are divorced or separated. Most surveys identify female-headed families as households where no husbands or adult males are present. (Batista, 1994).

In general, female-headed families are more prevalent among those who are widowed, divorced, separated or single.

1.2 Statement of the problem:

Women who headed families suffer from different life stresses in regards to social and economic aspects due to different factors that were enforce them to work and care for their families.

Despite the continuous pressures, they had faced, but these women were responsible and work hard to fulfill their duties. Unfortunately, the

female's life after leaving husband (for the reasons of death, divorce, etc) often confronts with some social and economic problems some of them are heading children alone and sometimes with difficulty, economic problems, Also, wrong attitude of the society towards divorced and widow female in absence of their husbands, makes numerous problems for them in social relations and attendance in the society.

However, a woman who is the head of the family finds herself in challenges where she has to confront social, economic, child related and other child related problems. She has to face stiff opposition from other quarters and she is at disadvantageous position compared to her counterparts in male-headed families. In addition to that, also women-headed families everywhere are exposed to discrimination and disadvantage.

Important of the study:

Although useful research exists on women headed families but still there need for more study .So this study goes along to contribute to the literature and knowledge on women headed families in Sudanese community.

1.3 Research Objectives:

1.3.1 Main objectives

The main objective of this research is, to study the, impact of social change on families headed by women.

1.3.2 the most important objectives of the study are:

1. To highlight the multiple social and economic roles of the women headed families.
2. To examine the perception of the community to words families headed by women.
3. To stand on the status of women and their role in the family decision-making and socialization.

1.4 Hypothesis:

1. Female headed families has multiple social and economic roles to perform
2. Society's perception towards families headed by female is negative.
3. Female headed families have a big role in the family decision making and socialization.
4. There is significant impact of family care on female headed families' health

1.5 Methodologies of the Research

To satisfy the above-stated objectives, different methods of data collection were used in the study such as secondary and primary data collection. Combinations of qualitative and quantitative methods are used to elicit the information needed to respond to the research questions and objectives.

Mixed method is characterized by the collection and analysis of quantitative data followed by the collection and analysis of Qualitative data, the priority is given to the quantitative data, and the two methods are integrated in the interpretation phase (Creswell, 2003).

1.6. Primary Data:

1.6.1. Quantitative Data (Questionnaire):

Quantitative approach is defined as the numerical representation, it emphasizes the measurement and analysis of relationships between variables, as well as, it offer advantages with words, pictures and numbers, in this study questionnaire tool will be used in the data collection process.

1.6.2. Qualitative data (Narrative Interview):

Narrative interview techniques will be used for collecting the necessary information for further verifications.

1.7 Secondary Data Collection:

The **secondary data** sources principally are relevant materials from available previous studies, which include books, reports, and any other published material.

1.8 Data Analysis

Different techniques will be used to analyze the collected data:

Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) will be used to analyze the quantitative data.

For qualitative data, different methods of analysis can be used. In this research, I have used the content analysis.

1.9 Study area& population:

Sample will cover Omdurman city. (More details in the methodology chapter)

1.10 Sample size;

This study will be based on a sample size of female, from the different types of families. The sample is intended to include both young and old women. The participants will be randomly select through snowball methods.

1.11 Definition of the terms:

1. Family Definition:

A family is a social institution that has a personal function of the reproduction and replacement of members (Schultz, 1976, p. 81). It is a social group characterized by common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. It includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, and one or more children, owned or adopted.

2. Social change

Social change in sociology is defined as the alteration of mechanisms within the social structure, characterized by changes in cultures, behavior, or value system.

Social change in this study refers to an alteration in the social and economic order of a society. Social change may include changes in nature, social institutions, or social relations.

3. Impact:

The term impact is defined as to have an immediate and strong effect on some things or somebody. Also as change or changed state of occurring from an action by something or someone else (MSN Encarta, 2009) .The word impact also refers to the marked effect or influence .For the purpose of this study the term impact refers to the effect, or change decision making and households management.

4. Female headed a family:

In most literature the concept of a woman managing a family is always refers to a woman who has children without a male partner's .The woman who supports a family in the legal absence of a husband.

The definition of female-headed families is the one given by International Labor Organization (ILO,2005), Families either where no adult males are present, owing to divorce, separation, migration, non-marriage or widowhood, or where men, although present, do not contribute to the household income.

1.12 Limitation:

This study has some limitations, such as that sampling frame of all female-headed families was not available. In addition to that, there is no previous research in this area.

1.13 Ethical considerations:

By ethic in this research, I mean to protect confidential communications, in other words respect the human dignity, privacy, and autonomy.

1.14 Thesis structure:

The study will be composed of six chapters,

Chapter one contains an introduction, research problem, hypotheses, objectives of the study and definition of the terms.

In Chapter two the thesis presents the theoretical framework of the study, review of the literature and previous research.

Chapter three is a historical background about the area, population, and the methodology. The methodology part gives a brief introduction about the methods used to collect finding materials and the analysis techniques also shown in this chapter. This chapter also, explains the sample of the study and the procedure of data collection.

Chapter Four will present the results of the study, discussion of the finding in relation to the literature and previous studies.

Chapter Five will present the, conclusion, and recommendations.

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Introduction:

This chapter is consisting of three sections; it will start with providing framework to the concept of the families, followed by the theoretical focus, and the last section will explore the previous studies.

2.1.1. Section one

The family is a fundamental unit of a society. This part examines aspects of the family.

A woman is a person who feels and thinks. This is a natural thing, which we all know. We are at the beginning of the third millennium when the woman got out of its ivory tower. Then she has gained access to education. She participated and worked in various fields and proved her competency and ability.

If we glance back down history we find that woman was left out and marginalized. If we go back as far as pre-Islamic era (jahillia) woman would be buried alive because she might bring dishonor to her family. She used to be bought and sold as any kind of property and belongings. When Islam came started to protect the woman and safeguard her rights. Throughout ages woman gradually began to develop, her intellectual faculties and her cultural identity. (Women & society, (2002).

Sudanese woman progress greatly in parallel with her counterpart in the world, in spite of woman access to education still she faces a lot of

hurdles .Woman still remain under the influence of tradition and customs .Woman exert a lot of efforts to fight these bad habits.

Woman is capable of coping with her three assigned roles: Reproductive Role-productive role and social role.

2.3 Definition of the family:

The institution of family is one of the most ancient social systems. Studies have shown that man who lives in a family institution which is considered as an important entity in the society which could give him a chance to meet his biological and human needs .the family occupied an important social position maintain various functions which enhance his social existence.

Family is considering as first nucleus in the society. It is the seeds and the foundation of the society. If the family is properly set up then the whole society will subsequently be built properly. Family regarded as the first social school that plays the role of shaping the behavior al patterns of a child. The family is empowered with process of socialization and molding of a child. Family is a social system consists of a man and a woman spiritually attached to each other in the presence of child and relatives living together. The existence of a family allows satisfaction of natural desires mutual interest and reciprocal feelings. Family represents collectivity between individuals tied by blood relation and considered as the smallest social unit.

In the light of the above-mentioned information, we can define the family as the first social unit, aims for the continuation of human race and accepted by religions. The family system differs from one society to another. The role of the family besides socialization process determines the behavior of individual according to the beliefs and tradition of the society.

We observed that the extend family is strong and stable. It is protected by the society but the nuclear is full of family tension and troubles deviation and family breakdown.

Family is known as a society. It is the mechanism, in which individuals satisfy their physical desires. (Nabeel M.1988).

2.4 The role of the mother in the family:

Sociologists emphasize the importance of the early childhood period. All the events and experiences the child is exposing to during childhood period lead to repression and complexes and emotional stress. Child adjustment, physical and intellectual maturity depends on child attachment to his mother.

Healthy relation between the child and his mother lead to the shaping of child personality. The child emotional stability leads him to become a good member of the society. The intimate relationship between the child and his mother gives a child a sense of security and happiness that resulted in achieving psychological balance and emotional stability.

2.5 Concept of the family:

Family is one of the essential factors that helps in building the educational system and socialization and shaping the personality of the child and inculcate on him the customs and habits which continue with him throughout his life. Child usually imitates his parents' ways of life and behavior. If the parents' behavior is proper then child will be a good one. Family is a social bond consists of the father and mother and their children. Some people believe that a father who does not have offspring does not form a family. If parents behavior deviate away from the normal patterns of life, then this affect the children behavior. ([www.2007](#)).

2.6 Family functions:

- (1) Procreation of children and provide them with healthy environment to fulfill his biological and social needs. The function of the family is not only restricted for reproduction. This restriction may eliminate the natural differences among people.
- (2) Family provides children with the necessary means to build their entity.
- (3) It helps the children in order to fit appropriately in the community.
- (4) Family is responsible for providing children with security stability and social welfare during their early childhood.

Family is only institution, which is capable of caring for children.

2.7 Family duties:

Family is responsible for upbringing of children properly and in a balance way. It should cater for providing safety and stability.

Sociologist suggested that family is an important unit that play vital role in socialization. A family is an institution where the child acquires the social experiences and the social rules that qualify him to participate effectively as a member of the society.

The educationalists emphasize the importance of the social interaction between a family and their children to avoid anxiety depression. The (Moghadam, V. M. 2005) reports indicate that the child who is deprive from his father kindness may suffers depression and anxiety which associated with the sense of guilt and revenge In that case the child lose touch with a reality and live in delusions.(Ibid).

2.8 The importance of family:

The family influence in straightening the behavior of individual, giving of assurance on the child. Through the family, they acquire the language and the social values .The family assists in building the human culture and establish co-operation among people.

2.9 Types of family:

2.9.1 The nuclear Family:

The nuclear family is basic unit of the society, which consists of a father and wife and their children. I t is also called unstable family because

each member of the family has got his ideas and values which differ from the belief of their parents.

Nuclear family is small and can move from place to another to earn living and according to job market requirements. We should not confuse a family with household. A household consist of a member who live in the same quarter and relative. The household consists of individual members related by blood ties. Sometimes the family entity includes people who are not connected by such relations like friends mates. A household refers to a unit of individuals sharing dwelling house.

(Lingam L.1994).

2.9.2 The extended family:

Extended family is considered as one of the most stabilized social unit based on kingship connected with each other social relation. They all live in the same quarter nearby each other .They consist of more than one generation such as father mother children grandfather they all share the same quarter.

2.9.3 Patri -local family:

It is a family, which consists of brothers living together with their wives in one compound. It combines the characteristics of both nuclear and extended family we observe these kinds of family in most of Arab Countries and Sudan. Sons and daughters remains with their parents even after getting married in one communal house.(i.bid).

2.10 Socialization:

It is the process of social interaction which individuals use to gain social identity which reflects their culture. Socialization is a continuous process, which starts at an early stage and consists of three phases: early childhood, adolescence, and senility. Socialization aims to provide individuals with social ethics and traditions and habits. Socialization is regarded as the mechanism used for safeguarding the social values, which are desirable and rejecting the values, which are not desirable. Socialization has a long-term effect on individuals even after marriage. It helps the persons to be compatible with friends and companions. In many different parts of the world, family extends to include neighbors, friends, as well as in some African countries.

2.11. Literature on female-headed families:

The (UNDP, 2005), in the Arab Human Development Report, agrees that some female-headed households, for example those of migrant male partners, do not have lower income compared to male-headed households and may not even be considered poor households. However, the report also stresses the poverty of the majority of those female-headed households compelled into their status by death or separation of their partner. Further, a study of female-headed households in the collectives of Suleimaniyah, Iraqi Kurdistan, reached the ultimate rejection of the "stereotype" that female-headed households are at a worse-off position in all the dimensions of vulnerability in comparison to households headed by men (Waite L. 2002,).

In developing countries, the majority of households that are headed by women have many economic and social problems. FHHs often faced with issues such as cultural discrimination, lack of access to job opportunities, low literacy and lack of regular income. Socio-Economic factor of poverty directly and indirectly affects on the cultural, social and ecological condition of FHHs.

Poverty in female headed households is not an isolated case as literature maintains that women make up a disproportionate number of the poor. The United States also found that, of the world's poor, 60-70 percent is women.

Two African scholars asserted that there exists a strong relationship between female headed households and the incidence of poverty. There are several persuasive factors that attribute to the prevailing perception of feminization of poverty (Kimenyi & Mbaku, 1995,). They include disparities in rights, entitlements and feminization of Labor.

Rosen house (1989) termed such economic disadvantages as "triple burden." They are; (i) disadvantage that women experience in Labor market and other means of income (ii) dual task which places time constrain (iii) higher dependency burden as in most cases women in these households are single earners as opposed MHHs who are mostly joint earners.

In many countries in Africa, as elsewhere, there has been a significant increase in the percentage of female-headed households (FHHs) in recent years. Among the main causes are male migration, the deaths of males in civil conflicts and wars, Development initiatives have often tried to direct resources and services to FHHs on the assumption that they were poorer than households headed by men (MHHs) and less able to improve their situation without special help. What recent (IFAD, 1999) poverty assessments show is that the reality is more complex.

The (IFAD, 1999) poverty assessment in eastern and southern Africa noted that an estimated 25-60% of rural households in countries in the region were headed by women, if both de jure (single, widowed, divorced or separated women) and de facto categories (wives of male migrants) were included. Household budget surveys usually find that rural FHHs are no poorer, and may in fact be less poor, than MHHs, but there are exceptions. For instance, in Zambia, Zimbabwe and Namibia, household consumption survey data argue that FHHs are poorer, but in Rwanda the difference is small: 41% of FHHs as compared with 39% of MHHs are classified as poor. In Tanzania, survey data concluded that in rural areas, the income of FHHs was slightly higher than that among MHHs, but the pattern is reversed in urban Dar-es-Salaam. In Zanzibar and Malawi, on the other hand, FHHs tend to be poorer in rural areas than MHHs, but not in urban ones.

These different findings may lie in the type of female-headed households concerned, and their rural-urban distribution. More

qualitative analysis and participatory forms of information collection often differentiate between de jure and de facto FHHs. These studies have usually concluded that households headed by women who are divorced, widowed or separated are more likely to be poor households, and household headed by single or married women (the wives of migrants) are likely to belong to the non-poor. Findings of studies in Kenya and Zambia argue that the best predictor of whether an FHH is or is not likely to be poor is whether the female head does or does not receive support from a current partner, husband or adult son.

The 1999 IFAD assessment of poverty in West and central Africa appears to agree with this viewpoint. In this region, the evidence for greater vulnerability or poverty of FHHs is also somewhat contradictory. Out of 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, it appears that in 9 countries, the incidence of poverty is lower among FHHs. For instance, in Niger, FHHs account for about 8% of the population. Out of these, 55% would be defined as poor, whereas 64% of male-headed households would be classified as poor. In Ghana, the poverty incidence is 28% for FHHs and 33% for MHHs. In rural Nigeria, the incidence of poverty among female-headed households declined from 42% in 1985 to 22% in 1992, whereas for male-headed households, it declined from 50% to 38%. A study on Uganda found that FHHs were no poorer than male-headed households. The IFAD West and central Africa poverty assessment suggests that the reason could well be that FHHs do not constitute a homogeneous group, but include families receiving regular remittance

incomes. This agrees with the conclusions of the assessment in eastern and southern Africa.

The differing findings on the poverty of female-headed households argue for distinguishing between the types of FHHs in poverty targeting. Some de facto FHHs can be expected to be better off than male-headed ones, because of remittances. If a household is not receiving support from any male family member, it is more likely to be poor. Where a household livelihood is dependent primarily on farming, and there is neither remittance income, access to male labor (family or hired) nor animal traction, it is likely to be very poor.

Families are constructed from primary social relationships, either by circumstance or by choice. Scholars and legal experts have defined families as collections of individuals who are related by birth, adoption, or marriage. The sociologist Talcott Parsons set forth a conception of the family as a unit including a breadwinner husband and a homemaker wife. The economist Garry A. & Pearsall, (M1989,) examined the social and economic exchanges that take place among partners, bringing both benefits and costs. Social science definitions of families have become more inclusive of people unrelated by legal marriage that are closely connected or intimately involved, have mutual responsibilities and common interests, and who care for each other. Popular understandings of family tend to focus on how people feel about each other (love) and what people do for each other (commitment). As definitions of families have changed, family configurations have shifted as well. Families are

increasingly headed by women and in such cases are commonly referred to as female-headed, women-headed, or mother-headed families. The terms lone mother and single mother typically refer to the same family structure in different countries. Women raising children in any of these families may be divorced, separated, single, never married, or in a cohabiting relationship with a male or female partner or if married may be living apart from their partner of a household (Chant S., 1998) explains the role of gender in influencing the nature of household and household members' assigned tasks.

2.12 Families are changing

Some sociologists argued that families are changing in social relationships. Most of them agree that families look quite different in the early twenty-first century than they did a generation ago. Yet some argue that there was never a single dominant family pattern in Western society (Cherlin A.G., 1992). Historical discrimination toward racial and ethnic groups and blocked economic opportunities have depressed marriage rates overall and have contributed to increases in female-headed families, (Coontz S. 1992).

Separating out the causes and consequences of changes in family structure is a challenge. Poverty scholars see a strong cross-national connection between female-headed families and poverty. In North America and Western Europe, there is an increasing trend toward single-parent families. Men and women are marrying later, are increasingly choosing to cohabit rather than marry, and are increasingly likely to divorce. Out-of-wedlock childbearing is also increasing and is especially

high among young African Americans and lowest among Latina women (Cherlin, 1992). In Central and South America legal marriage is normative, but mothers may leave children in the care of relatives to find work elsewhere temporarily or permanently. Globally, impoverished mothers earn money through legal or illegal (and risky and dangerous) means to support themselves and their children. Barbara and Russell (2002) point to the sexual and economic exploitation of women around the world.

Sociological research reflects serious concern about the growing numbers of female-headed families. Numerous studies conceptualize single motherhood as a social problem, either because of the social stigma attached to it or because of the feminization of poverty. Worldwide the majority of families headed by women are poor. While quantitative research shows that many female-headed families are "at risk," qualitative research focused on the meaning, arrangements, and flexibility of families headed by single women reveals that such arrangements can also bring greater stability compared to the existing alternatives.

In the 1970s the anthropologist Carol Stack studied the kinship strategies of single women with children living in an urban housing project in the Midwestern United States. She described a complex network of sharing and support among households. Similarly (Kathryn Edin and Laura Lein, 1997) found that poor single mothers rely on assistance from friends, relatives, and neighbors--both information and

money to get through the month-- whether they are working or receiving welfare payments.

Research has also explored how middle-class, single-mother families discuss their family circumstances, manage finances, and handle work and family responsibilities. Barbara E. & Russell H (2002) has examined the "social economy" of single motherhood in rural communities. Her emphasis on the combined importance of social networks and financial resources is particularly instructive for understanding the complexity of single mothers' lives.

Balghis Badri (2007) in her book she concerns with Sudanese women in relation to empowerment through specific indicator like health, education, work, political participation among other indicator. All these assume that women can take place or position in society.

2.13 Economic Impact:

The economic prognosis for single-mother families is bleak. Declining rates of marriage increases in divorce, and the prevalence of a growing proportion of families with children are headed by a single parent for some period of time, and these households are much more likely to be poor. When fathers do not live with their children, they are much less likely to share in the financial costs of raising them. Single mothers bear most of the economic expenses and social responsibilities of child rearing. Low wages and high child-care costs contribute to the economic difficulties facing these households. Simply put, it costs more for single mothers to work, and many of the positions women hold do not pay

enough to support their households or offer benefits that would help them or their children, like health care, vacations, or sick leave. Improving employment opportunities, strengthening the social welfare system, and increasing child support are all approaches that would contribute to the financial stability of female-headed families (Ibid.). The United Nations similarly points out that promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is essential if the position of female-headed families is to be improved.

Involving parents who do not live with their children in their children's lives may also be a way to ease the burdens experienced by one-parent families. Studies find that the overall workload at home of single mothers is much greater than that of married mothers. Single mothers spend more time on household tasks like cleaning and cooking as well as on the hands-on care of children. The work overload experienced by single mothers produces a great deal of stress and may affect parenting practices. It is unclear whether children receive more attention and supervision in two-parent or one-parent households.(Nelson's 2005) study shows that rural single mothers sometimes have difficulty arranging for tasks typically performed by men.

The literature review above provides comprehensive studies that are conducted .but still there is gab in this area. So this study is important because there need for deeper understanding of researches on women headed families

Section Two

Theoretical Framework

2.2.1 Introduction

In the field of sociology and social sciences, the experts' views provide proper grounds regarding to the problems of the female-headed households.

2.2.2 Feminist Theory

The adherents of this theory believe that, the female-headed households confront with many problems like: having not access to suitable job opportunities, lower levels of education among these female and their children, committing more crimes by the children and poorness in different dimensions. Of other properties of the families headed by female is that, this group of female do not have access to high-level jobs (Coven M. L. 1990). In other words, the female-headed households often are unemployed or have marginal, semi time, informal and low-income jobs (Chant, S. 1997).

Nevertheless, **constructional-functional** view, with opinions of Parsons and Durkheim, believes that lock of one of the spouses, especially man, cause disorder, or decrease in roles of the family and probably the family will be disorder.

According to this theory, the families headed by female are in contrast with natural and traditional form of the families (With parents) and

indeed, the appearance of this kind of families is considered as a deviance (Robetsons, I.1999) Also, the exponents of the classical theory, first, they believe that regarding to the female-headed households, being in hurt and poorness is a common situation. Second, they attribute the real reason of this situation to unequal economic system, i.e. capitalism (Langlois, J. fortin,. 1994).

Generally, according to the existing theoretical bases regarding to the problems of the female-headed households, we can provide a proper theoretical model and in this way, we can assume that the problems of this group are affected by some factors:

According to Gidens' interpretation, none of the studied theories provides a comprehensive explanation for economic, cultural, and social problems of female-headed households. These theories have interference in some respects; they can combine to provide a reasonable understanding of the main dimensions of the female-headed households (I bid). Therefore, this study tries to get a better explanation for dimensions of the life in the female-headed households, by the selection of related and appropriate theories.

Gender is an important dimension to unfold the socio-economic inequality of any country. Flow of income, assets and income generation capability of household members are important entitlements of a household to ensure their healthy survival (Goodwin, 2003). In addition, culture of any society has profound impact on deciding the allocation of

household assets between male and female with respect to the income generation capacity in their life course (Moghadam, 2005).

The rate of increase of the female headed household can be explained with the aspects of development such as modernization and so on which have an effect on the aspects of family systems and family relationships. With the advent of new culture, family breakdown with respect to divorce, separation, widow and so on (Lingam, 1994).

In other words, in the patriarchal society, the females are not the primary earner in the family but contributors in the household income. As females are less equipped with skills of income (Jayaram, 2009) They are not able to take up a better job in labor market, their mobility to search job at various work place is also restricted, several times they are less preferred at work place in comparison to their male counterparts and they get lesser wage or salary for same work (Nathan, 1987). Thus, it makes a household vulnerable to shock of poverty and risk of survival if it depends primarily upon female earner.

2.2.3 Feminist Sociologists:

Feminist sociologists are responsible for developing theories of gender relations and power struggle. According to (Brayton, 1997), feminist research is uniquely feminist because of the motives, concerns, and knowledge that are brought to the research process.” Feminist research studies women and focuses on gender. It challenges gender inequalities within the social, political and economic world. Although feminists acknowledge the differences in race, class or age, they believe that all

women face oppression and exploitation and they are committed to expose and understand what causes and perpetuates oppression. Feminists are also always committed either to work individually or collectively to end all the forms of oppression and exploitation of women using the feminist research techniques.(Harding, 1987), defines methodology as, “a theory and analysis of how research should proceed and that epistemology concerns theories about knowledge construction by questioning whose knowledge is validated and what constitutes knowledge”. Feminist methodology is therefore, the philosophy of knowing how to construct and verify women’s forms of knowledge. Harding makes it clear that what makes feminist research feminist is the fact that women are studied from their perspective and it recognizes the researcher as part of the research subject. Women researchers bring their own experiences and history into the research process. Therefore, unequal power relationship is overcome through the association of the researcher within the context, where the participants feel more secure to share information with someone who understands their situation. This empowers women to become critical of their community, organizations, and situation without fear. The methodology tries to bring about balance and equality between the researcher and participants by negotiating relationships using unique feminist principles.

In feminist research, the issues that are important to women become the starting point for research. For example, because women identify with the private sphere, the issues of importance include domestic violence, marital rape, being a mother, incest and others that have been ignored as issues of importance in development because we live in a world, which

values male knowledge. Language is used to shape the words, concepts and stereotypes of society, which in turn shapes actions, behaviors and expectations (Brayton 1997), although different authors construct feminist research issues in different ways, there are three basic epistemological principles in feminist research methodology.

Historically, men ignoring their truths and knowledge have sidelined women throughout the world. Feminism is a powerful conceptual tool for critiquing the traditional qualitative and quantitative sociological research methods. The main concepts within the feminist research are the empowerment of women and the equality of the research relationship in which the researcher and the participant are equal. Feminist inquiry and criticism has brought some changes in sociological research leading to some fundamental shifts in perception. For example, it has challenged the dichotomization of the private and public spheres. It has also revealed the necessity for research to be done on women and their lives instead of generalizing the conclusions of research on men to general 'people'. One distinctive feature of feminist research is the fact that it problematizes the perspectives of women's experiences as important indicators of the "reality" against which hypotheses can be tested. Women are able to share their experiences through which they get to understand themselves and their cultural environment, which has systematically silenced and devalued their voices. Feminist research therefore provides a new resource for research that uses "women's experiences" to generate knowledge that differs with regard to gender, class, race and culture (Chombah 2003).

Feminist philosophers insist on the need to integrate women in all areas of development and to acknowledge that women always possessed knowledge that was never valued by the patriarchal society. As regards the methodology, feminist philosophers are not just analytical or critical, but they get deeper into the reconstruction of philosophy, redefining the subject matter and methods. They do so by valuing women's experiences and enabling women to move from the position of being subjects to that of being knower and agents of knowledge. Feminist researchers object to the conventional methodology of research and believe in a diversity of truths.

They believe that there are many realities and so they employ the qualitative research approach because it is rich and highly descriptive of relevant women's experiences during forced migration. They insist that the researcher and the researched should be able to establish rapport to draw up a conversation that may source valuable data regarding women's experiences during armed conflicts.

According to (Garry & Pearsol, 1989), feminist philosophers seek to explore standpoint which is to base their feminist philosophy. On the other hand, (Millen, 1997), suggests frameworks for the alternative positions of feminist research as feminist empiricism, feminist standpoint and feminist postmodernism.

The feminist stand point theory draws Marxist ideas about the role of the masses to suggest that women, as an oppressed class have the ability not only to frame their own experiences of oppression but also to see the oppressors more clearly and therefore the world in general. It is a response to the patriarchal statement that feminism or female experience is an invalid basis for knowledge. (Millen, 1997).

This theory suggests that there is a female's notion of understanding that is intuitive, emotional, engaged and caring which has been excluded from developing ideas about knowledge. This is an example of an epistemological foundation of the biased emphasis on the exclusion of women's experiences during armed conflicts. This explains the fact that women remain 'other' and men as the 'norm', while 'feminine' understandings of knowledge are also positioned as 'other' and the feminine concepts are regarded as less valid while only the masculine concepts of knowledge qualify to be valid (Millen, 1997). This is explained by understanding the origins of patriarchy and how patriarchy underpins women's ways of knowing and knowledge.

Patriarchy: Since the research was informed by feminist scholarship, it is very important to understand patriarchy, which has been used to oppress women.

Patriarchy thrives in society because of the structures that have been put in place through structuralism. Structuralism is a philosophical movement which emphasizes that as long as political, economic and social structures remain, men will continue to dominate women. This

makes it difficult to challenge gender roles within institutions and therefore patriarchy as a power structure subordinates women. According to (Mies, 1986), Patriarchy is the concept that describes how men hold power in all important roles in societies such as: government, the military, education, industry, business, health, religion, family and how women are deprived of access to that power”. These structures are therefore responsible for the gender inequalities in relations between women and men even in war situations.

Patriarchy literally is defined as the rule of fathers, brothers, husbands, male bosses, and men in most political and economic institutions that have been called the men’s league’. Patriarchy extends in all aspects of society and social systems; challenges gender equality; and it threatens the completely social structure. For example, the husband-father of the household dominates the home, which is known to be the province of the woman to the extent that she has no claim over her body, property and the children that she dedicatedly brings forth into the world, (Mies, 1986).

Under the patriarchal culture, the ideal woman is one who accepts to be passive, good, and fragile. She must maintain her femininity through self-assertion, establish herself in the private sphere, and not threaten the man in the public sphere. The woman is regarded as weak and dependent.

Men use every possible means to maintain their power over women. This results in violence against women when they threaten men’s power.

The public sphere that issue prior to the private sphere is characterized by male courage, strength, rationality, politics, warfare, and religion. This makes men less human, emotional and therefore able to use violence to gain control over both the public and private spheres. Hooks (1982), confirms this when he says, “They could always use brute force and physical powers to subjugate women”. Patriarchy is responsible for violence, oppression, and sexual abuse of women in modern societies. Therefore, feminists believe that research and revolutionary actions can bring about a change and the liberation of women. The patriarchal society, which is ruled and dominated by men, regards men as the ruling class while women remain the subjects.

Section Three

2.3.1. Previous studies

The following review will present the relevant studies that have addressed these issues with special emphasis on studies relevant to the local and international studies. So this chapter reviews the rich international and local literature on female headed families.

Economic Adjustment and Income Adequacy of Malay Female-Headed Households in Malaysia. Yagoub, Fawzia.

This study was to investigate the economic adjustments and income adequacy of Malay female-headed households (FHHs) in Malaysia. The study attempted to answer the following six research questions; what are the economic resources, sources of income and economic adjustments before and after the women becoming FHHs, and what are the factors significantly influence the economic status, objective and subjective income adequacy of FHHs? Secondary data collected among female-headed households for the study entitled female-headed household within the context of poverty carry out in 1994/1995 was used in this research. The data was analyzed using Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS). The procedures used were descriptive statistics, t-tests, multiple regressions and multiple discriminant analysis. The data analysis indicated that FHHs had access to limited economic resources. One of the main economic adjustments undertaken by the women was getting involved in employment to support their living. Three models explaining the economic status, objective and subjective income

adequacy for widows, divorcees and all FHHs were tested in this research. Divorcee's economic status was significantly explained by education, income earned from employment, and ownership of properties while widow's economic status was significantly explained by ownership of properties, and other sources of income. Training, education, and income earned from employment contributed significantly to discriminate the divorcee's objective income adequacy. For widows it was found that income earned from other sources, employment, and remittance from children contributed significantly to discriminate the widow's objective income adequacy. Among FHHs, there were only 34.2% divorcees and 27.9% widows whose income was adequate. When subjective income adequacy was analyzed, there were 13% divorcees and 14.8% widows who perceived that their income is adequate. After taking into account all sources of income, majority of FHHs in this study; widows or divorcees were poor. Their low level of educational attainment and lack of skills contributed to such situation. Improve education and skills can be one of the strategies to help FHHs cope with the changing status from being intact family to female headed. To enhance the economic status of FHHs and reduce the incidences of poverty, relevant policies and more integrated programs should be formulated targeted FHHs. Addressing the needs of female headed households can be one of the effective strategies to sustain the low level of poverty in Malaysia.

Another study is:

**Female Household-Headship's In Rural Bangladesh: Incidence, Determinants and Impact on Children's Schooling Shareen Joshi
September 2004**

This study examines the characteristics of female-headed households and estimate, the impact of female-headship on children's schooling. Female household heads in Matlab fall into two broad groups: widows and married women, most of whom are wives of migrants. These women differ from each other not only in their current socio-economic circumstances, but also in their backgrounds and circumstances prior to getting married. To identify the effects of female-headship on children's outcomes, the study used a two-stage least squares strategy that controls for the possible endogeneity of both types of female-headship. Results indicate that children residing in households headed by married women have stronger schooling attainments than children do in other.

Female-headed and their homes : the case of Medellin, Colombia

Restrepo R., Jannette. 1999

This thesis investigates how female-headed households solve their housing needs. Housing is an important resource for them: first, because women spend more time in the house and home conditions are of great concern to them because these determine the time and difficulties in fulfilling their domestic responsibilities and, second, because the home is the site of production and economic activities that help increase women's low incomes. The study is based on the analysis of different women's lives in three different neighborhoods in

Medellin, Colombia. This is a qualitative study aimed at providing insight into household patterns, and determining housing alternatives. The prevalence of female-headed households varies greatly among countries, particularly in the developing regions, and, in recent years, these have emerged as the subject of social concern. As the availability of data, increases it becomes clear that these households are heterogeneous and not a uniform group, in terms of marital status, life cycles and socioeconomic conditions. For this reason, their heterogeneity needs to be taken into consideration in policy formulation.

The experience of female-headed households in Samoa: is also one of the previous studies. Stewart-Withers, Rochelle R here is a plethora of development literature, both academic and policy oriented, that problematizes female-headed households in normative ways, positioning them as socially isolated, stigmatized, lacking in agency and poor, equated with the ‘feminization of poverty’. Through positioning female-headed households as ‘other’, there is also a notable lack of regard for the diverse socio-political and cultural context, which within female-headed households reside. By situating this research within a feminist post development framework, and using participatory methodologies and the articulation of individual biographies of the development experience, the dissertation seeks to re-position our understanding of the development experience of female-headed households. Drawing on the case of Samoa, this study demonstrates how fa’asamoa (the Samoan way), inclusive of fa’amatai (customary system

of governance), the feagaiga (brother/sister relationship) and the practice of fa'alavelave (demonstrating love and concern), all support the welfare and wellbeing of female-headed households, including any children born of these households. They also afford women in female-headed households a certain level of voice and agency. The thesis further highlights that the category of female-headed households was not well understood within Samoa because neither villagers nor policy makers labelled women in this way. Rather, women were recognized in relation to the cultural framework of fa'asamoa, which situates them in terms of their position within their family, their natal village and the wider community. This illustrates the importance of culture when attempting to frame the development experiences of female-headed households in any part of the world. Development researchers and practitioners need to seriously question just how useful the practice of categorizing and labelling is to Development Studies. In highlighting the problematic nature of universal labels and categories, this thesis concludes that the starting point of analysis for female-headed households needs to begin with the sociopolitical-cultural context, as opposed to the category of female-headed households. Shifting beyond a desire to uncritically categorize and label will provide a space for envisioning new approaches to development thinking and practice, and for truly seeing the ways that people struggle, often successfully, to create and pursue opportunities.

i LankSociety, 2014

Since the 1970s, female-headed households (FHHs) in developing countries have often been used in development literature as a proxy for

poverty and vulnerability. In reality the profile of women-headed households is diverse; they include, at the least, rich and poor women, aged widows as well as young single mothers and wives of migrant workers, educated professionals and semi-literate manual laborers. This diversity of characteristics, with its attendant diversity of experience and vulnerability unfolds a picture of heterogeneity, rather than homogeneity. Yet, despite ample evidence that FHHs are, in fact, heterogeneous and not homogeneous, contemporary research and practice remains caught dominantly within the ‘poverty-vulnerability’ nexus. Conventional notions of homogeneity undermine the heterogeneity of female-headed family.. Drawing on interdisciplinary perspectives especially from demography, gender studies; particularly gender and development, risk and vulnerability studies, as well as scholarship on social capital, this thesis employs a ‘heterogeneity’ lens to specifically examine the complexities of household formation, economic conditions and social relations of FHHs in Sri Lanka, in an attempt to explore their vulnerabilities and resilience.

FHHs accounted for nearly one-quarter of all households, throughout the country. In order to capture the geographical and social diversity of FHHs, empirical research was conducted in three contrasting types of district in Sri Lanka, encompassing urban, rural, and estate sectors. Two main data collection strategies were employed in a mixed methods approach: a sample survey of a cross-section of 534 FHHs, and in-depth interviews with 32 female heads purposively selected from among the survey participants. The findings and discussions include quantitative statistical and qualitative thematic analyses based on primary data,

combined with secondary data from censuses, national survey reports and micro-studies of FHHs in Sri Lanka.

The key findings show the diversity in profile of FHHs in the sample: they range from single person to large extended households. While some households consist of only the woman head and her young children, others comprise aged parents and a woman head. Households were also constituted of 'working-age' household members, including the female heads that were totally reliant on others for income and other resources. The study also revealed novel findings that challenge the emphasis of most conventional perceptions of poverty and female headship. From an economic perspective, the results show women from rich households can be personally poor, lacking, among others, in skills to manage household economies, while women in low-income brackets may be resilient, enterprising and satisfied with their needs, despite their apparent poverty. Finally, the thesis highlights the significant role of social capital, a relatively under-researched area in relation to FHHs. The findings reveal that many female heads in Sri Lanka are rich in social capital, a resource in its own right for these women. However, social capital itself needs to be disaggregated into 'support networks' and 'leverage networks' to understand the role it plays in providing long-term security and resilience. The results showed that the majority of FHHs in the sample had access to support networks that provide day-to-day subsistence, but which did not offer them prospects to leverage out of their current situation.

Livelihoods and coping strategies, study of female-headed households in Mekelle Ethiopia .Tesfamariam, T.W, (2007, September).

This study explored the livelihoods situation of female-headed households (FHHs) in Mekelle, Ethiopia. A case study approach was used both qualitative and quantitative data gathered from primary and secondary sources. The principal objective of this study was to gain better understanding of the livelihoods systems, and identify the most important assets and institutions for the livelihoods of the households, therefore explore policy issues of relevance to female-headship and poverty.

The social impact of Women headed families in Khartoum Awad .A 2008

The study Shed light on the importance of having parents alongside their children and its impact on Cohesion of the family. The study has attempted to address the social impact on women headed families on children.

The finding of the study is that, the mother has a big and importance role in the education of children and their upbringing .Moreover she also provides the economic needs of her children.

Muhammad S. (2001), Experience of families headed by Women in Kordofan .Khartoum University PhD thesis. His study aims to achieve the following: knowledge of the situation experienced by women in the study population. He stated that the father's absence means the loss of the mother psychological and social assistance. This is also has social impact on women headed families, in increasing their responsibilities towards raising the children and decision-making.

While much has been written about female-headed families, in the local (Sudan), Arab and international literature, none of them addressed the social change impact on female-headed families. Therefore, this research is contribution to the literature. In addition, it attempt to examine, the socio-economic impact, and contribute to the knowledge by considering this important issue.

Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Introduction:

This chapter is consisted of two parts, Part one is about the historical background of the area. While the second parts is the methodology, that are used in this study.

3.2 Historical background of the area -Description of Omdurman:

Omdurman is a city in Al Khartoum, a region of Sudan, a country on the continent of Africa. Situated on the western bank of the Nile, Omdurman is an integrated part of the larger capital area (with Khartoum and North Khartoum), with between 5.5 and 6 million inhabitants. Omdurman is at an elevation of 390 meters, the same as for Khartoum.

Omdurman, Arabic Umm Durmān, one of the Three Towns (with Khartoum and Khartoum North), east-central Sudan. Situated on the bank of the main Nile River just below the confluence of the Blue and White Niles, Omdurman was an insignificant riverine village until the victory of Muhammad Aḥmad, known as al-Mahdī, (S.C.S,2014).

3.3 Population:

According to the latest Census, 2008, the total number of local residents of Omdurman, is 517.088 people. Recently, Omdurman has grown rapidly, and has an estimated population of well over two million. Omdurman is a city with a rich cultural life, spanning from the National Theatre and public TV and radio, to the Whirling Dervishes who stages shows here every Friday. Omdurman has four universities: Ahfad University for Women (est. 1966); University of Holy Quran and Holy Sciences, Omdurman, Omdurman Ahlia University (est. 1986); and Omdurman Islamic University, Omdurman (est. 1921).(Ibid,2014).

Population In Omdurman (Total)

Admin Unit (AU)	Total	Male	Female
Karari	714,079	375,001	339,078
Alreef Alshimali	71,284	36,417	34,867
Kararri	404,608	214,639	189,969
Alhawraa	238,187	123,945	114,242
Ombaddaa	988,163	532,464	455,699
Alameer	178,850	98,802	80,048
Alssalam	366,344	193,681	172,663
Albooghaa	335,437	180,830	154,607
Alreef Algharbi	107,532	59,151	48,381
Omdurman	513,088	273,218	239,870
Wadnoobawi	56,805	29,089	27,716
Hai Alaraab	38,979	22,335	16,644
Almoaradaa	31,255	15,072	16,183
Abuanga	53,209	27,960	25,249
Alfitiahaab	59,921	34,278	25,643
Abu_saeed	104,406	56,068	48,338
Alreef Aljanoobi	168,513	88,416	80,097

Source: Sudan Central Statistics 2014

3.2.1. Part Two

This part presents the results of the main methods used and the field research of this thesis, Female-Headed families.

3.2.1 Methodology:

The research methods of this study are both quantitative and qualitative and its population is the female-headed families in Omdurman city. Techniques designed to combine the results of qualitative and quantitative studies can provide researchers with more knowledge than separate analysis.

For the qualitative methods, I have used the in-depth ethnographic interviewing methods. Ethnographic interviewing” aims at describing .the meaning attached to a particular experience by the interviewee (Sherman 2001). In addition, a short questionnaire was applied to ensure some systematic description of the demographics and the socioeconomic conditions of in depth interview with the participants. Thus, the study used design in which both quantitative and qualitative aspects were investigated (Guba & Lincon, 1994). In so doing, the sequential mixed methods and techniques, which Creswell (1995) called “two phase design”, were applied to collect data on the socio-economic impact of the FHF's in Omdurman city. The researcher conducted first a quantitative phase of study and later proceeded with a qualitative phase.

The purpose of the qualitative research is to describe and understand individual on their natural setting. (Holosko, 2006).

3.2.2 Quantitative Approach:

The quantitative approach uses the descriptive statistics which uses numerical measurements to analyze social phenomenon by means of numbers.

3.2.3 Qualitative Approach:

Qualitative research on the other hand is a kind of research that produces findings that may not be arrived to, by statistical procedures or other means of quantification. The ability of qualitative data to describe more fully a phenomenon under study is an important consideration from both the researcher's perspective and the reader's perspective as well (Stake 1975). This is because, most people understand better, when the information is in the form in which they usually experience. Qualitative researchers also search for understanding to similar situations (Strauss & Corbin 1997).

Qualitative research uses the natural setting as the source of data. The researcher attempts to observe, describe and interpret the settings as they are, while maintaining neutrality. Some of the other characteristics include the following:

1. The researcher acts as the human instrument of data collection.
2. Qualitative researchers predominantly use inductive data analysis.

3. Qualitative research reports are descriptive, incorporating expressive Language and the presence of voice in the text, (Patton, 2002).

3.2.4 Data Analysis:

According to Bogden & Biklen (1982) data analysis involves organizing it, breaking it into manageable units, synthesizing it, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what is to be learned and deciding what to tell the readers (Ibid, 1990)

Data collected was compiled and coded. A codebook was developed and an outline to explain what each research question is about.

Data from the guide questions along with other information coded into categories of respondent's responses. Eventually, the coding categories were then transcribed into key words and phrases to serve our purpose of analysis. The researcher attempted to be as straight as possible in analyzing the data. Also the generated information is consistent with the objectives of this study. The data from interview was analysed manually by first identifying major themes and sub-themes. The research comprised open-ended responses and long textual stories. Some relevant statements were identified and quoted exactly to illustrate ideas. Then the researcher summarized the result, (Ibid).

The researcher preferred to use a qualitative approach to collect and analyse material that seeks to understand people's experiences. This research paradigm was useful in understanding the social realities of the female-headed families, (1997).

3.2.5 Pilot study:

The pilot study is a trial session, which determines the appropriate of research methodology, sampling, data collection instrument, and analysis (Strydom, 2005). So it is important to determine whether the relevant data can be obtained from the respondents. Some questions were rephrased, other were added so that it would be understood better. Accordingly, I collected random sampling for pilot testing, after that, I select my target group that representative to the population. I did the pilot study during the period July - October 2012.

3.2.6 Research Instrument:

A questionnaire was used to select the sample from the specific population .In addition to qualitative approach that used in depth interviews to analysis the socio economic impact of females head families.

The questionnaire was design to collect data from specific sample of the population (Appendex1). And the instrument for the quantitative is the in depth interviews (Appendix2).

3.2.7 Population:

In this study, the population refers to all FHF's in this area. The research population target is defined as those who are the heads of their families.

3.2.8 Sampling:

Sampling is a process whereby suitable participants are selected and included in the research. The aim of the sampling is that a small set of population can tell about a large population. This is possible because trends in the larger population can be discovered from few individuals (Royse, 1999).

Also according to (Strydom, 2005), the size of the sample depends on what the researcher wants to know. So the sampling is to take a portion of the population and it is considered representative of the population, because they had the same characteristics of the relevant population.

Two sampling techniques were used. The first one is the purposive sampling technique (non-probability sampling). In which respondents are selected were understood as females who were single, married, widowed, or divorced. The second technique used is snowball sampling. (Strydom, (2005), through which respondents are located and identified by informants.

3.2.9 Respondent Selection:

As I mentioned above the participants are selected through purposive sampling. Because a sampling frame of all female-headed families was not available. A total number of 240 from the female head for the questionnaire, and 16 females for the interviews. The size of the sample was determined when the information required to answer the research questions got saturated. The chances of members of the wider population being selected for the sample are UNKNOWN.

Some members of the population will definitely be included and others definitely excluded - and hence every member of the population does NOT have an equal chance of being included in the sample. The researcher will deliberately select a particular section of the population for inclusion or exclusion (based on a justifiable rationale). Since no comprehensive directory for women headed families in Omdurman is available, the respondents for questionnaire survey were purposively selected for this research. The purpose for choosing purposive sampling is those people are able to meet research objectives. According to this type of sampling the researcher uses personal judgment to select respondents that are considered to be representative of the population.

3.2.10 Area Selection:

Stratified random sampling is used for the area selection, depending on the geographical location of Omdurman. Four different areas were selected geographically, Omdurman north, west, East and south.

Chapter Four

Results of the field

4.1 Introduction:

In this chapter, I will present the analysis and findings of this research. Firstly, I will present all the findings and results gathered from the questionnaire (quantitative data), in the form of relative frequency tables and Bar charts, qisquire and co efficient. Proceeding with the findings of the (qualitative data), that were gathered by means of interviews.

Table 1
Age distribution of the Respondents

Respondent	No.	Relative Frequency
21 -25	16	6.7
26 –30	48	20.0
31 – 35	80	33.3
36 -40	88	36
Above 40	8	3.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 1 above shows the frequency and percentage of respondents. Between 21 and 25 years of age with percentage of 6.7, age 26 to 30 20 %, age 31 to 35 years with a percentage of 33.3, between 36 to 40 years of age is 36%, and above 40 is 3.3

Table 2
Level of education

Respondents	No.	Relative Frequency
Illiterate	9	4.0
Primary school	53	22.0
High secondary school	137	57.0
University	21	9.0
Higher education	20	8.0
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

As shown in table 2, it is clear that the percentage of 4% are illiterate , 22% of the respondents level of primary school , 57% high secondary

school 8 for the higher education , The majority of the respondents have low academic level. (Primary, and high secondary school)

Table 3
Marital Status of the respondents

Respondents	No	Relative Frequency
Single	24	10.0
Married	44	18.3
Widowed	132	55.0
Divorced	40	16.7
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 4 shows that who are single are presented with a frequency of 24 with 10%, those married are 44 with 18.3%, widowed are 132 with 55% and divorce 40 respondents with %.

Table 4

Distribution of the sample by individuals working in the family

Respondents	No	Relative frequency
One person	176	73.3
Two person	56	23.4
Three And more	8	3.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The results from the above table show that 73.3% one person is working in the family ,23.3% two persons, and 3.3% three and more person.

Table 5
Income status of respondents

Respondents	No	Relative Frequency
High	4	1.7
Medium	12	5.0
Low	224	93.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 3 shows the frequency and percentage of respondent's income status. High income is 1.7, medium income with 5, and low income 93.3.

Table 6
Level of annual family income

Respondents	No	Relative Frequency
Low	32	13.3
Medium	160	66.7
High	48	20.0
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey 2014

Table 6: shows that the frequency of respondent's income is 13.3, low income, 66.7% average, and 20% is high income.

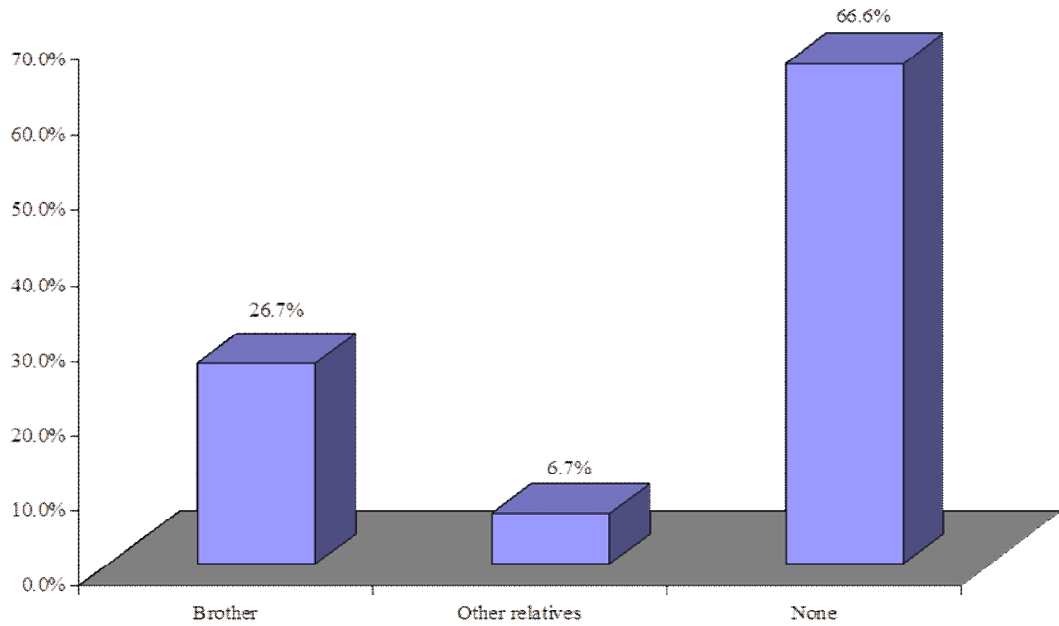
Table 7
Size of the family

Respondents	No	Relative Frequency
Less than 3	8	3.3
4 – 5	160	66.7
More than 6	72	30
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The Above table shows respondents numbers of children 66.7% of the respondents have between 4-6 members, and the lowest percentage have between 3.3 and 3, less members.

Fig. 1
Financial assistant



Source: Field survey, 2014

The results in fig 1 above shows that the majority of respondents didn't receive financial assistance 66.6 , while 26. 7% receive assistance from brothers and only 6.7% receive assistance from other relatives.

Table (8)
Decision making of family members

Respondents	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Women	168	70.0
Women and children	60	25.0
Children	12	5.0
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Results on table 8 show that the participation of the respondents in the decision-making within the family was incredibly powerful and influential. Where we find that, 70% of them have impressive degree of participation in decision-making within the family.

Table 9
Is there any persons help you in Socialization of the children?

Respondents	No	Relative frequency
Yes	9	4
No	231	96
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

As shown in the table above. We find that all the majority of the respondents 96%, Socialize and raise their children alone without any assistance. While only 4% helped by others.

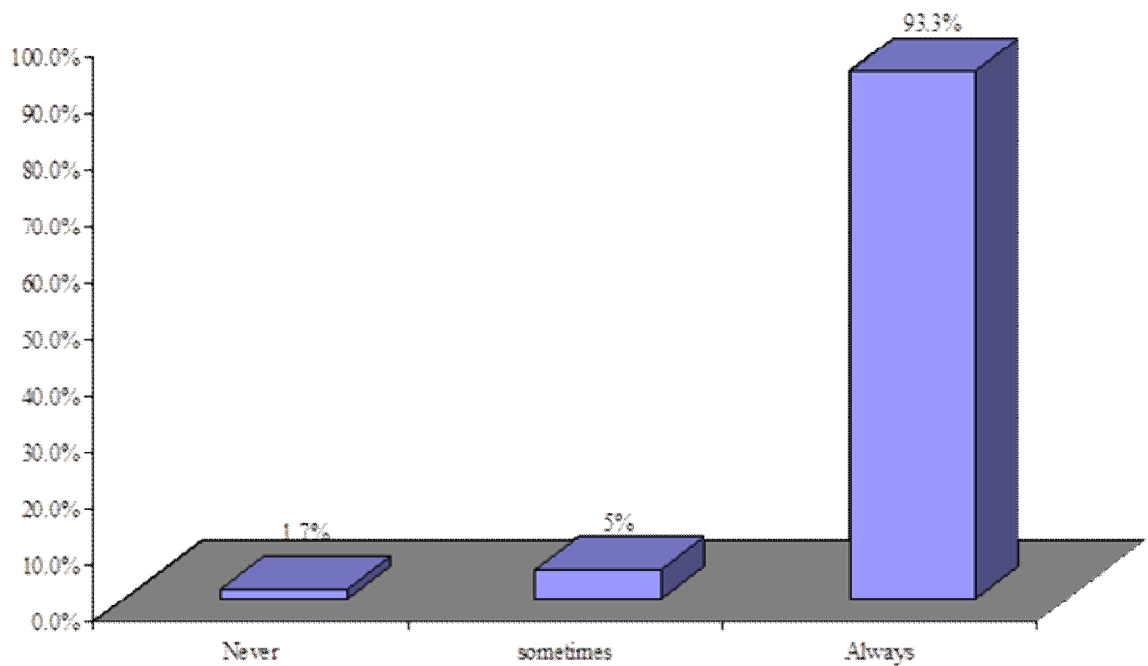
Table 10
Women Employment

Respondents	No	Relative Frequency
Work to increase the family income only	48	20
Increasing income and education of children	192	80
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The results of the above table shows that in relation to the work of the women 20% of them work to increase the family income, and 80% to increase income and education.

Figure (2) Distribution of the sample according to the role of women in the follow-up of children in school



Source: Field survey, 2014

Illustrated by fig 11: The majority of women, 93.3% always follow-up their children to school. While 5% follow, them sometimes and 1.7% never follow them.

Table 11

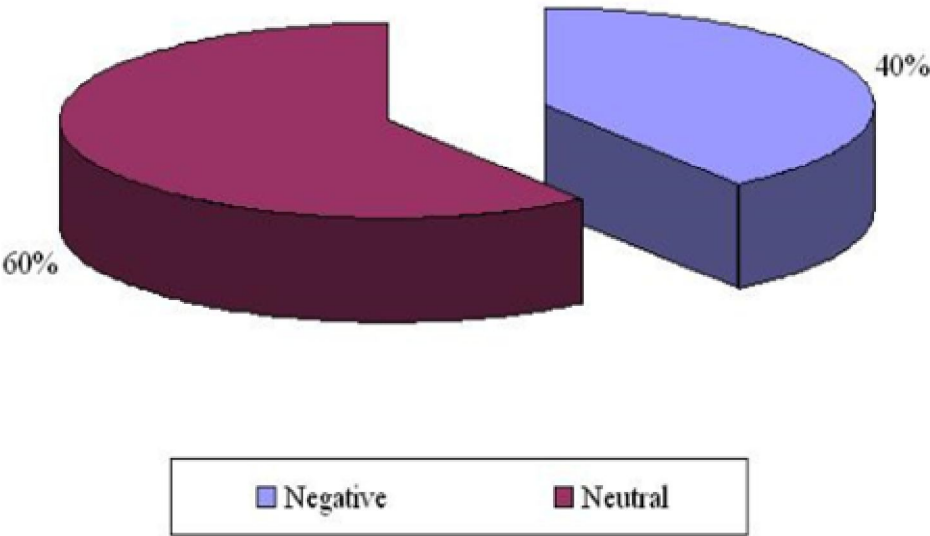
The view of community towards women headed families

Respondents	No	Relative Frequency
Positive	192	80.0
Negative	16	6.7
Neutral	32	13.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The finding of the view of community to the women headed families explained in the above table is that,80% percent sees it positive,6.7% negative, and 13.3 neutral

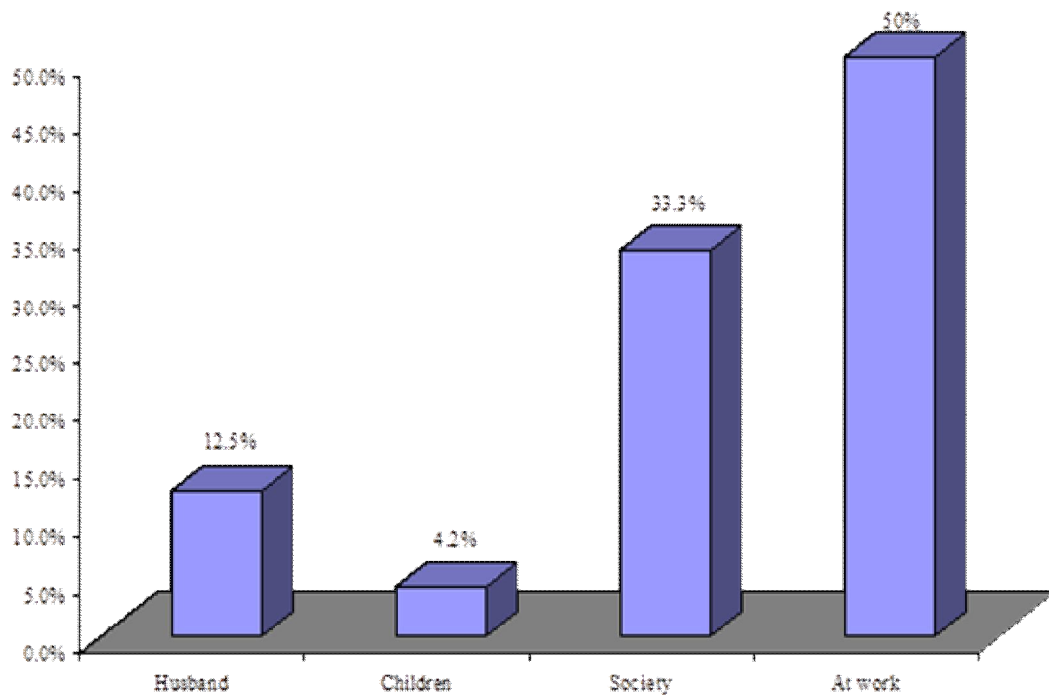
Figure (3): Distribution of respondents according to the practice of any type of violence against them:



Source: Field survey, 2014

Fig.4

Distribution of the sample according to the person practiced violence against them.



Source: Field survey, 2014

The above fig.: shows that, (50%) violence against them was by people at work (some harassment) and (33.3%) near the housing, and (12.5%) violence against them by husbands (beating) and (4.2%) by children (disobedience)

Table 12

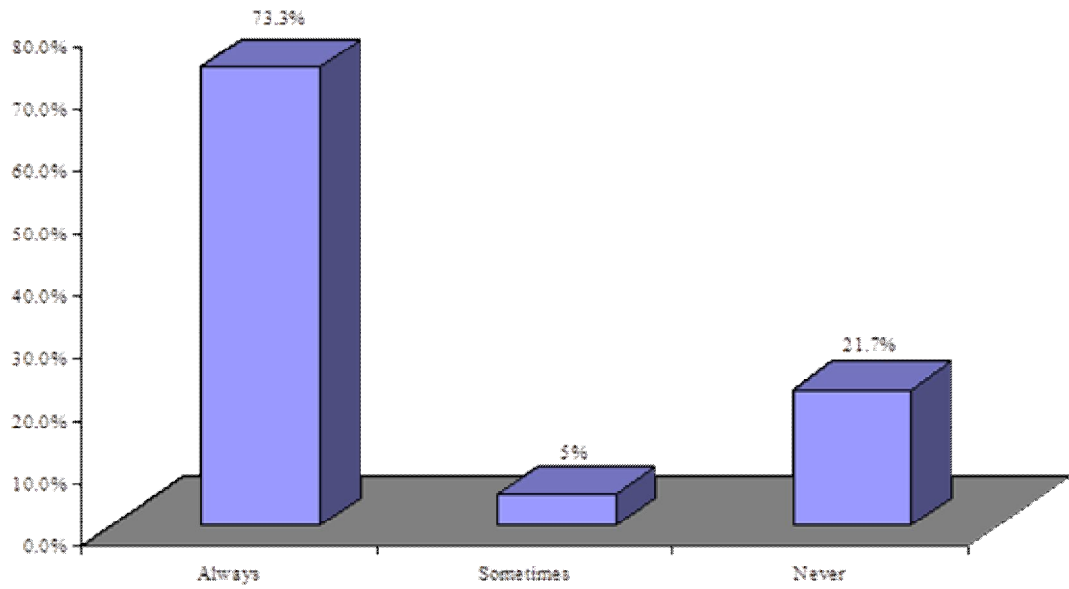
Distribution of the sample according to how they spend leisure:

Respondent	No	Relative Frequency
Outside home	80	33.3
Within the family	160	66.7
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

As shown from this table about 33.3% spend time out sides home and 66.7% with the family.

Fig (5) :Response of the family members when asking help



Source: Field survey, 2014

The above fig.: shows the response of the family members when asking for help by their mothers, (73.3%) always (21.7%) never and (5%) some times.

Table 13

Response of children when mother is called to school:

Respondent	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Strongly Agree	120	50
Agree	48	20
Disagree	72	30
T0tal	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

According to the result of the above table (50%) of the children strongly agree when mother is called to school,(20%) agree, and 30% disagree

Table 14

How children look to the mother as ahead of the family

Respondents	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Strongly agree	204	85
Agree	24	10
Disagree	12	5
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Children look to the mother as head of the family represents by 85% strongly agree, 10% agree, and 5% disagree. This is illustrating by the above table.

Table 15
Relationship of the children with their neighbor

Respondents	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Very good	192	80.0
Good	44	18.3
No relation	4	1.7
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 15 shows that relationships of children with their neighbor ,is very good presented with 80% , while good is presented with 18.3 and no relation is 1.7%

Table 16

Do children accept direction with regard to education?

Respondents	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Disagree	48	20.0
Strongly agree	148	61.7
Sometimes	44	8.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The finding of whether children accept direction with regard to education is that, 20% disagree, 61.7 strongly agree, and 18.5 sometimes.

Table 17

Decision making in relation to the marriage of children

Respondent	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Mother	136	56.7
Relatives	36	15.0
Both	68	28.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The table above shows the decision in relation to the marriage of children, mother is presented with 56.7%, relative 15%, mother and children presented with 28.3%

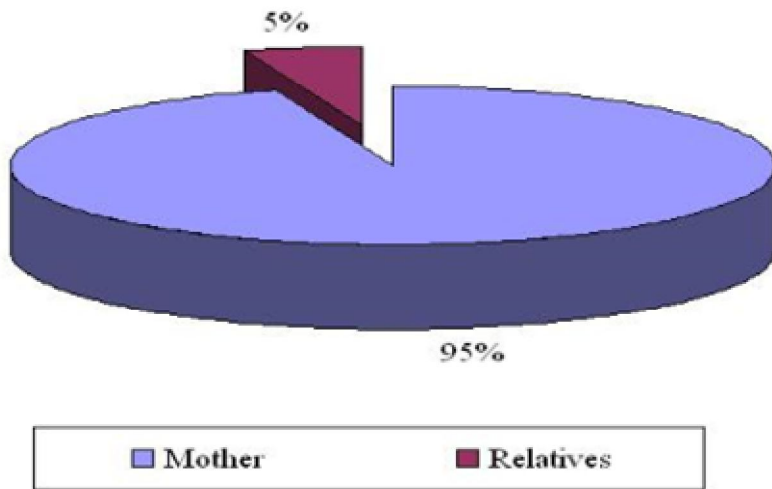
Table 18
Guidance of the children

Respondents	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Mother	212	88.3
Mother & relatives	4	1.7
Mother and children	24	10
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 18 showed, the guidance of the children is 88.8 mother, mothers and relatives 1.7%, and 10% mothers and children

Fig no 7: Who take the responsibility in wrong behavior of children?



Source: Field survey, 2014

The fig. above shows that mother take the responsibility in wrong behavior of children with the highest percent 95%.while only 5% with relatives.

Table 19

Is there any Negative Effect on participation of women headed family in social activities?

Respondent	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Not	12	5.0
Little	8	3.3
Medium	212	88.4
Big	8	3.3
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

The results of the above table shows Is there any negative Effect on participation of women headed family in social activities; not with 5%, while little and big with the same percentage 3.3%, and medium 88.4%,

Table 20

The impact of family care on women's health

Respondents	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Significant impact	200	83.3
of the average degree	40	16.7
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

From the above table the study found that (83.3%) believe that the influence of family work is on women's health is significant, while (16.7%) sees it on the average degree.

Table 21

Is there division of labor between sexes inside the family?

Respondent	No.	Relative Frequency
Yes	204	85.0
No	36	15.0
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 21 shows that there is division of labor between sexes inside the family, yes is presented with 85%, and no is presented with 15%

Table 22

In your opinion are there biological differences in the change of roles within the family

Respondent	No	Relative Frequency
Yes	221	92.0
No	19	8.0
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

Table 22 shows that there are biological differences in the change of roles within the family. Yes with 92%, and 19 with 8%.

Table 23

In your opinion, what are the reasons that lead to change roles within the family in Sudanese community?

Respondent	No.	Relative Frequency
The Division of labor within the family	31	13
Education, care and guidance	104	43
Power	63	26
Maintenance and economic aspect	42	18
Total	240	100%

Source: Field survey, 2014

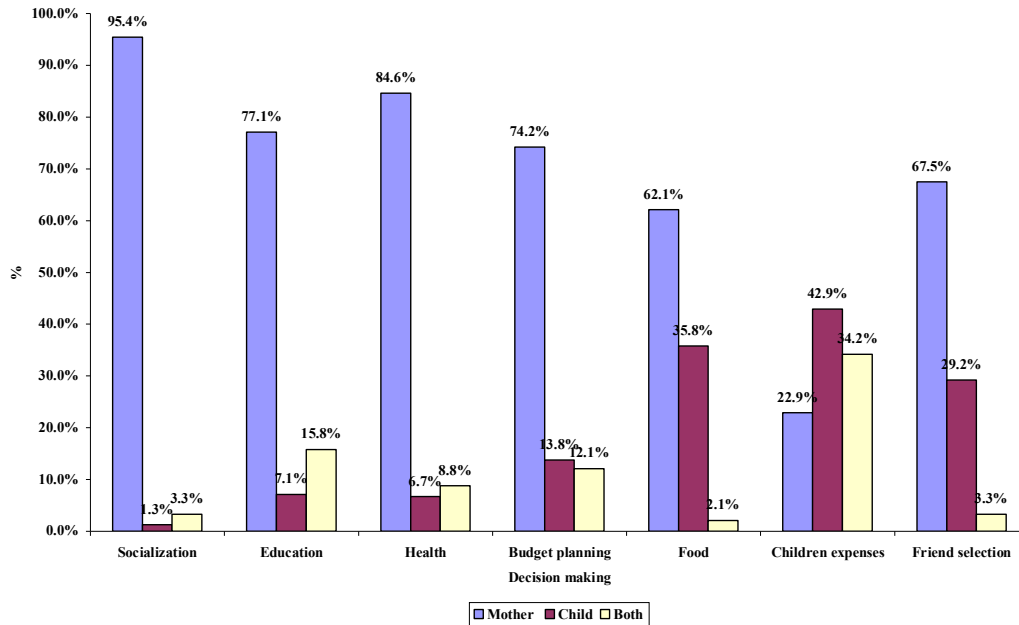
The finding of the above table show that the reasons that lead to changes the role within the family, is the division of labor within the family presented with 13%, education care and guidance is presented with 43%, power is presented with 26%, and maintenance and economic aspects with 18 %.

Table 24
Decision making inside the families

Decision	Mother		Child		Both		Total	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
Socialization	229	95.4 %	3	1.3 %	8	3.3 %	240	100.0%
Education	185	77.1 %	17	7.1 %	38	15.8 %	240	100.0%
Health	203	84.6 %	16	6.7 %	21	8.8 %	240	100.0%
Budget planning	178	74.2 %	33	13.8 %	29	12.1 %	240	100.0%
Food	149	62.1 %	86	35.8 %	5	2.1 %	240	100.0%
Children expenses	55	22.9 %	103	42.9 %	82	34.2 %	240	100.0%
Friend selection	162	67.5 %	70	29.2 %	8	3.3 %	240	100.0%

Source: Field Survey 2014

Figure (8): Decision making inside the families



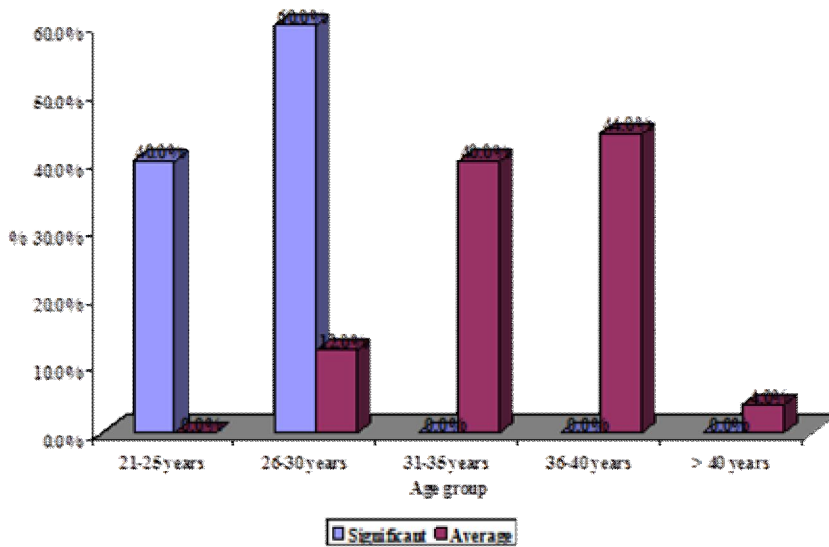
With regard to the decisions of the aspects in the above table and figures Results of the study, show that the majority of the women taking decision alone in most issues like socialization, education, health and budget planning, 95.4%,77,1 ,84,6 ,74,2.respectlly While the other decision both the mother and children decide on them together.

Table (25)

The relationship between age of women and the impact of family care on women health

		The impact of family care on women health				Total	
		Significant		Average		F	%
		F	%	F	%		
Age	21-25 years	16	40.0%	0	.0%	16	6.7%
	26-30 years	24	60.0%	24	12.0%	48	20.0%
	31-35 years	0	0.0%	80	40.0%	80	33.3%
	36-40 years	0	0.0%	88	44.0%	88	36.7%
	> 40 years	0	0.0%	8	4.0%	8	3.3%
Total		40	100.0%	200	100.0%	240	100.0%
Chi square		153.6		P value		0.0002	
Pearson coefficient factor		0.67		P value		0.0001	

Fig. (9):



Significant correlation between age of the women and the impact of family care on women health, where chi square value = (153.6) with probability value of (0.0002), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).

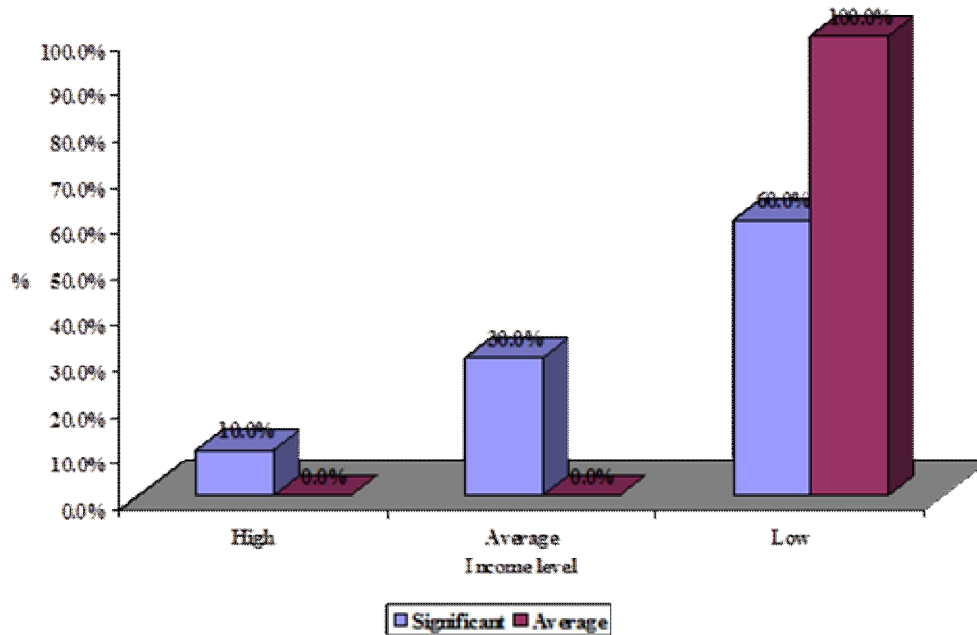
Pearson coefficient factor showed significant relationship between age of the women and the impact of family care on women health (direct) where correlation value = (0.67) with probability value (0.0001) (significant correlation $P < 0.05$).

Table (26)

The relationship between income of the family and the impact of family care on women health

		The impact of family care on women health				Total	
		Significant		Average		F	%
		F	%	F	%		
Income	High	4	10.0%	0	.0%	4	1.7%
	Average	12	30.0%	0	.0%	12	5.0%
	Low	24	60.0%	200	100.0%	224	93.3%
Total		40	100.0%	200	100.0%	240	100.0%
Chi square		85.7		P value		0.0002	
Pearson coefficient factor		0.56		P value		0.0009	

Fig. (10)



Significant correlation between income of the family and the impact of family care on women health, where chi square value = (85.7) with probability value of (0.0002), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).

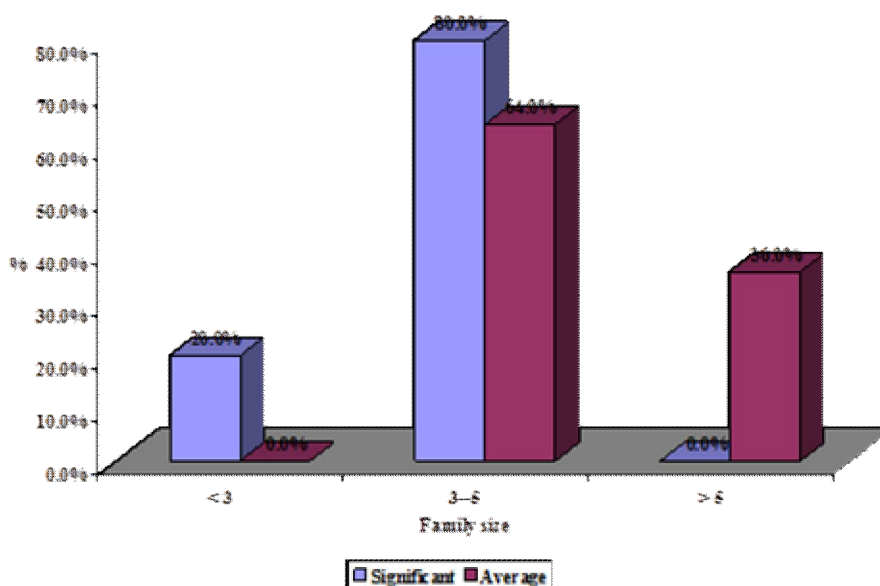
Pearson coefficient factor showed significant relationship between income of the family and the impact of family care on women health, (direct) where correlation value = (0.56) with probability value (0.0009) (significant correlation $P < 0.05$).

Table (27)

The relationship between family size and the impact of family care on women health

		The impact of family care on women health				Total	
		Significant		Average		F	%
		F	%	F	%		
Family size	< 3	8	20.0%	0	0.0%	8	3.3%
	3—5	32	80.0%	128	64.0%	160	66.7%
	> 5	0	0.0%	72	36.0%	72	30.0%
Total		40	100.0%	200	100.0%	240	100.0%
Chi square		55.7		P value		0.0008	
Pearson coefficient factor		0.41		P value		0.0005	

Fig. (11):



Significant correlation between family size and the impact of family care on women health, where chi square value = (55.7) with probability value of (0.0008), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).

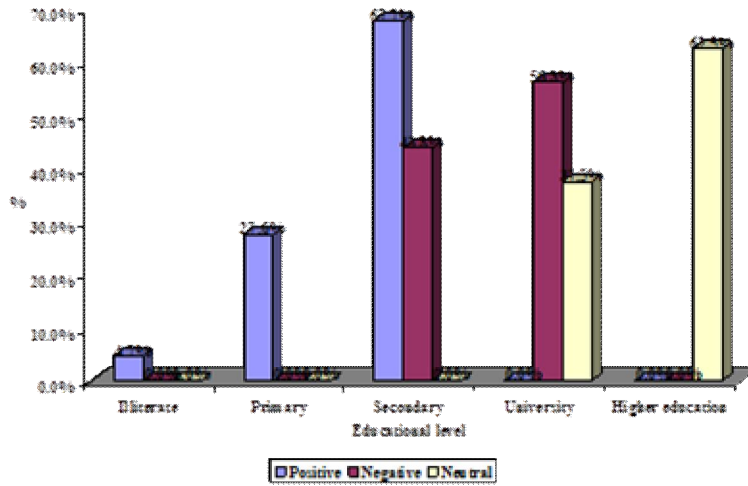
Pearson coefficient factor showed significant relationship between the family size and the impact of family care on women health, (direct) where correlation value = (0.41) with probability value (0.0005) (significant correlation $P < 0.05$).

Table (28)

The relationship between educational level of women and the view of the community towards the women headed families

		View of the community towards the women headed families						Total	
		Positive		Negative		Neutral		F	%
		F	%	F	%	F	%		
Education	Illiterate	9	4.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	3.8%
	Primary	53	27.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	53	22.1%
	Secondary	130	67.7%	7	43.8%	0	0.0%	137	57.1%
	University	0	0.0%	9	56.3%	12	37.5%	21	8.8%
	Higher education	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	20	62.5%	20	8.3%
Total		192	100.0%	16	100.0%	32	100.0%	240	100.0%
Chi square				256.3		P value		0.0001	
Pearson coefficient factor				0.78		P value		0.0002	

Fig. (12):



Significant correlation between educational level of the women and the view of community towards the women headed families, where chi square value = (256.3) with probability value of (0.0001), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).

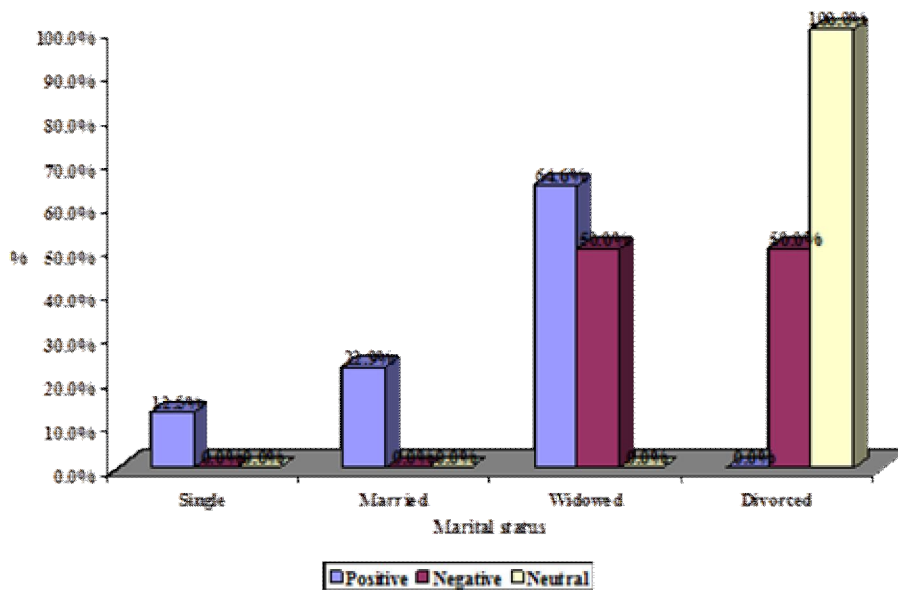
Pearson coefficient factor showed significant relationship between the educational level of women and the view of community towards women headed families, (direct) where correlation value = (0.78) with probability value (0.0002) (significant correlation $P < 0.05$).

Table (29)

The relationship between marital status and the perception of the community towards the women headed families.

		perception of the community towards the women headed families						Total	
		Positive		Negative		Neutral		F	%
		F	%	F	%	F	%		
Marital status	Single	24	12.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	24	10.0%
	Married	44	22.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	44	18.3%
	Widowed	124	64.6%	8	50.0%	0	0.0%	132	55.0%
	Divorced	0	0.0%	8	50.0%	32	100.0%	40	16.7%
Total		192	100.0%	16	100.0%	32	100.0%	240	100.0%
Chi square				213.9		P value		0.0001	
Pearson coefficient factor				0.64		P value		0.0002	

Fig.(13):



Significant correlation between marital status of the women and the view of community towards the women headed families, where chi square value = (213.9) with probability value of (0.0001), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).

Pearson coefficient factor showed significant relationship between marital status of women and the view of community towards women headed families, (direct) where correlation value = (0.64) with probability value (0.0002) (significant correlation $P < 0.05$).

5.4 Results of the Interviews:

I interviewed 16 women to consolidate the results of the study about females headed families in Sudanese community.

They were selected from different ages, professions, and different educational levels. Respondent were selected from geographical stratified random as mention before. The size of the sample was determined when the information required to answer the research questions got saturated.

Amina Live in Omdurman, her age is 40 years, she have four children, was divorce, her work is selling Kissra, and suffer from low annual income which hardly suffices the family in the absence of any person who assisted her. She is the first and the last person who decided about the needs of the family and priorities in terms of food, education and health, which given the highest priority.

And also she performs the role of guardian of the family, and follow her children in their studies and her children are completely satisfied with that , and when she discuss any matter with any one of them. She says that the surrounding community not has all the respect and appreciation for her role as a woman. In spite of that but she never would have faced any kind of violence. And what makes them feel good about themselves that their children are fully satisfied with their mother's role and as a family head .They have good social relations with the children in the vicinity of the housing and believes that any decision regarding the

marriage of any of her children in the future will be solidarity in consultation with their father. She sees nothing wrong with being heads of the family despite the large responsibility that's placed on her and somehow affects the physical health.

Suad Abd Alla: university graduate living in Omdurman, and at the age of 42 years and is a widow, she has got seven children and now works as an employee, with average-income as she stated, so the annual income is not enough for the needs of her family, she is the only working person in the family, but her daughter helping them financially.

She says that her role as guardians of the family is the responsibility for the education of her sons, and decision-making in the family needs in relation to food, health and the budget. In addition to that also when she asked by the school to discuss any matter relating to any one of them she are always response, and her children were satisfied with all that. And she says that the surrounding community has respected her and her family, and she did not happen that faced any kind of violence.

And what makes them feel good about themselves is that their children are fully satisfied with her role. She said the responsibility of the family somewhat effect on her physical health.

Zeinab widowed woman, inhabit Omdh and at the age of 39 years and she have two children. With a qualified secondary education she work on daily bases ,and suffers from low annual income, which is not nearly enough of the little family needs in the absence of any person who materially assisted in that.

She is the only person who is responsible in regard to every things she has to provide the basic needs for her children like, food, education and health, which she gives them the highest priority. With this limited income and insufficient

A positive view of the community around her encourages her to provide a living for her sons. When she ask her sons for help they were response very quick, this make her very happy in spite of the stress she feel on her health .

Mona Abdul Karim university graduate and at the age of 62 years and have a family of four members. She works employee and suffers from low annual income, which is hardly enough to the needs of the family in the absence of anyone in the family help her financially. She is the first and last one who is responsible for providing the needs according to priorities in regard to food, education and health, and that they give top priority, because of the limited income. And also she plays her full role as guardians for her family. She follows her children in their studies and they are very satisfied with that.

Fatima married inhabited Al -arda and at the age of 56 years, widowed her family consists of 10 members and her husband was thick and unable to work. She work on daily bases, but she suffers from being the only working person in the family with low annual income, which is not nearly enough even for some basic needs. The surrounding communities have a positive outlook for her and her children,. And Fatima says that

marriage of her sons and daughters in the future will be with consultation of their relatives.

Zeinab 36 years married. Lived with her parents her husband migrates. She was Literate with high secondary education. She says that the role as guardians of the family and the responsibility in relation to education of her sons, and decision-making within the family and she always going to follow their children in their education in school and see they were satisfied with being a guardian .She says that the surrounding community has respected her and her family, and did not happen that she faced any kind of violence.

Amna 44 years old divorced. Her family consists of six members. With average income she is a lecturer. She suffers from low annual income, which is hardly enough to the needs of the family in the absence of anyone in the family who can help her financially. She is responsible for every things food, education and health, which that they give top priority while other needs and by the limited income and insufficient, it is not placed within the priorities. And also she plays her full role as guardians for her family .The surrounding community has a positive view and supports her.

Omima 61 years old widowed, who lost her husband at the age 49, and with secondary school education .Her family consisted of 4 members. Their income was low because she works on daily bases. She suffer because no one in the family assists her, they still study. She added that,

the economic situation and the high cost of living and housing has had a big impact on them as providers for families.

Eitimad 58 years old widowed she have five children with medium income and with primary education. She suffers because as she said the responsibility no one is taking the responsibility with her. In addition to this economic problem, her headships face a challenge from the community. This goes to the extent of being considered as incapable of leading the household.

Fathia 23 single, her family consisted from eleven members. With higher education and not married and now work as employer. The income of the family is low as she stated. However, the annual income is not enough to the needs of the family, which consists of eleven members, she and her brother are the only working persons in the family.

Thuraya 23 years old divorce with one child high income with university education and also she perform the role of guardian of family, and follow her children in their studies and her children are completely satisfied when she discuss any matter with any one of them. She added that the surrounding community not has all the respect and appreciation for her role as a woman. But she has never faced any kind of violence. And what makes her feel good is that her children are fully satisfied with what their mother do. They have good social relations with the children in the area. She said that she will continue providing decent life for her

children, despite the large responsibility that's placed somehow on her, and affect her physical health.

Mariam42 widowed with three children .She maintained the house alone with many responsibilities. With secondary school education. She perform her role with full responsibility .She is responsible for every things. The surrounding community has a positive outlook towards her

Alawia 47 widowed with high secondary school education. The family consists of four members. She performs the role of guardian of family, and follow her children in their studies and her children are completely satisfied with that.

To discuss any matter with any one of them. And says that the surrounding community not has all the respect and appreciation for her role as a woman and anti never would have faced any kind of violence. And what makes them feel good about themselves that their children are fully satisfied with its role as a family to them through their response permanent when to ask for help or assigning one of them a task and good social relations to their children in the vicinity of the housing and believes that any decision regarding the marriage of any of her children in the future will be solidarity in consultation with their father. And is now not see nothing wrong with being heads of households and find that in order to provide a decent life for her children, despite the large responsibility that's placed on it somehow affect the physical health.

A graduate of the University of Khartoum widow is the only one working in her family, but their income is not enough to the needs of her family, in addition to her daughter, who are helping them financially. She also mention that, economic conditions and the high cost of living and housing has had a profound effect on them as they are headed of families

Umselma 47 years divorced they are six members she like to explain her relationship with her neighbors by saying that the main problem I face in my headship I really get angry when I think of my neighbors. They always lack trust on me, I would like to get their trust and form good relationship with them .But the perception and view of the community towards the divorced women is negative.

Neimat: 48 years old a divorced woman her story is that, she has five children. She performs the role of guardian of family, and follows her children in their studies and her children are completely satisfied with that when she discusses any matter with any one of them. She said that, the surrounding community not has all the respect and appreciation for her role as a woman and she never would have faced any kind of violence. And what makes them feel good about herself is that her children are fully satisfied with the her role and as a family head .This is through their permanent response when she ask them for help or assigning one of them a task. In addition they have good social relations with relatives and neighbor.

Nahid: Married woman, her age is about 52 years the size of the family are four. She is educated women with higher education.

and at the age of 42 years and is a widow, and now works as an employee, her family consists of seven members of the middle-income, but annual income is not enough for the needs of her family, they are only working in the family, in addition to her daughter you are helping them financially.

4.2. Discussion of the Results:

In order to achieve the research objectives, information obtained through individual interviews was analyzed. This by reducing the information to themes and categories by summarizing them to facilitate interpretation and obtaining answers to the research questions. The findings are presented in the form of a text, and integrated with the result of the questionnaire in the discussion in this part.

It was understood from the interviews that some of the interviewed women headed families considered themselves to be in a better position. From their experience most of them had cope without their husband and even without the help of their relatives.

The First hypothesis: Female headed families have multiple social and economic roles to perform:

The finding reveal that women were involved in various activities, the majority of respondents in the age group (25-40 years), and women in nature, especially at this age are usually a strong and punctual according to her care and follow-up of children, in the absence of the husband, woman is keen to provide all the requirements of life. Therefore, she is able to challenge the pressures of life, due to her emotion towards her children. She is more coherent and often tolerant of the responsibility. Moreover the dependency of families on women is common in the developed and the developing world alike, indicators show increase in

this pattern of households, the results showed a low level of household income, educational level. Education provides more opportunities for women to participate in public life and in the process of social change, as well as it changes their status within the family, and thus their participation in decision-making. In Europe and North America their proportion is estimated of about 20% and up to 24.6% in all northwest Europe and Australia, and 28% in Austria and 15% in Japan rising to 30 percent in South Asia and the Western Sahara.

On the Arab level, the households headed by women, are up to 11% in Morocco, (12.6%) in both Libya and Sudan, (12%) in Lebanon, and in Egypt. The data and studies indicate that the size of families headed by women fully estimated at up between 16% and 22% of the total families are concentrated in the poorer segments of the population. (<http://www.com/i2008>).

From the literature we found also that, the family life in stable societies is strong and finds auspices of the state and society, and find the means and ways that ensure the happiness of the family, but the family in unstable and heterogeneous communities, finds ground for deviation and sometimes tension and disintegration of family. This is because the family is the center of any community. (Mohammed. N .D.)

The finding of this hypothesis agrees with other researches finding .Yagoub, who found that economic status of women significantly explained by education and income.

The second hypothesis: Society's perception towards families headed by female is negative

Furthermore, through what has been presented of the overall results from the questionnaire and interviews. We find that although the majority of women in this study did not face any social pressure, but some cases have been face some types of violence towards them in the workplace, housing. Moreover, it was noticed a convergence of some of their sons and daughters. Socially this is reflecting to some extent a kind of negative view of society this is due to narrow mind of some of the members of the community and their judgment on things, like the marital status of the women headed families. In relation to this hypothesis there is significant correlation between marital status of the women and the view of community towards the women headed families, where chi square value = (213.9) with probability value of (0.0001), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).

Pearson coefficient factor showed significant relationship between marital status of women and the view of community towards women headed families, (direct) where correlation value = (0.64) with probability value (0.0002) (significant correlation $P < 0.05$). This is consistent to some extent with the second hypothesis. This study used different statistical techniques and combined both quantitative and qualitative methods where as the other mentioned previous studies did not explore on this.

The third hypothesis, decision-making and socialization within the family:

The results indicated that, the majority of women in this study are decision-makers, with respect to their families. This is reflected through their management of all activities, related to the daily life of the family, such as providing the economic needs of the house, socialization of the children, and playing their roles in the fullest way. So this is clear indicator of the great role played by them. This is through supporting their families, and organization of the affairs of their children. which can be explained, by the fact that, a woman who headed a family is a working woman, and working women whatever their income is, represent a center of power for the family, and her decision is on her own hands, and extends to the rest of the family. This is also confirmed by the study of (Sana Al Kholi) that the impact of socialization may positively or negatively affect the behavior of children and the growth of their personalities, and thus the harmony of life in the future.

The results indicated that women heads of families in this study have a prominent role in upbringing their children, which is reflected by the continued guidance of their children, and encouraging them to integrate into society.

There are positive aspects related to social and physical conditions, through the continuity of children in school, and change the look of the surrounding community. But in spite of the presence of some of the negative looks from the community, and dissatisfaction of their children

in some cases of this situation, and in spite of that, we find that families headed by a female, have extraordinary ability to take responsibility and bear the pressures of life and lead a full role in supporting their family.

The results also indicated that the majority of women had decisions regarding their families and that this is reflected through the management of all activities related to the daily life of the family. Provide the economic needs of the family. In addition, play the domestic role of the house perfectly.

These are clear indications of the significant role played by women headed families in this study through the big role they play and support that they give to their families.

This can be explained by the fact that a woman who headed families are a working person, working women and whatever their income they represent a family center and strong. In addition, the decision making in her hand and extends to the rest of the family. Moreover, this is consistent with the hypothesis .Also with the study of (Restrepo. R.1999), Female-headed families and their homes.

His study investigates how female-headed households solve their housing needs. Housing is an important resource for them: first, because women spend more time in the house and home conditions are of great concern to them because these determine the time and difficulties in fulfilling their domestic responsibilities and, second, because the home

is the site of production and economic activities that help increase women's low incomes. In addition, his study uses a qualitative study that aimed at providing insight into household patterns, and determining housing alternatives.

The last hypothesis: The impact of family care on women's health:

The study found that (83.3%) believe that the influence of family support on women's health, while the average (16.7%) sees a significant impact. The study also concluded that there were some negative impacts on women's health, due to the degree of social participation, because of the pressure of responsibilities.

The study also concluded that there were some negative impacts on women's health, due to the degree of social participation, because of the pressure of responsibilities and the lack of free time for the social posts because of the pressure of responsibilities, and this is also confirmed by other researches findings .Moreover, this finding also connected to the finding of the literature, which suggested that there is negative impact on women health. Income, age, and the size of family (The number of member) , consider important variable ,so there is Significant correlation between family size and the impact of family care on women health, where chi square value = (55.7) with probability value of (0.0008), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).Also Significant correlation between income of the family and the impact of family care on women health,

where chi square value = (85.7) with probability value of (0.0002), which is significant ($P < 0.05$). As well as, significant correlation between age of the women and the impact of family care on women health, where chi square value = (153.6) with probability value of (0.0002), which is significant ($P < 0.05$).the same results from the interviews stated by some of the interviewees that they have faced some kind of violence.

They also suffer from the economic conditions and the high cost of living and housing that have negative impact on them as providers for their families.

Through the presentation and discussion of results was reached the following:

The experiences of FHHs .Women had to cope without the help of their husbands. Moreover women have to fulfil the responsibilities in terms of providing the needs of the families. They also have to provide other services. Women have continued to play big role in socialization and upbringing of children alone, among other activities such as food, and health care.

Chapter Five

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1. Conclusion

This study looks at an important element of society, namely women, this element finds great interest in today's world, which is clear in many social and humanistic researches and studies, because status of woman is evidence of the progress and development of the society.

The field of this research is Omdurman city, to stand on the role played by female-headed families.

The study concluded women headed families in this study are strong and punctual according to the care and follow-up of children, in the absence of the husband, woman is keen to provide all the requirements of life in a degree that may outweigh. so she is able to bear the pressures of life, due to her emotion towards her children, she is more coherent and often tolerant of the responsibility.

The study also concluded that most of the respondents come from low level of family income. As well as, low educational level. Education provides more opportunities for women to participate in public life and in the process of social change, as well as it changes their status within the family, and thus their participation in decision-making. One of the conclusions is that, the majority of women in this study did not confront with any social pressure or a negative view, however, in some cases they were exposed to certain types of violence in work and housing environment

The study also concluded that there were some negative impacts on women's health, due to the roles they played in headed their families. Finally the research argues that, the study of female headed families' adequacy understands the situation of women in general and female headed family in Omdurman in particular.

5.2. Recommendation:

1. Women headed families' face many economic impact and social constraints like lack of loans that can help them to engage on projects so the recommendation is that, more integration of women in jobs to earn more.
2. Also some of the women headed families worked in the informal sector selling foods and teas which is not sufficient in the absence of any person who can help in living.so the recommendation is that. Improving employment opportunities
3. Government must concern with FHF's in terms of employment opportunities and access to education and training.
4. Also government must concern with FHF's in terms of health care.

5.3. Further Research:

Future research is necessary to address the effect of family structure, and the economic impact on children.

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