

Women's Empowerment in Livestock Focused Agriculture: Identifying and Understanding Pathways to Impact for Maternal and Child Nutrition

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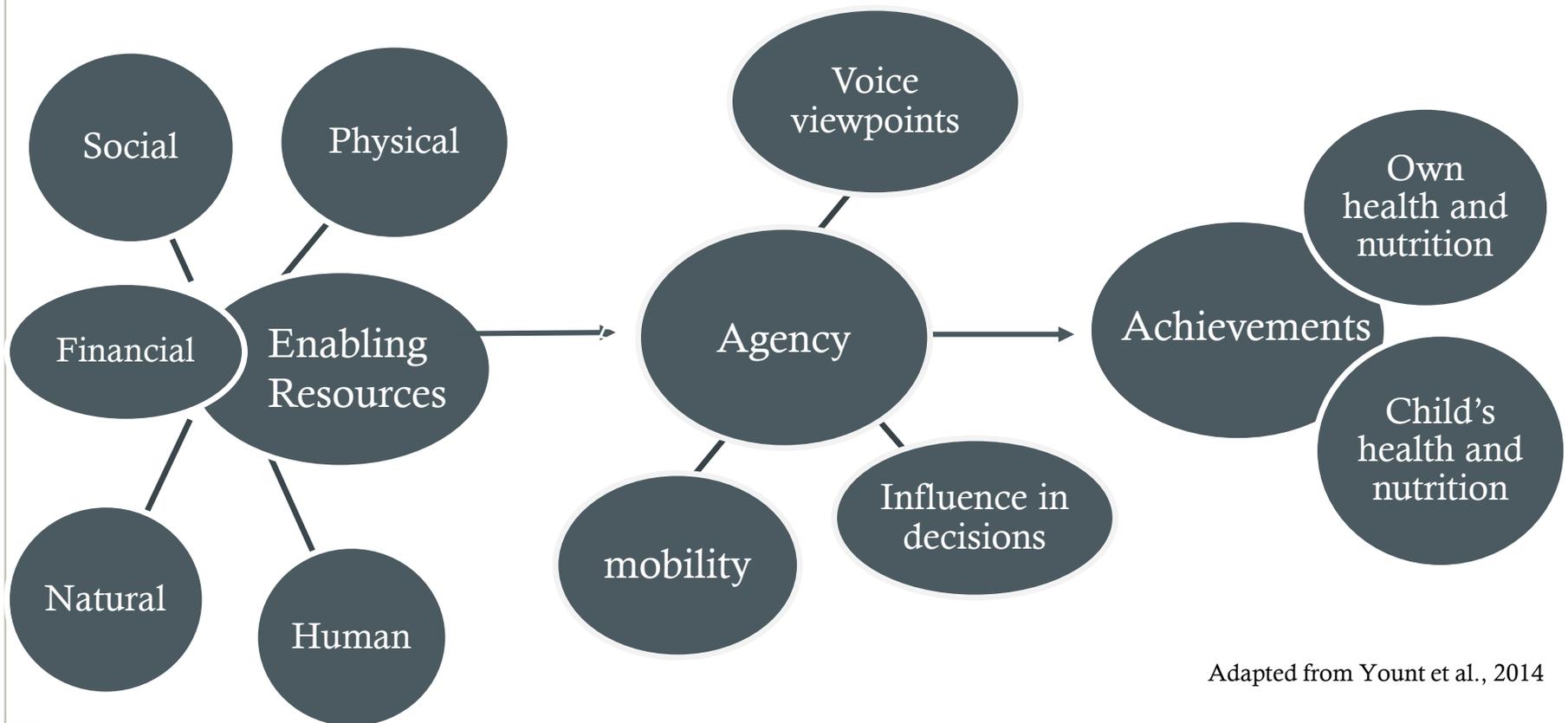
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Agriculture, empowerment and nutrition

- Women's empowerment is complex and debates over meaningful measurement continue
- Meanings of empowerment vary cross-culturally
- Select women's empowerment indicators linked to positive maternal and child health and nutrition
- Tools and metrics are needed to unpack the pathway from agriculture through empowerment to maternal and child nutrition

What do we mean by women's empowerment (WE)?



Adapted from Yount et al., 2014

Objectives

- Refinement of tools that measure empowerment in the context of livestock focused agriculture programs
 - Identify and include domains relevant to maternal and children
- Evaluate impacts of livestock focused agriculture on women's empowerment
- Identify direct and indirect pathways by which livestock focused agriculture influences maternal and child nutrition

Key Research Activities

- Analysis of DHS data from East Africa to identify relevant domains of empowerment for maternal and child nutrition
 - EFA/CFA
 - Invariance across contexts / time
 - Associations with indicators of maternal and child nutrition
- Qualitative research to explore domains of empowerment relevant for [livestock focused] agriculture and maternal and child nutrition in 3 sites: Ethiopia, Northern Kenya, Tanzania
- Quantitative research in each site embedded within ongoing livestock-related value chain projects

Aims of Qualitative Research

- Conceptualize meaning of empowerment
- Describe household valuation of animal source foods and livestock value chains
- Understand how gender intersects along livestock value chains
- Understand how these intersections influence maternal and child nutrition decision-making and practice

Qualitative Research

- Embedded within ongoing livestock-related value chain projects
 - Poultry - Ethiopia
 - Milk – TZ
 - Meat – Northern Kenya
- Communities purposively selected for heterogeneity
- Gender / age disaggregated FGDs
- Household case studies in Ethiopia
- Key Informant Interviews

Qualitative Research

- Discussions grounded in participatory activities (daily / seasonal calendars; ranking activities; resource mapping; decision matrices; ideal man/woman):
 - Time use, roles and responsibilities
 - Engagement in and decision-making along livestock value chains
 - Valuation of livestock and livestock products
 - Access to and control over resources (income, extension services, health services); expenditure priorities
 - Gender roles and attitudes to domestic violence
 - Intra-household prioritization and allocation of animal source foods in times of abundance and scarcity
- Across all activities explore gender /age hierarchies in decision-making

Aims of Quantitative Research

- Evaluate new index for empowerment and relevance for maternal and child nutrition: Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index
- Document effects of programs on women's empowerment
- Examine pathways to impact – quantify direct and indirect pathways

Quantitative Research

- Household surveys of women's empowerment (assessed somewhat differently in each context), diet, nutritional status and engagement in livestock value chains
- EFA/CFA of household survey data to identify relevant domains of women's empowerment in livestock focused agriculture
- Associations between empowerment and indicators of maternal and child nutrition
- Associations between program participation and change in domains of women's empowerment
- Application of structural equation modeling to quantify direct and indirect pathways to nutrition

Measures of Empowerment

- Ethiopia: Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index
 - Implemented in fall 2015
 - Future surveys will include recently developed livestock component
- Women's Empowerment in Livestock Index
 - Formative research in 2014
 - Stakeholder /expert inputs on indicators
 - Integration into Tanzania household survey in fall 2015 --
Follow up qualitative in May 2016

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