

TRADITIONAL GENDER ROLES IN STATE OF CHANGE



**A Case Study from Chepareria, West Pokot
North- Western Kenya**

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Have the gender roles in Chepareria, West Pokot, changed with the establishment of enclosures and an increasingly sedentary lifestyle?
- How?
- What are the drivers that have contributed to this change?



METHODOLOGY

- 8 FGDs & 10 HH Interviews
- March 2014 – simultaneously to John Wairore
- Semi- Structured Interview Guide



MARKETING ACTIVITIES & INCOME

MEN

The „big“ economy

- Selling maize & livestock
- Paying school fees & buying livestock

WOMEN

The „small“ economy

- Selling millet, vegetables, sorghum, milk, eggs and poultry
- Buying household items and supporting children in primary school



GENDERED DIVISION OF LABOUR

Traditionally

- Cattle a male responsibility
- Household chores solely female responsibility
- Entrepreneurial activities low

2014

- Cattle increasingly a female responsibility
- Household chores mainly female responsibility, but increasingly shared
- Entrepreneurial activities high



- Decision- making power increasingly shared
- Breaking down traditional boundary of woman's place being in the house
- Increasing financial independence



DRIVERS – EXTERNAL INFLUENCES

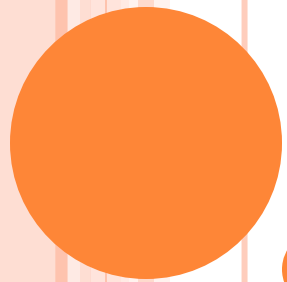
- Expansion of formal education system
 - Increasing monetary expenses – increased pressure on household economy
- Market creation (secondary schools)
- Churches, NGOs, MoA & Chief barazas



DRIVERS – INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Pressure on household economy (fewer cattle, school fees, small plots of land)
- Polygamous marriages
- Increase in casual labour
- Poultry- keeping





THANK YOU!