



Intersectional Gender Analysis Approach on Women's Empowerment and Food Security: A Case Study from Uganda

Oral Defence by PhD Candidate Farzaneh Barak

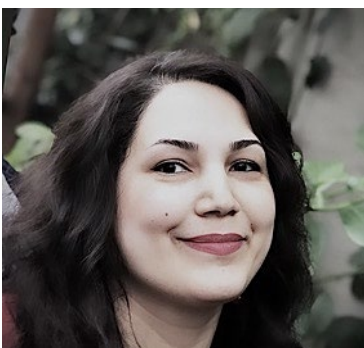
School of Human Nutrition

February 17, 2023 @ 9:00 — Zoom

Abstract

Understanding how the gender power relations are constituted and negotiated within households and communities can help uncover complex gender dynamics associated with the food security status of both women and men, separately or jointly. This doctoral research applied a secondary data analysis approach in the context of NutriFish, a larger nutrition- and gender-sensitive intervention within the fish value chain in Uganda. The 1st study quantified and tested the significance of gender differences in experiencing food insecurity at a macro level using an intersectional lens. The 2nd study used household data from the Project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (Pro-WEAI) to understand the role of gender-sensitive indicators in facilitating and hindering women's and men's food security status within an intersectional gender analysis framework. A context-specific analysis was conducted comparing fishing and non-fishing groups. The 3rd study assessed the moderating effect of women's agency in nutrition in the association between women's empowerment and their food security status.

Results showed that marital status and social support were significantly associated with food security showing a gender gap for socially supported and married groups. Furthermore, the empowerment status of men significantly moderated the positive association between women's empowerment and the food security status among women in fishing groups. Women's agency on food purchase strengthened the positive association between women's empowerment in agriculture and food security. In conclusion, the study confirmed the importance of context-specific and multi-domain approaches, namely sociocultural determinants, to more accurately assess gender dynamics and empowerment phenomena toward achieving sustainable food security outcomes.



About the Candidate

Farzaneh is a PhD candidate in the School of Human Nutrition under supervision of Dr. Melgar-Quiñonez. She holds B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Human Nutrition and Dietetics from Iran. Farzaneh has over a decade of national and international academic research and professional experience in public health nutrition and food security in Uganda, Malawi, Canada, and Iran. Her doctoral training was supported by FRQSC doctoral award, IDRC, ACIAR, and McGill Graduate Excellence Fellowship. Farzaneh's research interests are food security, gender, equity, and science-policy communication.