

## **Westminster International University in Tashkent**

# **Women's empowerment and infant complementary feeding in Central Asia.**

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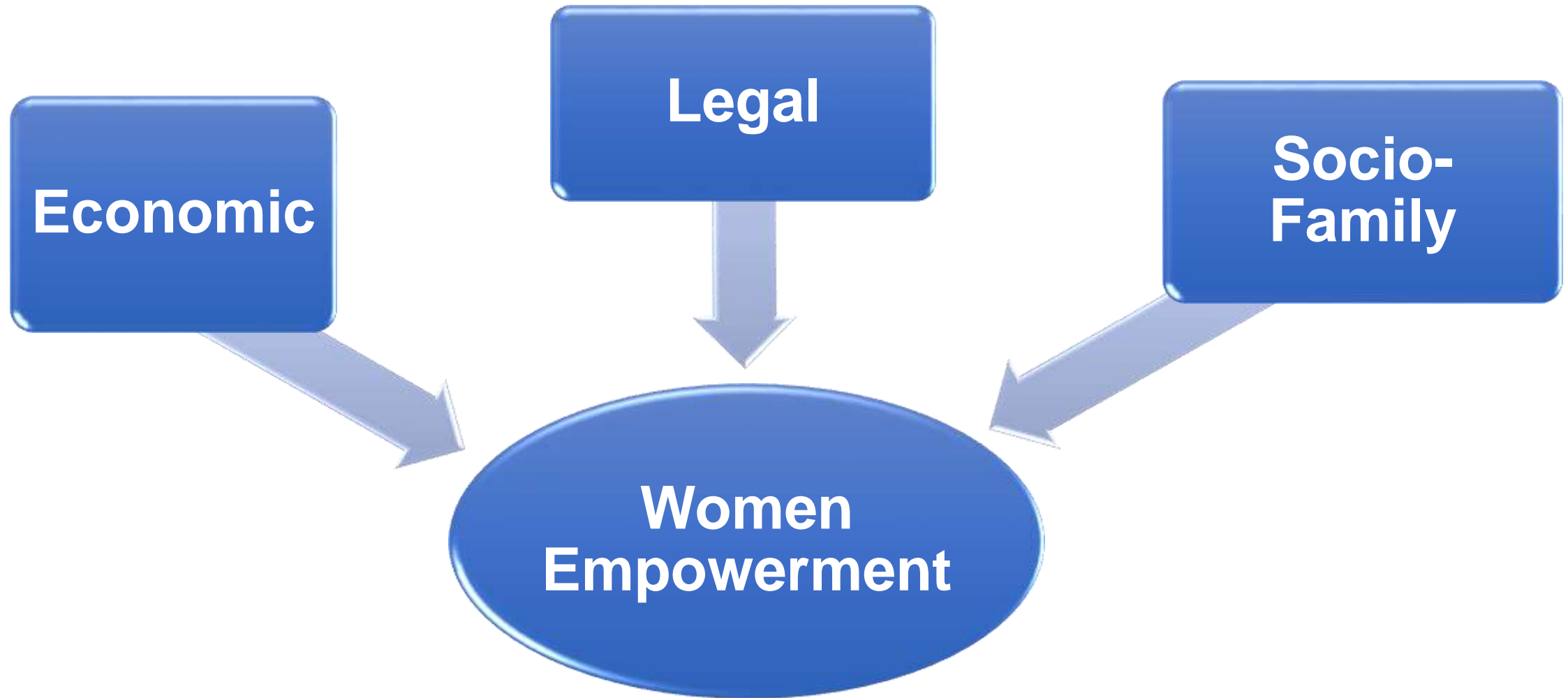
**Mother is a principal agent in child development especially during initial years of life. Consequently, by empowering woman, both mother and child wellbeing could be improved since mother will have ability to involve independently and freely in childcare practices.**

**Yet, undeniably, high portion of woman have been suffering from unequal position in the household that can be seen from frequent occurrence of domestic violence and low decision-making power in male-dominant societies.**

- **Impact of woman empowerment on the quality of infant feeding process alters in terms of outcome throughout the literature. For example:**
  - **Na et al., (2015) (10 African countries)**
  - **Malapit and Quisumbing, (2015) (Ghana)**
  - **Ickes et al., (2017) (Uganda)**

	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
<b>Age in month</b>	13.64	13.99
	(5.05)	(5.18)
<b>Female</b>	0.47	0.48
	(0.50)	(0.50)
<b>Mother currently working</b>	0.16	0.18
	(0.36)	(0.38)
<b>Mothers with higher education</b>	0.43	0.15
	(0.49)	(0.35)
<b>Mother's age</b>	27.78	26.77
	(5.90)	(5.27)
<b>Father's education</b>	0.34	0.34
	(0.47)	(0.47)
<b>Wealth index</b>	2.84	3.15
	(1.32)	(1.39)
<b>BMI</b>	23.59	22.80
	(4.14)	(4.06)

# Women empowerment



# Women empowerment

	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan	
<i>Income relative to partner</i>	0.07	0.02	0.04***
<i>Has say on own income</i>	0.14	0.11	0.03***
<i>Has say on partner's income</i>	0.69	0.46	0.23***
<i>Has say on household purchases</i>	0.76	0.46	0.30***
<b>Mean economic sub score</b>	1.65	1.05	0.61***
<i>Has say on visits to family</i>	0.80	0.47	0.32***
<i>Has say on decision about health care</i>	0.85	0.46	0.39***
<i>Domestic violence is never justified</i>	0.52	0.33	0.19***
<b>Mean socio-familial sub-score</b>	2.17	1.26	0.91***
<i>Own house alone or jointly</i>	0.47	0.36	0.11***
<i>Own land alone or jointly</i>	0.31	0.17	0.14***
<b>Mean legal sub-score</b>	0.79	0.54	0.25***
<b>Total empowerment score</b>	4.61	2.85	1.76***

# Infant complementary feeding

	<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	<b>Tajikistan</b>	
<b>Introduction Complementary Feeding</b>	0.62	0.49	0.12***
	(0.49)	(0.50)	(0.04)
<b>Minimum Dietary Diversity</b>	0.48	0.41	0.06***
	(0.50)	(0.49)	(0.02)
<b>Minimum Meal Frequency</b>	0.46	0.46	0.01
	(0.50)	(0.50)	(0.02)
<b>Minimum Acceptable Diet</b>	0.23	0.21	0.02
	(0.42)	(0.41)	(0.02)

	<b>Introduction complementary food</b>	<b>Minimum dietary diversity</b>	<b>Minimum meal frequency</b>	<b>Minimum Acceptable diet</b>
Tajikistan	0.75** (0.02)	0.88** (0.03)	0.98 (0.79)	0.96 (0.52)
<b>Woman empowerment</b>				
<i>Economic</i>	<b>1.14**</b> (0.04)	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.06**</b> (0.03)	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)
<i>Socio-familial</i>	<b>1.14*</b> (0.06)	1.03 (0.37)	<b>1.05*</b> (0.08)	<b>1.06*</b> (0.07)
<i>Legal</i>	<b>1.22**</b> (0.02)	0.95 (0.15)	<b>1.06*</b> (0.08)	1.02 (0.64)
<i>Composite</i>	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.03**</b> (0.05)	<b>1.04***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.05***</b> (0.00)
<i>Observations</i>	530	2836	2836	2836



	Introduction complementary food	Minimum dietary diversity	Minimum meal frequency	Minimum Acceptable diet
Tajikistan	0.75** (0.02)	0.88** (0.03)	0.98 (0.79)	0.96 (0.52)
<b>Woman empowerment</b>				
<i>Economic</i>	<b>1.14**</b> (0.04)	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.06**</b> (0.03)	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)
<i>Socio-familial</i>	<b>1.14*</b> (0.06)	1.03 (0.37)	<b>1.05*</b> (0.08)	<b>1.06*</b> (0.07)
<i>Legal</i>	<b>1.22**</b> (0.02)	0.95 (0.15)	<b>1.06*</b> (0.08)	1.02 (0.64)
<i>Composite</i>	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.03**</b> (0.05)	<b>1.04***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.05***</b> (0.00)
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<b>Woman empowerment</b>				
<i>Economic</i>	<b>1.14**</b> (0.04)	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.06**</b> (0.03)	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)
<i>Socio-familial</i>	<b>1.14*</b> (0.06)	1.03 (0.37)	<b>1.05*</b> (0.08)	<b>1.06*</b> (0.07)
<i>Legal</i>	<b>1.22**</b> (0.02)	0.95 (0.15)	<b>1.06*</b> (0.08)	1.02 (0.64)
<i>Composite</i>	<b>1.11***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.03**</b> (0.05)	<b>1.04***</b> (0.00)	<b>1.05***</b> (0.00)
<i>Observations</i>	530	2836	2836	2836

	Introduction complementary food	Minimum dietary diversity	Minimum meal frequency	Minimum Acceptable diet
<b>Woman empowerment</b>				
<i>Economic</i>	<b>1.32<sup>***</sup></b> (0.01)	<b>1.11<sup>**</sup></b> (0.01)	0.99 (0.85)	1.04 (0.36)
<i>Socio-familial</i>	<b>1.27<sup>**</sup></b> (0.04)	1.07 (0.18)	0.97 (0.56)	1.02 (0.65)
<i>Legal</i>	1.14 (0.25)	0.99 (0.88)	0.94 (0.19)	1.07 (0.24)
<i>Composite</i>	<b>1.19<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)	<b>1.05<sup>**</sup></b> (0.04)	0.98 (0.33)	1.03 (0.19)
<i>Observations</i>	530	2836	2836	2836

# Tajikistan

	Introduction complementary food	Minimum dietary diversity	Minimum meal frequency	Minimum Acceptable diet
<b>Woman empowerment</b>				
<i>Economic</i>	1.03 (0.75)	<b>1.13<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)	<b>1.12<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)	<b>1.18<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)
<i>Socio-familial</i>	1.05 (0.55)	1.01 (0.83)	<b>1.11<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)	<b>1.10<sup>**</sup></b> (0.02)
<i>Legal</i>	<b>1.28<sup>**</sup></b> (0.04)	0.91 (0.06)	<b>1.21<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)	0.97 (0.66)
<i>Composite</i>	1.06 (0.22)	1.02 (0.27)	<b>1.09<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)	<b>1.07<sup>***</sup></b> (0.00)
<i>Observations</i>	530	2836	2836	2836

- **In general, we estimate positive association between 3 dimensions of women empowerment and 4 indicators of infant complementary feeding condition based on appended two DHS individual level datasets.**
- **Regression analyses we conclude that empowered mother from all indicated scopes altogether is more probably introduce complementary feeding at tolerable age of month and feed minimally frequent and acceptable diet comparing to mothers who has small level of empowerment degree.**
- **Consequently, we confirm that woman empowerment plays crucial role in child development in Central Asia since she can participate in child-care practices freely and independently.**

• ***Thank you for your attention***