

Empower Women Benefit for All

Survey among Participants of the EWA Sewing Course

Status, motivation and making decision

Afghanistan



Survey Report



**Empower Women
Benefit for All**



Women in Europe for a Common Future | **WECEF**

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Afghanistan

Results of a Survey among Participants of the EWA Sewing Course; *Status, Motivation and Making Decision*

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Results of a Survey among Participants of the EWA Sewing Course

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Results of a Survey among Participants of the EWA Sewing Course *Status, Motivation and Making Decision*

1 Background

Since autumn 2012 the EWA project in Afghanistan focussed on the training of young women from Kunduz to become professional dressmakers/seamstresses to enable them to generate an income by sewing for members of their community and/or a company.

At the end of the training the girls have to pass a test in sewing a “masterpiece” and will then receive a certificate, which is recognized by the Government of Kunduz as a certificate. The granting of the certificates are always done by the Minister for Women and a representative of the Minister of Economics, who are responsible for the NGOs. After passing the exam each woman will receive a sewing machine to enable them to start an own business.

With the aim to learn more about the background and the motivation of the participating young women, as well the future planning and decision-making within their families, Katachel e.V. organised in November 2014 a survey among two groups of students of the on-going sewing course in Kunduz.



2 Methodology

A questionnaire was developed by WECF and taken by Katachel e.V. to Kunduz for translation. See annex. Most questions could be answered by a ticking one or more multiple choice boxes. During the sewing course participants of two parallel given courses had the occasion to respond to the questions of the questionnaire; a local assistant supported illiterate women. All the participants of the two groups answered all the posed questions.

After, the questionnaires were filled-in, translated into English and were then assessed and reported by WECF. The results of the returned questionnaires of the two sewing course groups were merged together for several issues.

3 Findings

3.1 Number and marital status of interviewed women

In the 3-month sewing course conducted in autumn 2014, 67 women participated, of which 75% were single, 22% married and 3% divorced.

Table 1. Marital status of the participants of the two sewing courses

	Married	Single	Divorced	Widow
Group 1 (32)	6	26	0	0
Group 2 (35)	9	24	2	0
Total (67)	15	50	2	0
Average	22%	75%	3%	0%

3.2 Education and family size

Among the participants there is in both groups a considerable difference in the level of education.

In average more than half (54%) of the women completed secondary school, one fifth (21%) did not attend a school and one fifth completed primary school.

Fig 1. Level of education of the participants of 2 sewing courses

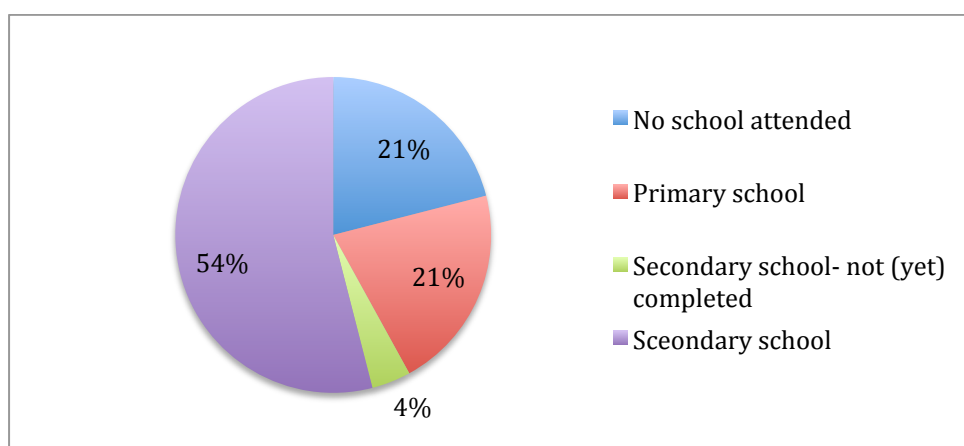


Table 2. Level of education of the participants of 2 sewing courses

	No school attended	Primary school	Secondary school	Secondary school not yet completed
Group 1 (32)	6	11	15	
Group 2 (35)	8	3	21	3
Average	21%	21%	54%	4%

The question about the size of the household, the women are living showed an average family size of 8,6 people, consisting of 55% women and 45% men. The biggest household size of a single woman was 15 persons; the smallest of married women was 4 persons.

Table 3. Size of the households participants are living in

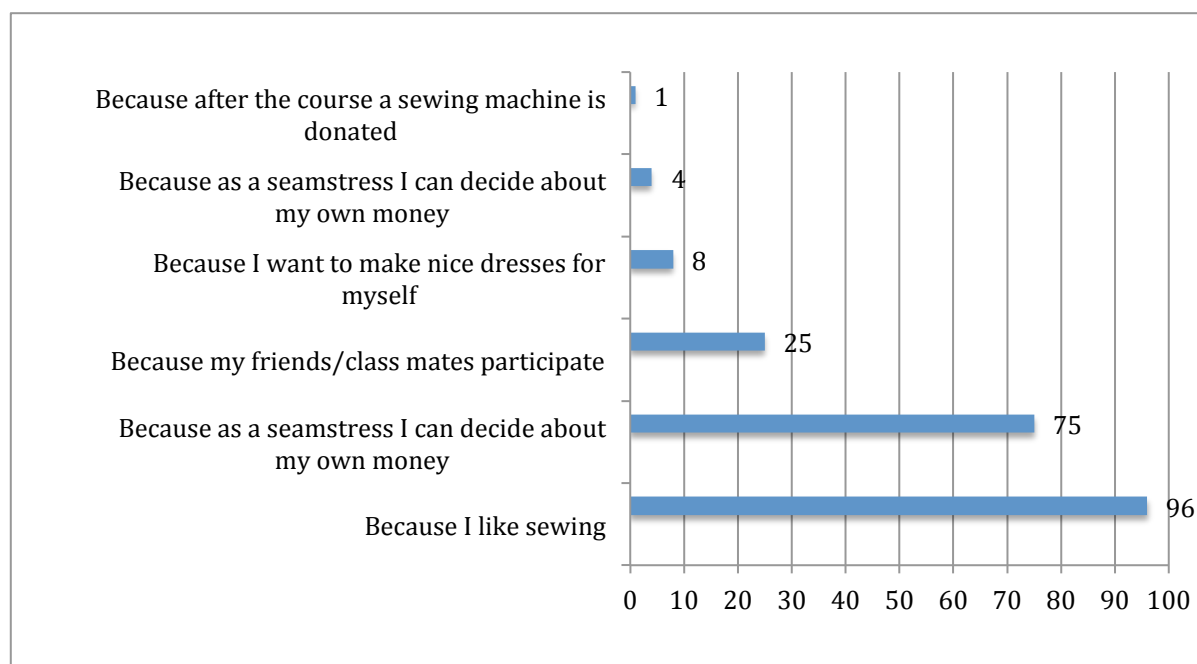
	Average household size	Average Female	Average Male
Group 1 (32)	9,5	5,4	3,9
Group 2 (35)	7,7	4,1	3,6
Average	8,6	55%	45%

3.3 Motivation of attending the sewing course

For the question about the motivation of taking part in the sewing course 6 possibilities were given.

For 96% of the 67 responders the fact to like sewing was the first motivation, followed by 75% of the responders was the fact that as a seamstress/ dressmaker an income could be generated. Only 4% of the responders ticked the box “because as a seamstress I can decide about my own money and only for 1% was the foresight of the donation of a sewing machine after finalising the course was a motivation in participating in the course.

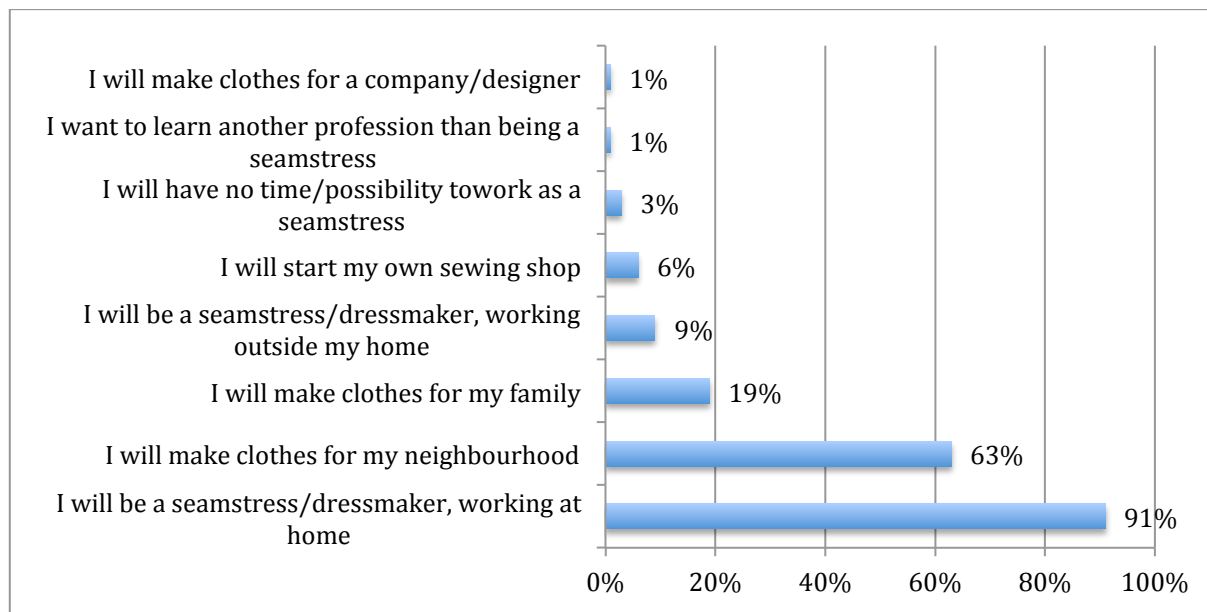
Fig. 2. What is your motivation to take part in the sewing training? (Answers are in percentages)



3.4 Future planning after the participant is certified as a dressmaker

For the question about the future plans of the certified dressmaker the questionnaire provided several options. In the box of more than one option could be ticked. 91% of the 67 responders indicated they will work at home, only 9% intend to work outside their home. The majority (63%) think of making clothes for their neighbourhood and 19% for their family. Only 1% are thinking about making clothes for a company or designer, and 6% are thinking about starting an own sewing shop.

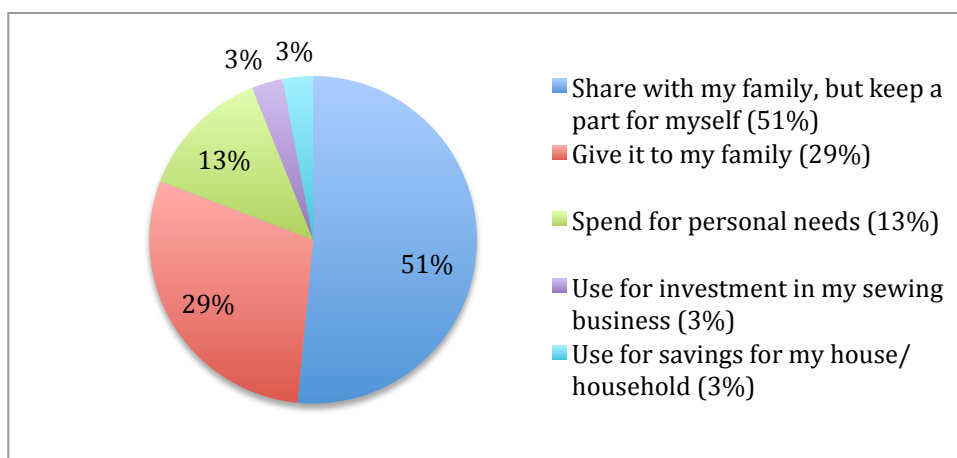
Fig. 3. What is your future planning?



3.5 What to do with the money?

The question was posed to the participants, what they would do with the money in case they would earn money with sewing activities. Half (51%) of the responders indicated they would share the money with their family, but keep a part for themselves. 29% are thinking of giving all the money to the family and 13% are thinking of spending the money for personal needs. 3% of the responders indicated to use the money for savings for their house and/or households and 3% to use the money for investments for a sewing business.

Fig. 4. If you earn money, what would you use it for?



3.6 Priorities for items to spend on the money earned

For the question “if the income would increase, due to the sewing activities, what would be the priority of the participant on how to spend the earned money?”, 13 possibilities were given which could be rated by giving a number from 1 to 5, however the given level of priority for several items could be the same.

After calculating the given rates of the items, it can be concluded that for the average the participants increasing the quantity of food for their family had the highest priority, followed by extending the sewing equipment. In average the lowest priority was rated for spending money on media equipment such as T.V. or radio, followed by a computer or mobile.

For 63% of the responders the highest priority was to use the earned money to increase the quantity of food, for 34% also extending the sewing equipment was rated as the highest priority. 69% gave the lowest priority on spending money on media equipment, 58% on spending money for computer and/ or a mobile.

Table 4. If the income in your family would increase due to your sewing, how would you like to spend it in priority order on a scale from 1 to 5

Level of Priority	Item to spend money	Number of participants
1	Increase food quantity	42
2	Extending the sewing equipment	23
3	Health care	
4	Increase food quality	
5	School fees	
6	An extra sewing machine	
7	School supplies	
8	Clothes	
9	Improvements in the house	
10	Saving for unforeseen events	
11	Shoes	
12	Computer/ Mobile	39
13	Media equipment (T.V. Radio)	46

3.7 Which persons within the family is taking decisions?

The questionnaire asked the participants, in case the income within their family would increase due to their sewing activities, which person will take the decision on how to spend the money?

For this questions 8 different issues were selected and asked who is taking the decision on the specific topic. The topics concerned:

- Purchases for food within the household
- Purchases on furniture and tools within the house
- Education of children
- Health care
- Participation in public activities (clubs, politics, village groups etc.
- Taking on work outside the house
- Taking orders for sewing clothes
- How your income is spent

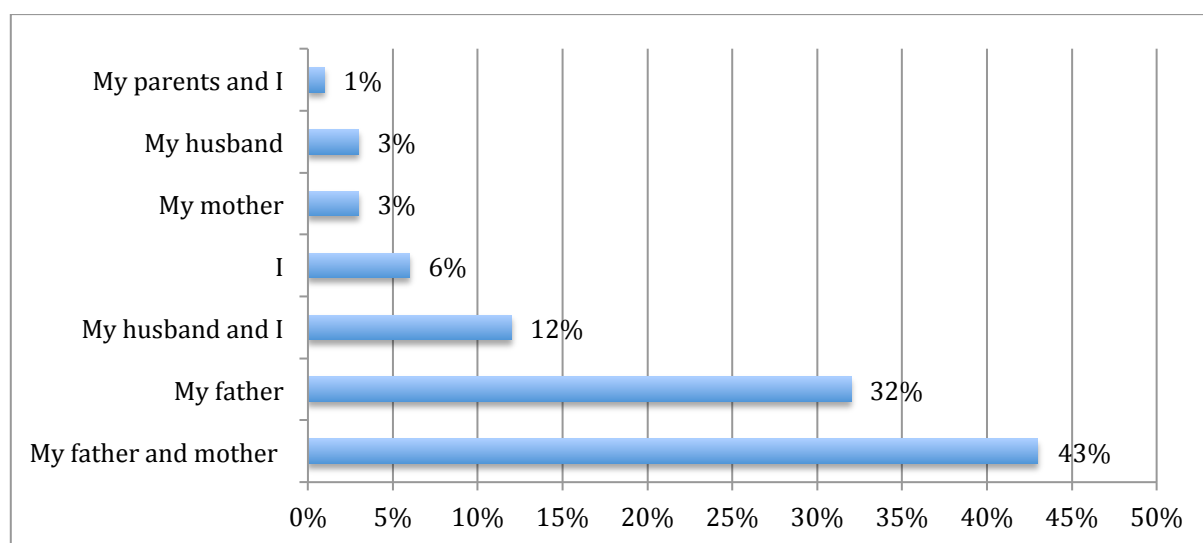
In the returned questionnaires the responders ticked the box for all items the same decision-maker for all items; with one exception.

While 75% (50) are single and still living with their parents, 43% (29) of the responders indicated that their father and mother, are both taking the decisions within the family, in 32% (22) the responders (including the 2 divorced women) mentioned that their father is the sole decision-maker within the family. 67 participants stated that they themselves can decide how to spend the earned money.

22% (15) of the responders are married and of the 15 married women, more than half of them (9) stated my husband and I are taking the decisions, in 3 cases their father and mother, in 2 cases their husband and in one case their father are the decision-makers.

According to the returned questionnaires even in case of taking orders for sewing clothes, the father and/or parents are the main decision-makers.

Fig 5. Who takes the decisions within your family?



4 Summary and Conclusions

- Although three quarters of the participants are single young women, most of them identified increasing the quantity of food for the family as the highest priority for spending the money earned by sewing. Spending money for modern tools like computer, mobile or T.V. had the lowest priority. Besides increasing food security, one third of the participants stated extending the sewing equipment as being the highest priority as well.
- The majority (80%) of the responders will hand over the money earned by sewing to their family, although 51% will keep a part for their own needs.
- So far the responders were married (15 out of the 67 responders), 9 (60%) of them stated, they will take the decision together with their husband on how to use the increased income.
- In average in 32% of all responders stated their father solely takes the decision on all in the questionnaire mentioned topics; in 43% both, their father and mother. 6% of the responders themselves will take the decision on spending their earned money.
- The motivation of taking part in the sewing course was for most of the responders (96%) because they like to sew and while they (75%) think they can earn an income in the future as a dressmaker/ seamstress. Only for few responders (4%) the motivation of having or taking their own decision on their earned money was mentioned.
- An overwhelming part of the responders (91%) stated their future planning is to work at home as a dressmaker/ seamstress; 9% think to work outside their home; 63% intends to make clothes for their

neighbourhood and 16% for their family. Only few responders (6%) intend to start their own sewing shop, and only 1% intends to sew for a company.

The results of this survey underline the strong bonding of the responders with their family. This bonding will influence the possibilities for investing in a sewing business; taking decisions, responsibilities towards the family. For most responders the amount of available food within family seems to be a serious problem.

The average size of the households was 8,6 persons, where as families with 15, 14 or 13 persons were listed in the returned questionnaires. The household size and local culture will influence the planning on the future of the dressmakers. Almost no opportunities to increase their income by sewing for a company or a designer or to work outside their homes are taken into consideration for future plans.

More investigations are needed:

- to assess the real improvements of income and hence of food security within the households;
- to assess the empowerment of the women and the replication of the learned skills.

ANNEX

Questionnaire for participants the sewing course in Kunduz, Afghanistan

Dear certified seamstress / dressmaker,

Maybe you know the sewing course you followed, was made possible due to a project financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with Katachel and WECF. Now we like to learn more about you, your motivation to take part in this course, your experiences and also your future expectations. Please be so kind and answer the posed questions. This can be done by filling in some words or by ticking the relevant box. All your provided information will be kept confidential.)

Thank you very much in advance for your kind cooperation.

The project team Katachel and WECF

.....

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date of filling in the questionnaire.....

Your name:

(If you do not want to share your name please leave blank or write down “anonymous”)

Living in town, community

Marital status: Married. Divorced Widow Single

Size of the household you are living in:people

Number of children in the household:Girls: Boys:

Age of Children: (Oldest)..... (Youngest).....

Level of education:

No school attended

Primary school

Secondary school not (yet) completed

Secondary school completed

THE SEWING COURSE and EXPECTATIONS

1. What is your motivation to take part in the sewing training? (More than one answer is possible)

- a. I like sewing
- b. Because my friend/class mates participate
- c. Because as a seamstress/dressmaker I can earn money
- d. Because after the course a sewing machine is donated
- e. Because I want to make nice dresses for myself
- f. Because as a seamstress I can decide about my own money

2. What is your future planning? (More than one answer is possible)

- a. I will be a seamstress/dressmaker, working at home
- b. I will be a seamstress/dressmaker, working outside my home
- c. I will start my own sewing shop
- d. I will make clothes for my family
- e. I will make clothes for my neighbourhood
- f. I will make clothes for a company/designer
- g. I will have no time/possibility to work as a seamstress
- h. I want to learn another profession than being a seamstress)
- i.

DECISION-MAKING

3. If you earn money, what would you use it for? (More than one answer is possible)
- a. Spend for personal needs (food, school, health costs, etc.)
 - b. Give it to the family
 - c. Share with my family, but keep a part for myself
 - d. Use for investment in my sewing business'
 - e. Use for savings for my house / household

4. If the income in your family would increase due to your sewing, how would you like to spend it in priority order on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 is the most important issue, 5 the least important)

- a. Increase quantity of food
- b. Improve quality of food
- c. Health care
- d. School fees
- e. School supplies
- f. Clothes
- g. Shoes
- h. Media equipment (TV, radio)
- i. Computer/mobile
- j. Improvements to the house
- k. Extending the sewing equipment
- l. Buying an extra sewing machine
- m. Save for unforeseen events

If other, please explain

5. Within your family, who can make decisions concerning:

		My father	My mother	My husband	My self	My husband and I	My parents and I
A	Purchases for food within the household						
B	Purchases on furniture and tools within the house						
C	Education of children						
D	Health care						
E	Participation in public activities						

	(clubs, politics, village groups etc.						
F	Taking on work outside the house						
G	Taking orders for sewing clothes						
H	How your income is spent						

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