



COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING

# Learning to Empowerment: A Roadmap

Based on the Experiences of the  
Commonwealth of Learning (COL)'s  
Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F)  
Programme

**K. Balasubramanian  
&  
Alexis Carr**

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## Relationship between Education and Empowerment

- Enigmatic Relationship
- Empowerment is more than building skills and competencies- Paulo Freire
- No positive linear relationship between education and the economic, social and political empowerment of women in Asia- Jayaweera, 1997

# Non-Formal Learning

- Followed the traditions of formal education
- Yet to show that non-formal learning can empower particularly women

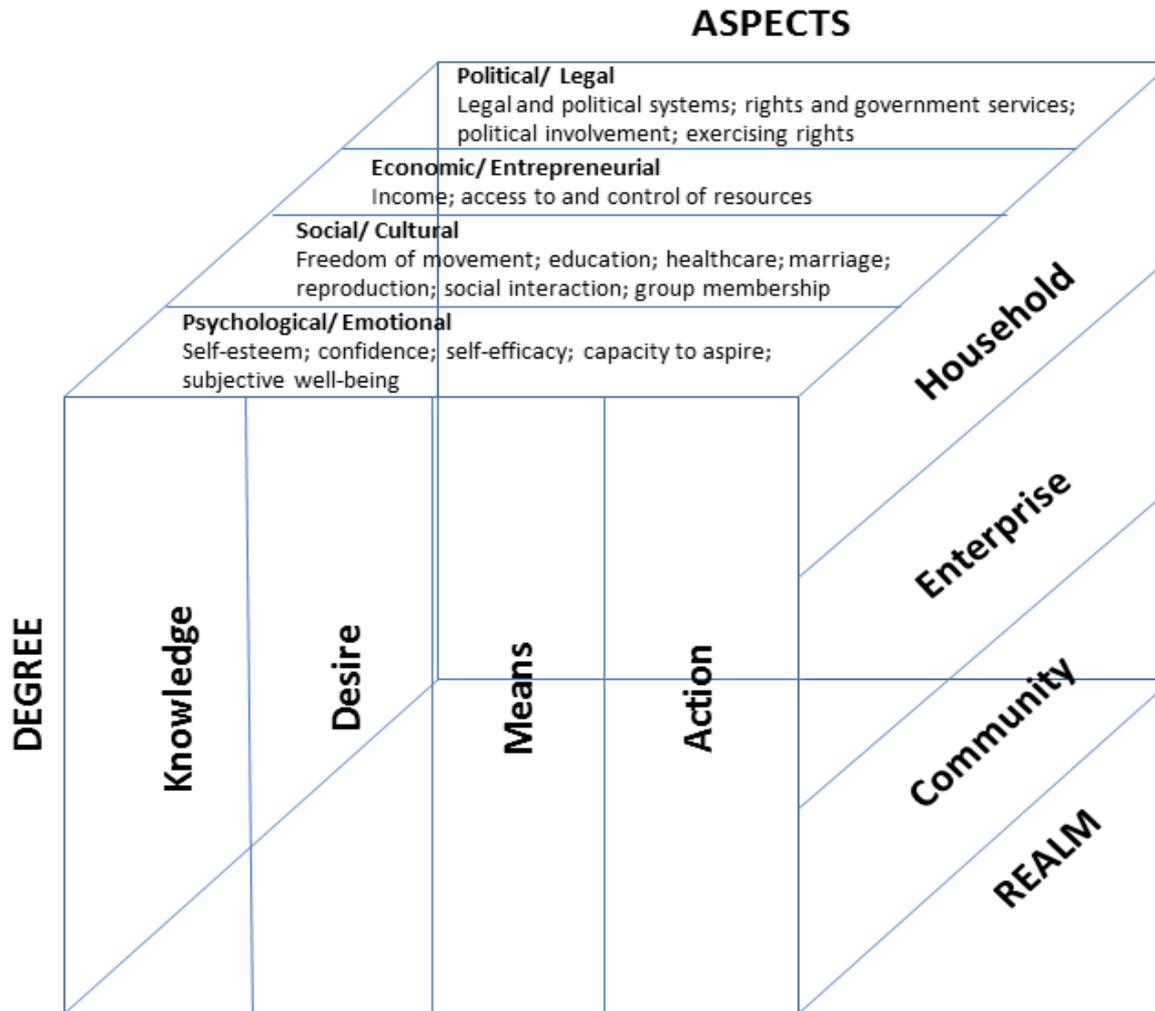
# Definition of Empowerment

- Plethora of definitions and hence the confusion
- COL used Naila Kabeer's definition "the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them"- in the context of resources, agency and achievements

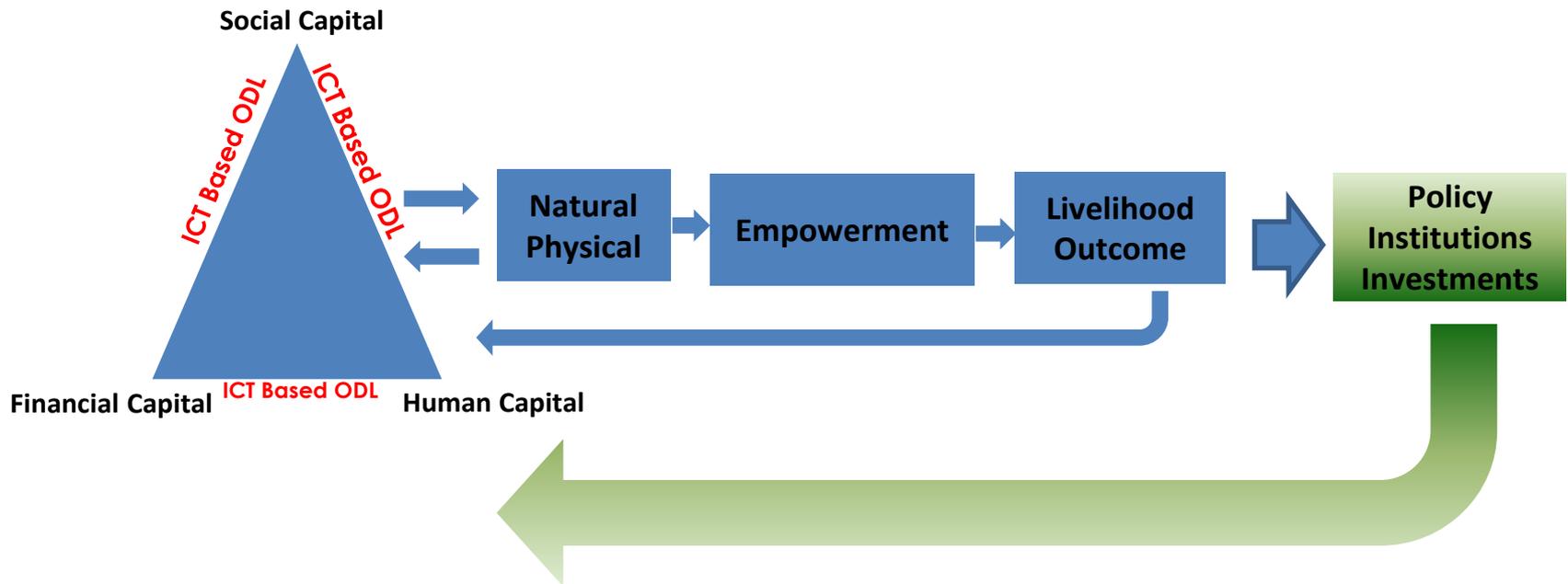
# Measuring Empowerment- Empowerment Index

- Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (IFPRI, 2012), the Women's Empowerment Matrix (Charmes, & Wieringa, 2010) and the Women Empowerment Index of CARE International (Njuki, Kruger, & Starr, 2013)
- COL further developed an index both for women and men
- “patriarchal structures and stereotyped notions of gender hide the increasing disempowerment of many men” (Silberschmidt, 2001)

# COL 3 Dimensional Model of Empowerment



## Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F) Model implemented in 7 Commonwealth Countries



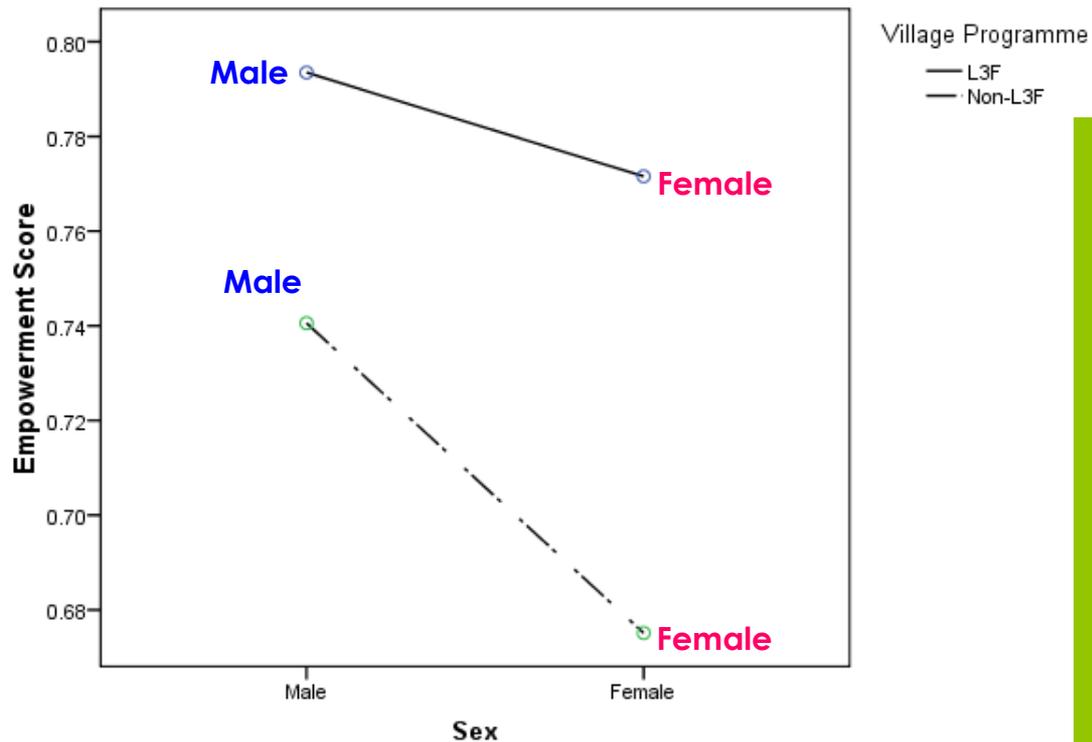
**ICT based Open and Distance Learning reduces the opportunity costs in learning**

## Based on Studies in Uganda and Kenya

- In Uganda, the study compared L3F village and Non-L3F village within the same socio-economic, cultural and agro-climatic zone.
- In Kenya compared three groups of households with backyard poultry: L3F households, Association member but not in L3F, neither in L3F nor a member in associations.
- Empowerment index ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 depicting least empowered or highly disempowered and one reflecting highly empowered.

# In Uganda

Empowerment Score for Sex and Village Programme



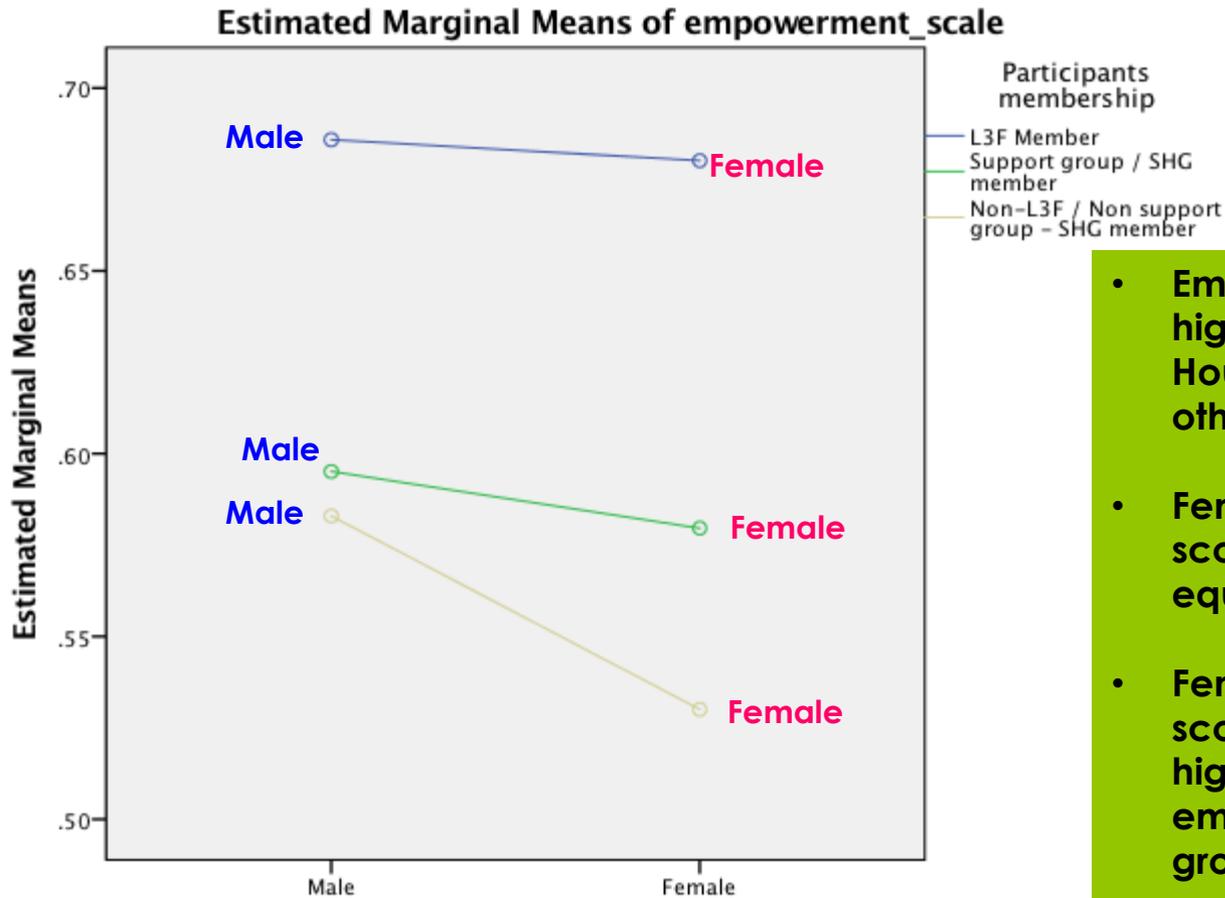
- Empowerment scores are higher for the L3F village than the Non-L3F village
- Female empowerment scores are lower than the Male scores- though in L3F the margin is less
- Women in the L3F village have a higher mean empowerment score than men in the Non-L3F village.

## In Uganda

The process of empowerment is not uniform at the household, community and enterprise levels.

Women in L3F have a higher empowerment score at the community level and enterprise level but at the household level, less empowered.

# In Kenya



1.2.1 Participant's gender

- Empowerment scores are higher for the L3F Households compared to other two control groups
- Female empowerment scores are almost equivalent to Male L3F
- Female empowerment scores in L3F is much higher than male empowerment in other two groups

## Determinants of Empowerment based on Regression Analysis in Uganda & Kenya

- Education (particularly primary and secondary) has not emerged as a significant factor
- Age , family income, reproductive role, years of farming are also not significant
- Social capital by itself is not enough
- Learning ( in the context of social capital and financial capital) significant determinant of empowerment.

# Conclusion

- Education by itself is not learning
- Learning cannot be a sectoral activity. Need to have a holistic approach.
- Learning linked to social and financial capital offer potentials for women empowerment at the community and enterprise levels.
- Men's empowerment may be required for strengthening the women's empowerment at the household level.
- Programmes & institutions such as banks, microfinance, financial literacy need to invest on enabling the community particularly women in learning in the context of social and financial capital since it offers a win-win framework
- Empowerment is not a zero-sum game



# Thank You



For full details on empowerment index and analysis of Uganda read the paper in the online Journal, "Journal of Learning for Development

<http://jl4d.org/index.php/ejl4d/article/view/124>