

**EFFECTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON THEIR SOCIO-
ECONOMIC LIFE IN OYE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, EKITI
STATE**

BY

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this study was carried out by ADESANYA BETTY ADEOLA with the matriculation number SOC/14/2053 of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Federal University, Oye Ekiti. In partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science in Sociology (BSc Sociology).


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DEDICATION

This project work is dedicated to God Almighty, my Creator and king to him be the glory, honour and power. I also dedicate this research work to my wonderful and caring parents, Mr. and Mrs Adesanya for their effort and their encouragement towards my education. I really appreciate, I pray you will eat the fruit of your labour in good health and wealth I love you so much.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated that investing in womens empowerment is central to sustainable national development regarding the key variables that influence and is responsible for maintaining or changing the structure of womens disposition within the prisms of their empowerment. With Nigerias female population estimated at 83 million (about 49 percent of the countrys over 170 million people), the need for financial inclusion of women to boost development and employment opportunities is becoming increasingly urgent. The aim of this research is to assess the impact of women empowerment on their socio-economic life.

The study was carried out in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State with a total of 136, 800 inhabitants. The autonomous community was represented by a total of 110 women for the questionnaire survey. Considering the nature of the present study, Men were included in the In-Depth Interview. This is to enable the researcher obtain the views of men on the issues in the study. Thus, fifteen men and fifteen women were selected from each of the autonomous communities making a total of 30 people for the In-depth Interview. This gave a total of 140 respondents for the study making use of both Primary and Secondary Data.

The quantitative data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Statistical means such as percentages, bar chart, pie chart and frequency tables. The study also reveals that womens participation in development is still low. It was observed that many factors still constitute barriers to active participation of women in development processes.

In conclusion there is need for government, non-governmental bodies and individuals to work hand in hand in eliminating or reducing these constraints in order to create a conducive environment for women to actively participate in the development process. This will lead to sustainable development in Nigeria.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

It is a well-established fact that the achievement of economic growth is contingent upon the full use of the skills and qualification of women (OECD, 2008). Empowering women has become a frequently cited goal of development intervention (Mosedale, 2005). In the 1970s when women empowerment was first invoked by the Third World feminist and women organizations, it was explicitly used to frame and facilitate the struggle for social justice and women equality through a transformation of economic, social and political structures at national and international levels (Bisnath & Elson, 2003).

Empowerment therefore requires an analysis of women's subordination, the formulation of an alternative, more satisfactory set of arrangements to those which exist. These constraints are shaped by male dominated social structure (patriarchy), high rate of poverty among women, and gender division of labour. This proves that women are unequally represented at various levels of government. This has led women to perceive politics as an area exclusively reserved for men (Solomon and Memar, 2014).

Generally, even though the government is thriving to empower women and attain gender equality across all areas through various legal frameworks, the political decision-making role of women has not been properly attained. It is apparent that to reach a fair decision which equally protects the interests of women, the mostly male dominated political system should be changed to allow women to have a say about their lives as well as the political system of their country (OECD, 2008; Alvarez and Lopez, 2013). Otherwise, there will be no representative ideas, and protection of the interest of all citizens and the overall political process will be one-sided pushing women out of the pathway; this will adversely affect any efforts to achieve socio-economic sustainability. To complicate matters, even the economic development will not be achieved unless women are placed in key political positions. This is due to the interplay between economy and politics: one influences the other. It is common to observe political actions taken by a

government affecting and determining the economy of a country (Avellaneda and Dellepiane, 2006).

Consequently, if politics operate with the full and equal participation of women, the impact on the economy will be fair and beneficial to all. For instance, if the Ministry of Finance and Economic Co-operation is gender-mainstreamed (operated by women as well), the entire economic environment in the country will be more amenable to women taking an active part and thereby contributing to the economic development of the country. Consequently, it is clear that if women were placed in key decision-making roles, there could be a faster move towards sustainability in the economic sphere (Stevens, 2010). Women's economic empowerment, which is a precondition for sustainable development, requires sound gender-mainstreamed policies and strategies (OECD, 2012) that can be better achieved if women are there to do it themselves. Hence, the political empowerment of women has multifaceted, nonpolitical positive results as well. To conclude, empowering women and providing fair representation across the law-making, law-enforcing, and law-interpreting organs, as well as any government institutions, play a remarkable role in political development, in particular, and sustainable development of a country in general. This fact is underscored by Alvarez and Lopez (2013), who states that “ensuring that women play an equal role in shaping the decisions, rules and structures that influence our lives is likely to lead to long-term, sustainable changes.”

With Nigeria's female population estimated at 83 million (about 49 percent of the country's over 170 million people), the need for financial inclusion of women to boost development and employment opportunities is becoming increasingly urgent. Karl (1995) stressed that the goals of development cannot be attained without women's full participation in development process and also in shaping its goals. No doubt, boosting women's empowerment in the fast-changing world of work is as important as it is indispensable. This is because women constitute the most viable resource of a nation and remain important economic power-blocks waiting to be tapped in the quest for sustainable development. Women are endowed with limitless acumen and vast entrepreneurial skills that should be deployed to diversify and catalyze economic growth. Nigeria's current economic landscape reveals that women own less capital and productive resources than men. However, some clarification on the usage of the term 'empowerment'. Empowerment is simply about acquiring the power to partake, or to exert significant influence in

government and/or organizational process. It is as much about the right to be heard, be involved, to have a voice, as it is about the opportunity to question, resist or checkmate arbitrary policies, among others. In its broader sense, it entails changes in the social, political, psychological as well as cultural aspects of life of the people in such a way as to remove obstacles or hindrances that may militate against the development of the human potentials and talents necessary for human development. Women empowerment is the development of mental and physical capacity, power and skills in women for them to operate meaningfully in their social milieu, thereby experiencing a more favorable level of social recognition and subsequently enhance their economic status (Akomolafe, 2006). Some scholars have dismissed women empowerment in derogation and have summarized it as the ranting of a few vocal feminist movements bent on tilting the order of nature (Adegoroye, 2005). Not everyone shares their sentiment as research shows that some men admire, respect and are comfortable around women who wield power in economic or political sphere. At the local level, specifically, empowerment may equally involve devising measures that would increase the capacity of individuals and groups for self-reliance and self-actualization. For women, this requires making initial steps into areas that have hitherto been the dominant prerogatives of men, including involvement in activities that possess the capacity for uplifting, first, their economic status and, subsequently, serve as the spring-board for active involvement in political activities.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Women most often face discrimination and persistent gender inequalities, while some women are experiencing multiple discrimination and exclusion because of factors such as ethnicity or caste. Many women entrepreneurs in developing countries face disproportionate obstacles in accessing and competing in markets. These include women's relative lack of mobility, capacity, assets and technical skills in comparable to men. Unequal opportunities between women and men continue to hamper women's ability to lift themselves from poverty and gain more options to improve their living standards. Nigerian women are contributing their quota to the development of the nation, but their potentials seem not to have been fully tapped due to some constraints. Disparities still exist between men and women in education, employment and income opportunities, control over assets, personal security and participation in the development process (Rahman & Naoroze, 2007). This may be as a result of lingering

constraints including poor economic condition of Nigerian women, lack of adequate legislation and policies to support the rights of women, unequal access to education, limited access to land, lack of assertiveness among women etc.

Even though Africa has witnessed commendable achievements in social development, its progress on gender and women's empowerment indicators is slow; it still has to face considerable challenges within post-2015 development frame works (ECA, 2015). Moreover, to bring about social development, removing the badly socialized stereotyped perception of society towards women is also equally important. Gender is a socially and culturally constructed identity (King and Mason, 2001). The stereo typed perception of society towards women is detrimental to the well-being of women as well as to the development of the entire country. There is a need to remove such culturally and socially deep-rooted attitudes so that women will be seen as equal to men and enjoy their rights, determine their lives, and fully contribute towards the development of their country. Unless such detrimental perceptions are addressed at the grass roots level, all other efforts will not address gender inequality effectively. Vladimir Lenin (1997:94) asserts the importance of women in the society and says “We cannot go forward without Women”, in spite of the efforts of women to strive to the higher place in the society, they are still at great disadvantage and seen as inferior by their male counter parts. The African society believes that, no matter how well a woman works, she cannot be considered as being equal to a man, because a man is stronger physically than a woman (Abimbola, 2011). There is a bi-directional relationship between economic development and women’s empowerment defined as improving the ability of women to access the constituents of development in particular health, education, earning opportunities, rights, and political participation. In one direction, development alone can play a major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, continuing discrimination against women can, as it has been forcefully argued, hinder development. Empowerment can, in other words, accelerate development (Duflo, 2012). Also, the protection of human rights is vital to leading life with dignity and to promoting development. Though the concept of human rights is subject to different connotations by different authorities, there exists an understanding that human rights are rights enjoyed by all human beings (Nowak, 2005). We enjoy them because we are human beings.

As stated above, human rights are the rights of all human beings, and a 'human being' embraces both genders: male and female. Therefore, for development to be realized, all human beings, irrespective of gender, should enjoy human rights. Thus, human rights are protected by international human rights instruments for the enjoyment of all human beings regardless of, *inter alia*, their sex. However, their practical implementation on the ground is poor. In short, scholars have affirmed that the realization of human rights is vital in the development of a country. The need to protect the environment in Nigeria cannot be overemphasised. To this end, every citizen in the country is desperately required to play his or her part. However, given the marginalization of a significant portion of society (women), protecting the environment properly is unlikely, which means that attaining sustainable development will prove difficult. Thus, empowering women to play an equal role in the protection and management of the environment, with their special knowledge and expertise, is essential.

1.3 Research Questions

In order to get information from the respondents, the following questions must be answered:

- i. Is discrimination against women an obstacle to women economic empowerment?
- ii. What are the ways to evaluate the key strategies in women empowerment, their participation business activities and challenges?
- iii. Is there any positive relationship between women empowerment and unemployment?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The aim of this research is to assess the impact of women empowerment on their socio-economic life. The following are the objectives; To:

- i. examine the effect of discrimination against women on women economic empowerment.
- ii. evaluate key strategies in women empowerment, their participation in business activities and challenges.
- iii. determine the relationship between women empowerment and unemployment.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is that it establishes that investing in women's empowerment is central to sustainable national development. Also, the study provides knowledge regarding the key variables that influence and is responsible for maintaining or changing the structure of women's disposition within the prisms of their empowerment. The research outcome could be used for designing appropriate policy interventions to enhance women's status and productivity. The importance of this study also is to understand the meaning of women empowerment on their socio-economic life.

Finally, the importance of the study in the area is to provide adequate information for planning various means of increasing the knowledge of rural women in Oye-Ekiti and effect of income generated.

1.6 Research hypotheses

The following null hypotheses will be tested for statistical significance in this research study:

- i. H01: "There is a positive relationship between women empowerment and discrimination against women".
- ii. H02: "There are key strategies and challenges in women empowerment in their participation in Business activities.
- iii. H03: "A significant positive relationship exists between women empowerment and unemployment".

1.7 Scope and limitation of the Study

This research study attempts to find out more on empowering women and providing them with fair representation across different decision-making levels of the government structure to better protect women's interests and to achieve quality governance. Most important is attaining development among all the pillars of sustainable development which is unthinkable without empowering women and obtaining gender equality, thereby using the entire potential of the country. Thus, the government needs to work hard to change the existing position of women and

achieve gender equality, which will have a positive spillover effect on the sustainable development of the country. To obtain views and opinions from all categories of people on the effect of women empowerment on Socio Economic life, finance and time were the most limited factors.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

From the previous chapter defines empowerment as acquiring the power to partake, or to exert significant influence in government and/or organizational process. Empowering women has become a frequently cited goal of development intervention (Mosedale, 2005). The need to empower women seems to centre on the fact that women have potentials to contribute to the development process but are constrained by some factors that render them powerless. While the reasons for any particular woman's powerlessness (or powerfulness) are many and varied, it may be necessary to consider what women have in common in this respect. The common factor is that, they are all constrained by their reproductive responsibilities, societal norms, beliefs, customs and values by which societies differentiate between them and men (Kabeer, 2000).

2.1 Concept of women empowerment

In the past, women were treated as mere slaves. They were denied freedom. They were kept like dumb cattle within the four walls of the house. Indeed, they had no rights. Their most sacred duty was to obey blindly. Though the conditions in the country are fast changing, yet women are still treated, in some respects, in the same old way. Even educated and modernized husbands want to see their wives confined within the four walls. The noble professions of the outside world are considered to be of no concern to them. Those changes are beneficial which come gradually. The scenario is changing now. It is changing politically, economically and socially, at a swift speed. The condition of women is also gradually changing. There are many stories and instances that women have been given equal right with men. Women empowerment has attracted the attention of many scholars. Okpoko (2002:4) stated, "Women empowerment came into popularity with the feminist movement whose demand was that women become empowered to take control of their own lives; to set their own agenda of what to do and how to do things that affect them". The effect of women empowerment creates a powerful influence on family,

community norms and values and finally the law that governs the community (Page & Czuba, 1999).

According to Stromquist (1995), women empowerment is a socio-political concept that involves cognitive, psychological, economic and political dimensions. The cognitive component involves women's understanding of the causes of their subordination and marginalization and appreciating the need to make choices that may go against cultural or social expectations. The psychological component refers to women's belief and confidence that they can improve their condition through personal and collective effort. The economic component refers to access to income outside home through work that provides income independence. The political component involves the ability to understand one's situation and mobilize for change. Empowerment is not merely a change of mind-set but a visible demonstration of that change which the world is forced to acknowledge; respond to and accommodate as best it can (Batliwala, 1993:10). Batliwala also stated that empowerment should start from within to involve learning about oneself from many perspectives and learning to harness ones rational and emotional resources to achieve desired ends. Empowering women is conceived as awareness-building, particularly about gender inequities in their societies, building capacities and developing skills necessary to ensure that women effectively participate in present and future decision-making and then organizing women into groups which act to bring about desirable changes, focusing on greater equality between men and women in all decisions (Batliwala, 1993). Hashemi, Schuler, and Riley (1996) outline eight components of empowerment, which include mobility, economic security, ability to make small purchases, ability to make larger purchases, involvement in major decisions, freedom from domination by the family, political and legal awareness and involvement in political campaigning and protest.

Women Empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society. Women empowerment refers to increasing the spiritual, political, social, educational, gender or economic strength of individuals and communities of women. It refers to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as: to make their own choices and decisions, have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities, have equal social status in the society, freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity,

have complete control of their life, both within and outside of their home and workplace, have equal rights for social and economic justice, determine financial and economic choices, get equal opportunity for education, get equal employment opportunity without any gender bias and get safe and comfortable working environment. Women have the rights to get their voices heard.

Women's empowerment has three key dimensions: political, economic, and control over one's body. In today's developed countries, the historic process of economic empowerment, and to a lesser extent, control over the body, mostly preceded universal suffrage (Fernández, 2014). This is almost entirely reversed in many developing countries today: universal suffrage for women was often achieved at independence, yet empowerment along economic and reproductive dimensions has progressed more slowly and might be reversing in some countries (Doepke et al. 2012). In these countries, female labor force earnings are strikingly low and the majority of women marry and have children at far younger ages relative to their contemporaries in developed nations (World Bank 2007, Doepke et al. 2012). The type of technological advances that drove demand for female labor in the developed nations have spread less far in the developing world (Goldin, 2006), access to contraceptive methods, which enable control over reproduction and facilitate human capital investment, is more limited (Goldin and Katz 2002) and violence towards women is more prevalent and acceptable (Anderson and Ray 2010, 2012, Doepke et al. 2012). Many women in these countries appear trapped in an equilibrium where the phenomena of low human capital investment, restricted access to labor markets and limited control over their bodies reinforce each other, leading to dependence on men. The key question is then whether jump-starting women's human capital accumulation can set them on a trajectory towards a better equilibrium, or whether such circumstances are maintained by binding social norms or low aspirations, that cannot easily be shifted or relaxed by public policy (Field et al. 2010). This is the research question at the heart of the analysis. A multifaceted program is evaluated which provides adolescent girls with an opportunity to simultaneously accumulate two types of human capital: vocational skills to enable them to start small-scale income generating activities, and life skills to help to make informed choices about sex, reproduction and marriage.

Targeting adolescents is important: as dependence on parents ends during adolescence, there is a central tension between whether women are able to delay childbearing and undertake human capital investments critical to pursuing some form of career, or become dependent on

men (either as a wife or via temporary relationships). A lack of future labor market opportunities can reduce the incentives for young girls to invest in their human capital (Jensen, 2012), leading to early marriage and childbearing, and potentially increasing their dependency on older men (Dupas, 2011). In turn, teen pregnancy and early marriage are likely to have a decisive impact on the ability of young girls to accumulate human capital, and limit their future labor force participation (Field and Ambrus 2008, Bruce and Hallman 2008).

Economic empowerment and social empowerment, in its most basic form as having control over the body, thus interact in a powerful way during adolescence. Hence interventions targeted towards adolescent girls might have higher returns than later timed interventions (Heckman and Mosso 2014). Helping young women out of this low-empowerment equilibrium has become a priority for policy makers in developing countries because of burgeoning youth populations and concerns over youth unemployment.

2.2 emergence of women in development

A new understanding of development began to emerge during the 1970s as the underlying assumptions of modernization theory came under critical scrutiny. Increased attention to questions of social justice, poverty and welfare under the rubric of “basic needs” and “redistribution with growth” broadened the early narrow focus on the technical aspects of economic growth. Integrating women into development efforts was yet another concern that marked the 1970s. The General Assembly included it as an objective in its International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade (1971-1980). Some researchers and practitioners made it a central topic of debate on development, especially after the publication of Ester Boserup’s pioneering book, *Women’s Role in Economic Development*. During that Decade, attention to women’s issues intensified.

Women in development (WID) became a field of study, advocacy and practice in its own right (Tinker, 1990). In a period marked by increasing awareness among women, another turning point was the First World Conference on Women in Mexico City in 1975, which began the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace (1976-1985). The successive United Nations women conferences that followed around the world drew an ever-growing number of women. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) forums held parallel to

the intergovernmental conferences at Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980 and Nairobi in 1985 attracted, respectively, 4,000, 7,000 and 16,000 participants. Besides energizing research, advocacy and policy efforts in promoting women's rights which helped to transform the priorities and perspectives of development practitioners at both the international and national levels

2.3 Global conferences and summits of the 1990s

The series of United Nations conferences which were convened in different parts of the world were another distinctive feature of the 1990s. In order to create an integrated agenda for development, the international community (both intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies) organized the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (Rio de Janeiro, 1992); the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993); the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) (Cairo, 1994); World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 1996); and the World Food Summit (Rome, 1996).

These conferences succeeded in placing gender equality on the global agenda, while broadening the scope of the gender perspective, by linking it with development and peace issues and by strengthening cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Women actively participated at the preparatory stages of the conferences, in the NGO forums and caucuses and as part of the official delegations of the participating countries. Various campaigns launched from the international women's movement mobilized women from all walks of life, who helped to shape the documents produced by each of the conferences (Pietila, 1999).

(a) United Nations Conference On Environment And Development (Unced)

The UNCED document Agenda 21 emphasizes women's role in environmental management and affirms that improvement of their status is a precondition of sustainable development. UNCED called for action to improve women's literacy, education, training, nutrition and health, and for the appointment of women to key decision-making positions in connection with improvement of environmental management. Although Agenda 21 emphasizes the importance of women's active involvement in economic and political decision-making, it

does not go far enough in questioning the existing gender division of labor and women's traditional roles in environmental management.

In 1997, at its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, the General Assembly reiterated the need for global partnerships for achieving the environment and development goals set out in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, which was adopted during the special session, called for the participation of women, as equal partners, in economic, social and political development, as well as in all sectors of economy, in decision-making, and in the areas of science and technology.

b) World Conference On Human Rights

The World Conference on Human Rights expressed deep concern over all forms of discrimination and violence against women. It reaffirmed the human rights of women and of the "girl child" as inalienable, integral, universal and indivisible rights. The Conference identified its priority objectives as the full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life. Gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudice and trafficking in women, were defined as incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person. Violence levelled at women in situations of armed conflict, particularly murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, were identified as violations of the fundamental principles of international human rights and humanitarian law.

The Conference urged the international community, Governments and civil society to intensify their efforts in protecting and promoting the human rights of women and the girl child. It emphasized the need for collective action towards the elimination of all forms of violence perpetrated against women in public as well as private spheres of life.

(c) International Conference On Population And Development (Icpd)

The Programme of Action of ICPD recommends that Member States ensure

- (a) women's equal participation and equitable representation in political processes;
- (b) women's education, employment and skill enhancement; and

(c) the elimination of all forms of discriminatory practices that impede women's access to employment, resources and social security.

ICPD also spotlighted the issue of gender discrimination within the family, as reflected in the widespread preference for sons and differential treatment of sons and daughters from the very onset of life. Governments were urged to enact measures that prevent female genital mutilation, prenatal sex selection, use of girls in prostitution and marriages that lack the consent of the bride. The right of women to control their own fertility, along with gender equality, women's empowerment and elimination of violence against women, were characterized as being essential parts of any integrated programme of population and development. The ICPD Programme of Action went further by focusing on the role and responsibilities of men in family planning, child care and household chores. In so doing, it set the ground for transforming gender relations and male and female identities. At its special session for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD Platform for Action, held in 1999, the General Assembly, inter alia, put a strong emphasis on gender equality, equity and empowerment of women, including the promotion and protection of their human rights. The General Assembly also recognized the issue of maternal mortality and morbidity as a public health priority, and called for mainstreaming gender perspective in all programmes and policies.

(d) World Summit For Social Development

The Copenhagen Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development held that women carry a disproportionately large part of the burden of poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation and war. It emphasized that without women's full participation, social and economic development cannot be sustained, so "equality and equity" between women and men must be a priority issue on the economic and social development agenda. Drawing attention to the deepening poverty in a world of plenty, the Summit focused on new challenges posed by the changing world economic order and their implications for peace and human security. In particular, women's poverty was recognized as a salient feature in both the developing and developed countries. In acknowledging the weight of the problems faced by women, the Summit called for new strategies to enhance women's role at all levels of civil, political, economic, social and cultural life. The Summit was a bridge to the Fourth World Conference on Women, held the same year (1995) at Beijing.

(e) Fourth World Conference On Women

The Fourth World Conference on Women was the largest gathering ever held of official Government and NGO representatives. At the official Conference at Beijing, the delegations of 189 Governments included 6,000 participants, while an additional 4,000 accredited NGO representatives, media representatives and United Nations officials brought the total number to some 17,000. The NGO forum at Huairou attracted 30,000 participants from around the world. The Conference adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Platform for Action upholds the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and builds upon the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

The Platform for Action defines itself as an agenda for women's empowerment, with 12 critical areas of concern. Ultimately, its success will depend on strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels, as well as the mobilization of adequate resources. The 12 critical areas identified in the Platform for Action are: women and poverty; education and training of women; women and health; violence against women; women and armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl child. By adopting the Platform for Action, 189 Governments committed themselves to implementing the proposed actions. The Platform for Action calls on all parts of the United Nations system to monitor its implementation by the Member States and to integrate a gender perspective in all United Nations policies and programmes (para. 292). In following up the Platform for Action, the economic and Social Council reviewed progress in the advancement of women at its substantive session of 1999. In addition, in the year 2000, a special session of the General Assembly will be convened to assess the extent to which Governments have fulfilled their commitments made at Beijing.

2.2 Importance of women empowerment

Women's empowerment is a relatively new field. The lack of experience and precedent can sometimes lead to misunderstandings of the appropriate roles played by each sector. Here are the following enumerated points to the importance of women empowerment

i. **Under-employed and unemployed:** Women population constitutes around 50% of the world population. A large number of women around the world are unemployed. The world economy suffers a lot because of the unequal opportunity for women at workplaces.

ii. **Equally competent and intelligent:** Women are equally competent. Nowadays, women are even ahead of men in many socio-economic activities.

iii. **Talented:** Women are as talented as men. Previously, women were not allowed higher education like men and hence their talents were wasted. But nowadays, they are also allowed to go for higher studies and it encourages women to show their talents which will not only benefit her individually but to the whole world at large.

iv. **Overall development of society:** The main advantage of Women empowerment is that there will be an overall development of the society. The money that women earn does not only help them and or their family, but it also helps develop the society.

v. **Economic Benefits:** Women Empowerment also leads to more economic benefits not to the individuals but to the society as well. Unlike earlier days when they stayed at home only and do only kitchen stuffs, nowadays, they roam outside and also earns money like the male members of the society. Women empowerment helps women to stand on their own legs, become independent and also to earn for their family which grows country's economy.

vi. **Reduction in domestic violence:** Women Empowerment leads to decrease in domestic violence. Uneducated women are at higher risk for domestic violence than educated women.

vii. **Reduction in corruption:** Women Empowerment is also advantageous in case of corruption. Women empowerment helps women to get educated and know their rights and duties and hence can stop corruption.

viii. **Reduce Poverty:** Women Empowerment also reduces poverty. Sometimes, the money earned by the male member of the family is not sufficient to meet the demands of the family. The added earnings of women help the family to come out of poverty trap.

ix. **National Development:** Women are increasingly participating in the national development process. They are making the nation proud by their outstanding performances almost every sphere including medical science, social service, engineering, etc.

x. **Irreplaceable in some sectors:** Women are considered irreplaceable for certain jobs.

2.3 Key areas for women's economic empowerment

Addressing women's economic empowerment requires a combination of interventions aimed directly at increasing women's access and control over economic resources. This has to be combined with commitments to facilitate equal sharing of family responsibilities and unpaid care work between women and men, as well as the gradual development of options for childcare solutions. Work in seven key areas contributes to strengthening women's position as economic actors. There is a need for increased access to land and property rights and a gender perspective in entrepreneurship programmes, private sector development and labor market policies. Developing women's knowledge, skills and values is also essential for them to become economic actors. Reforms and redistribution of unpaid care work will facilitate women's economic engagement.

Finally, a gender perspective in social protection will provide women in vulnerable situations with economic security. As a large proportion of poor women today live in rural areas and are dependent on agricultural production, a gender perspective and specific focus on women in the agricultural sector is crucial.

2.3.1 Obstacles to women's social economic empowerment

- i. **Obstacles to women's economic empowerment:** There are many obstacles to women's economic empowerment. Some of these obstacles can be external, related to the economic environment and the functioning of the economy (e.g. high unemployment, deficient infrastructure, etc.) and would affect women and men alike. Others, however, are rooted in gender-biased social institutions and norms including a discriminatory legal system.

ii. Obstacles to access to and control over economic resources: Female illiteracy; women's lack of information and often low levels of critical social capital (e.g. business networks), and gender discriminatory norms that preclude women from accessing and/or owning land are examples of factors which influence women's access and control of economic resources.

iii. Obstacles to transform assets into economic opportunities and benefits: Exploitative and discriminatory working conditions; gender segregation in the labor market; the lack of an enabling environment for women's businesses; restricted mobility; women's domestic work; or women's diminished health - as a result of gender-based violence for instance - are examples of factors which may limit women's ability to access and/or enjoy the returns of their work (Esplen and Brody, 2007; Malhotra et al., 2002). Also, some of the factors above lead women to low productivity jobs, often in the informal sector, where their income earning capacity is limited (Mehra et al., 2005). Gender discrimination in the labor market also leads to women earning less than men and, therefore, reduces their ability to seize economic benefits (Mehra et al., 2005). At the level of economic obstacles, overall economic breakdown and high unemployment will impact women's ability to seize employment opportunities. Similarly, deficient infrastructure can increase women's domestic work and preclude women's access to markets, making it more difficult to transform assets into economic opportunities (World Bank, 2006b). Obstacles to control income and transform income into strategic choices. Finally, women's ability to control their earned income as well as to transform higher income into strategic choices depends on many factors which originate in socio-culturally defined gender norms in each society (e.g. lack of decision making power at the household level, low literacy or lack of knowledge of ones' rights, low self-esteem and isolation, etc.).

2.4 Factors enabling and constraining women's economic empowerment

Empowerment can be approached from distinct perspectives, which carry different political priorities and strategies. For some, it is primarily about making changes that give individuals greater freedom in pursuing their (reasoned) goals (e.g. Alsop et al., 2005). Others argue that this focus is too individualistic. In this view, the structural causes underpinning women's lack of power also matter - and failure to address these will limit the effectiveness of policies aimed at expanding choice (Cornwall and Edwards, 2016). In other words, it is crucial to go beyond the individual level to focus also on the social, economic and political factors that directly and indirectly affect women's economic empowerment. Therefore, in this report, the factors that enable and constrain women's economic empowerment are divided into 10 'direct' and 'underlying' factors.

Direct factors are directly linked to women's individual or collective lived experiences.

Underlying factors are the wider structural conditions that determine women's individual or collective lived experiences.

Direct and underlying factors are highly interconnected, with fluid boundaries. However, this categorization helps to demonstrate how to focus support to women's economic empowerment. Policy and programme responses should aim to develop an enabling environment (underlying) and target women individually and collectively (direct). Importantly, the same factors can be either constraints or enablers. For example, the case study of Oye Ekiti details how an effective savings-led programme has led to outcomes in women's education, access to work, access to financial services and changes in gender norms. The 10 factors highlighted in this report are the following:

➤ **Direct factors**

- Education, skills development and training
- Access to quality, decent paid work
- Address unpaid care and work burdens
- Access to property, assets and financial services

- Collective action and leadership
- Social protection

➤ **Underlying factors**

- Labor market characteristics
- Fiscal policy
- Legal, regulatory and policy framework
- Gender norms and discriminatory social norms

2.5 Political will and gender equality: lessons ekiti women can share with others

A key lesson Ekiti has to share with the rest of the country, is the role of political will as the key to most of the goals and aspirations we have as social justice advocates. Regardless of our political affiliations, we cannot achieve gender justice for women without a focus on the specificity of women's needs and rights. We need to craft demands to our political leaders which need to address, at a minimum, the following commitments:

- iv. Women's economic empowerment and livelihoods
- v. Women's participation in public life
- vi. Women's health, security and safety

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the methods and statistical tools used in executing the research. The chapter is broken down into research design, sources of data for the study, research population and sample, sampling technique, data collection instrument and administration, statistical tools for data analysis, and methodological problems. The research is designed in a manner that gives the insight and meaningful interpretation of the research findings.

3.1 Research Design

Research design refers to the logical structure of an investigation or inquiry at hand. It states what data is required, from whom, and how it is going to help answer the research questions posed (Jalil, 2013; Creswell, 2003). Stated differently, a research design is a detailed outline of how a research investigation would be implemented. It implies how the research data will be collected, the data collection instruments to be used, how the research instruments would be administered, and how the data collected would be analyzed (Jalil, 2013; Creswell, 2003). The research adopted a cross-sectional survey design. The survey research method according to Stark (2004) has two identifying features. First, it is based on a sample of the population. Second, the data are collected by personal interviews or by having each individual complete a questionnaire. The researcher obtained cross sectional data from the respondents by means of questionnaire and in –Depth Interviews (IDIs).

3.2 Sample Population

The study was carried out in Oye Local Government Area of Ekiti State. The people co-habit with people of diverse race such as Egbiras, Igbos, Idomas, Fulanis and the Hausa communities who pitch their tents in the council areas primarily for economic reasons. They are found at different locations within the nook and crannies of the Local Government and have

monolithic cultural affinity, which reflects in all aspects of their life. This is particularly evident in their ways of dressing, arts and crafts, festivals and so on. Oye Local Government has a population of 136, 800 inhabitants. It is bounded by Ilejemeje Local Government to the North, Irepodun/Ifelodun to the South, Ikole local Government to the East and Ido/Osi Local Government to the West. It comprises of the following towns and villages: Oye Ekiti, Ilupeju Ekiti, Ayegbaju Ekiti, Ire Ekiti, Itapa Ekiti, Osin Ekiti, Ayede Ekiti, Itaji Ekiti, Imojo Ekiti, Ilafon Ekiti, Isan Ekiti, Ilemeso Ekiti, Omu Ekiti, Ijelu Ekiti, Oloje Ekiti and a host of others. (<http://ekitistate.gov.ng/administration/local-govt/oye-lga/>)

3.3 Sample of the Study

The number of individuals to be included in a research sample is referred to as sample size (Jalil, 2013; Cochran, 1977). Usually, an ideal or adequate sample size that is required to execute a research study is determined prior to the selection of individuals from the population into the sample (Jalil, 2013; Umar, 2004). If there is a comprehensive sampling frame for the population of interest, an ideal sample size could be determined using scientific methods. In the absence of a comprehensive sampling frame, other nonscientific methods would be used to determine an ideal sample size for the research (Jalil, 2013).

The autonomous community was represented by a total of 110 women for the questionnaire survey. Considering the nature of the present study, Men were included in the In-Depth Interview. This is to enable the researcher obtain the views of men on the issues in the study. Thus, fifteen men and fifteen women were selected from each of the autonomous communities making a total of 30 people for the In-depth Interview. This gave a total of 140 respondents for the study.

3.4 Sampling Techniques

In order to achieve the objective of the study, analysis of the data was of utmost importance since the data collected. This sub-section focuses on the sampling technique/method used in

selecting participants from the population of interest into the research sample. Due to the constraints earlier mentioned, a multi stage sampling technique was used to select the sample.

Purposive sampling was also used in the sampling procedure, the houses were numbered and another simple random sampling was conducted to enable the researcher select the households that will represent the village. Purposive sampling procedure was also used to select 15 men and 15 women who are opinion leaders, women leaders and the significant orders in the communities. Who have certain qualities and can provide information on the subject area. These are the people who were studied using in depth interviews.

3.5 Method Of Data Collection

In research, data collection refers to the systematic and organized process of measuring and collecting information on certain variables of interest from the subjects in a manner that ultimately helps the researcher to determine answers to certain research questions, test hypotheses, and make valid conclusion (Issa, 2004; Durotolu, 2001). In the course of this study, Primary and secondary data was adopted. Primary data means original data that has been collected specially for the purpose in mind. It means someone collected the data from the original source first hand. Data collected this way is called primary data. Secondary data refers to data which is collected by someone who is someone other than the user. Common sources of secondary data for social science include censuses, information collected by government departments, organizational records and data that was originally collected for other research purposes. Data was efficiently collected from the informants by cross examining them.

The main aim of data collection in research is to obtain quality information which is then translated into reliable data that can be used for data analyses and the results used to answer the stated research questions (Durotolu, 2001). The strength and viability of any research will be determined by the type of data collected and the method of collecting such data (Durotolu, 2001). Two instruments namely: questionnaire and In-depth Interview were used for data collection in this study.

3.6 Method Of Data Analysis

The researcher in this sub-section gives a brief explanation of how data for the study is organized, presented, analysed and interpreted. This sub-section also explains the statistical tools that are used in carrying out data analyses and test of hypotheses in the research study. Data collected with the instrument were edited to ensure accuracy. The quantitative data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Statistical means such as percentages, bar chart, pie chart and frequency tables were used to reduce the raw data into manageable proportions.

<u>Scale Items</u>	<u>Mean Weight</u>
Very Great Extent	4
Great Extent	3
Little Extent	2
Not at all	1

The testing of hypotheses was done using regression analysis. Analysis of qualitative data was done using notes taken during the interviews and transcription from tapes recorded during the interviews. The tapes were transcribed verbatim. Those recorded in local dialect were translated into English language. Key points were identified and were categorized and coded, reflecting the various themes in the study. The results were then analysed according to the themes in the study. Statements with contextual importance or connotations were extracted as illustrative quotes to complement the quantitative data.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter presents the results and interpretations of the data analyses and statistical tests carried out using the data collected as we present the analysis of data collected from the field through the research instruments (questionnaire and In-depth interview). In this research work primary and secondary data was adopted.

4.1 Data analysis and presentation of results

The data collected from participants using questionnaires are analysed and findings are properly interpreted. The different analyses carried out in this research study were done with the support of IBM - Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (IBM - SPSS) version 20.0.

4.1.1 Demographic characteristics of questionnaire respondent

SECTION A: Respondent's Data

Table 4.1.1: Marital Status

Marital Status	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	13	11.81
Married	87	79.09
Widowed	7	6.37
Divorced/Separated	3	2.73
Total	110	100

Table 4.1.1 above shows that majority of the women who participated in the study were married representing 79.09% of the sample. Out of the 110 participants, 13

(11.81%) were single, 7 (6.37%) were widows while 3 (2.73%) were divorced or separated.

Table 4.1.2: Distribution of the Respondents by Age

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
18-30	23	20.90
31-40	30	27.27
41-50	31	28.19
51-60	22	20
Above 60 years	4	3.64
Total	110	100

With regard to the participants' ages, 23 (20.90%) of the respondents fall between the age bracket of 18 and 30, while 30 (27.27%) are between the ages of 31 and 40. 31(28.19%) were in the 41-50 age bracket, 22 (20%) were between the ages of 51 and 60 while 4 (3.92%) are Above 60 years.

Table 4.1.3: Distribution of Respondents by Educational Qualification

Educational qualification	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
No formal education	16	14.54
First school leaving certificate	7	6.37
GCE/WASC/TCII	43	39.1
OND/NCE	19	17.27
HND/Degree	20	18.18
Higher degree	5	4.54
Total	110	100.0

As shown in Table 4.1.3 above, 16 (14.54%) of the respondents had no formal education, 7 (6.37%) had first leaving certificate, 43 (39.1%) had secondary school certificate, and 19 (17.27%) had Ordinary National Diploma (OND) or National Certificate in Education (NCE), 20 (18.18%) had university degree or Higher National Diploma (HND), while 5 (4.54) of the participants had higher degrees. The distribution of the participants based on educational qualification is further presented in a pie chart below:

Figure 1: Pie Chart Illustration of Respondents, level of Education

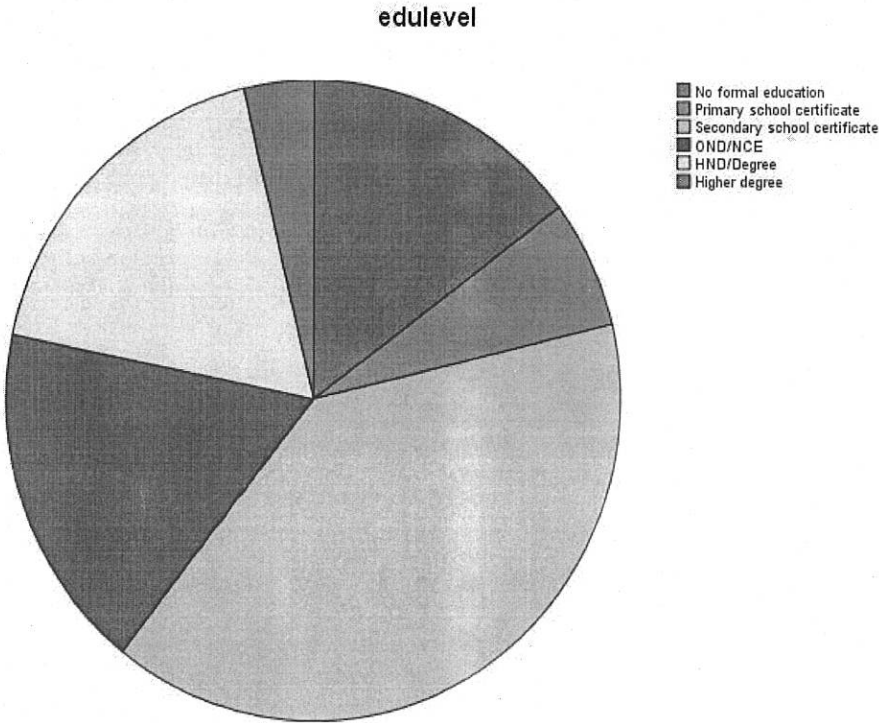
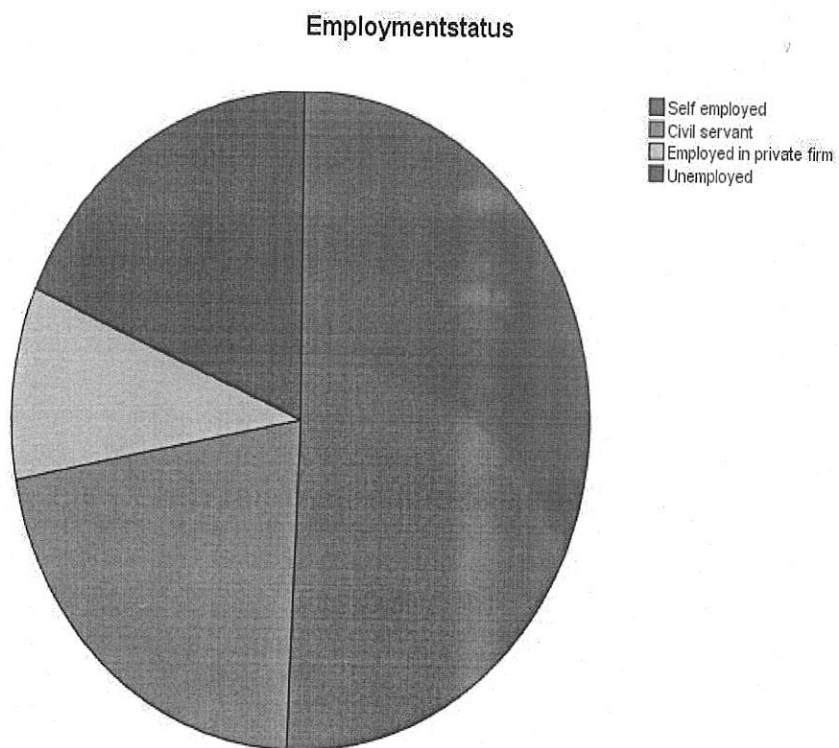


Table 4.1.4: Distribution of Respondents by Employment Status

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Self-employed	56	50.91
Civil/Public Servant	24	21.81
Private sector Employee	11	10
House wife/Unemployed	19	17.28
Total	110	100

Figure 2: Pie Chart Illustration of Respondents by Employment Status



The above table shows that 56 (50.91%) of the respondents are self-employed women, 24 (21.81%) are civil/public servants, 11 (10%) of them work in private establishments while 19 (17.28%) are Housewives/unemployed.

Table 4.1.5: Distribution of Respondents by Religious Affiliations

Religion	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Christian	107	97.25
Muslim	0	0
African Traditional Religion	3	2.75
Total	110	100

Table 4.1.5 above shows that 107 (97.27%) of the participants are Christians while 3 (2.73%) are of the African Traditional Religion (ATR). None of the participants is a Muslim.

Table 4.1.6: Distribution of Respondents by Income Level Per Month

Income Level	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Below N10,000	16	14.54
N11,000-30,000	12	10.90
N31,000-50,000	39	35.46
N51,000-70,000	20	18.18
N71,000-90,000	19	17.28
N91,000 and above	4	3.64
Total	110	100.0

With regard to the participant's income levels, 16 (14.54%) have income level of below N10, 000 per month, 12 (10.90%) participants have income level of between N11, 000 and N30, 000 per month, 39 (35.46%) are in the income range of N31, 000 – N50, 000 per month, 20 (18.18%) earn between N51, 000 and 70,000 per month, 19 (17.28%) earn N71, 000 – N90, 000 per month while 4 (3.64%) respondents earn N91, 000 and above per month.

4.1.2 Demographic Characteristics of IDI respondents.

None of the IDI respondent is single. Only two women are widowed. Their age range is between the 49 and 69 years. Majority of them (11) have WASC/GCE as their highest educational qualification, while only six of them have tertiary institution certificate. Three respondents have only first school leaving certificate. Majority of them (13) were also self-employed while the remaining seven are civil servants.

4.2 Results of the major issues in the study

The participants' responses on the survey were analysed and the results are presented in the tables below.

Table 4.2.1: Table showing Respondents key strategies of Woman empowerment in Oye Ekiti town

Question: Are there	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Key strategies for Women empowerment in Oye Ekiti?		
Yes	110	100
No	0	0
Total	110	100.0

In responding to the question: Are there key strategies for Women empowerment in Oye Ekiti? All the participants as shown in Table 4.3.1 agreed that there is one form of key strategies for Women empowerment. With regard to the results of the IDIs, all the respondents who were interviewed also agree that there exist some key strategies for women empowerment in Oye Ekiti.

Table 4.2.2: Table showing respondents frequency report on the availability of key strategies of women empowerment available for women in Oye Ekiti.

Key Strategies of Women Empowerment in Oye Ekiti	Frequency	Percentage %
Women organizations	86	78.2
Cooperative societies	80	72.7
Right to use land and other cash crops	63	57.2
Provision of Agricultural facilities	60	54.5
Micro Credit Programme	48	43.6
Awareness programme	45	40.9
Adult literacy programme	31	31
Child day care services	17	15.5
Political parties	10	9.1
Access to skill and capacity building centres	8	7.3
Free education	4	3.6

In the questionnaire, participants were asked to indicate the availability of several key strategies for women empowerment for Oye Ekiti women. The respondents were asked to tick as many as possible, the initiatives they have benefited from. The results of their responses as indicated in Table 4.3.2 above shows that the most available empowerment in the town is the existence of women organizations with 86 participants indicating their availability. Frequency of the respondents on the availability of other initiatives follows in this order: cooperative societies, right to use land and other cash crops, provision of agricultural facilities, micro credit programme, awareness programme, adult literacy programme, child day care services, political parties, access to skill and capacity building centres, and

the last in the list based on frequency is free education. All the interviewees also indicated that the above listed women empowerment is available.

Table 4.2.3: Table showing participants' responses on how they have been economically empowered.

Type of economic empowerment benefited from	Frequency
Access to land and cash crop	70
Cooperative societies	68
Provision of agricultural production facilities	56
Access to micro credit facilities	52
Skill/technical training	6

With regard to the level of economic empowerment of the respondents, 70 of the participants indicated that they have access to land and cash crops, 68 indicated that they have been involved in cooperative societies, while 56 indicated that they have been provided with agricultural production facilities. Among the 110 participants surveyed, 52 indicated that they have access to micro credit facilities while 6 indicated that they have benefited from skill/technical training.

Majority of the IDI participants indicated that most women in Oye Ekiti have been empowered through access to land and cash crops and involvement in production activities. They also indicated that only women who are salaried workers and women who have the opportunity to borrow from individuals that usually take advantage of micro credit facilities.

Table 4.2.4: Table showing participants' responses on how they have been empowered educationally

Educational empowerment Initiatives	Frequency
Access to media/awareness campaign	88
Formal education	79
Adult literacy programmes	9
Lectures/workshop by extension workers	7
Free education	2

From Table 4.2.4 above, it could be observed that 88 out of the 110 respondents in the study indicated that they have access to media and other awareness campaigns, 79 stated that they have benefited from formal education, 9 have benefited from adult literacy programmes, 7 have benefited from lectures and workshops organized by extension workers while only 2 respondents indicated that they have benefited from free education.

Majority of the IDI participants indicated that formal education and access to media and awareness campaign have empowered women in Oye Ekiti greatly. Few others agree that some women have benefited from adult literacy programmes. The following are some of the views of IDI participants on the educational empowerment initiatives that have benefited women in Oye Ekiti.

Table 4.2.5: Table showing participants' responses on how they have been politically empowered

Political empowerment Initiatives	Frequency
Voting in election	94
Membership of women organization	60
Access to membership of a political party	59
Involvement in decision-making in the community	54
Political awareness campaign	2

Majority of the respondents (94) stated that they have been empowered politically by voting in elections, 60 indicated that they are members of women organization, 59 indicated that they have access to membership of a political party, 54 stated that have been involved in decision-making processes in the community, while 2 indicated that they have benefited from political awareness campaigns.

Majority of the participants in the IDI indicated that women have been empowered through membership of political parties, women's community organizations and awareness campaign which have helped them to know why it is necessary for them to participate in political activities. They also indicated that the right to vote has also empowered women greatly. Some of the female interviewees indicated that women organizations have greatly empowered women as they use these organizations in tackling some problems such as maltreatment of widows, destruction of cultivated farmlands by animals, denial of right and violence against women. Below are some of the views of the IDI participants.

Table 4.2.6: Table showing participants' level of participation in educational development activities

In order to determine the level of participation in educational development activities by the participants, the weighted mean scores of the participants' responses on the 4-point scale were used.

	Very Great Extent (4)	Great extent (3)	Little extent (2)	Not at all (1)	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
Paying school fees for others beside your children	4	20	42	60	126	1.14	5th
Creating awareness on the need for education	100	130	58	16	304	2.76	1st
Teaching in adult literacy Programme	2	55	33	67	157	1.42	4th
Teaching people about health and nutrition	35	66	85	29	215	1.95	3rd
Participate in building schools for the community	79	68	61	53	261	2.37	2nd

The results in Table 4.3.6 above show that creating awareness on the need for educational empowerment was rated as the most frequent area that the respondents participated in. This was followed, according to the participants' responses, by helping in building schools for the community, and teaching people about health and nutrition. The educational development activity that the respondents have participated least on is paying school fees for others. These results are also consistent with results of the IDI. Majority of the IDI participants indicated that women create a lot of awareness on the need for education and also help in building schools in many communities in Oye Ekiti.

Table 4.2.7: Table showing participants' level of participation in economic development activities

	Very Great Extent	Great Extent	Little extent	Not at all	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
Getting involved in Agricultural production Activities	300	52	9	4	365	3.32	1 st
Giving technical/skill training to people	12	18	44	84	158	1.43	3 rd
Giving people loan to start up their business	3	22	40	85	150	1.36	5 th
Setting up business to employ others	20	57	41	74	192	1.74	2 nd
Creating awareness on the availability of micro credit Facilities	16	20	56	70	162	1.47	4 th

The results in Table 4.2.7 above show that the economic development activity that the respondents have participated most is getting involved in agricultural production activities. This is followed by setting up of business to employ others, and giving technical and skill training to people. The least economic activity that the respondents have participated in is giving people loan to start their businesses.

With regard to the responses of the IDI participants, majority of the participants indicated that Oye Ekiti women have been actively involved in agricultural production activities. Areas that the respondents indicated that women have been actively involved include cultivation of yellow pepper, garden egg, poultry farming, and other food processing activities such as palm oil processing.

Table 4.2.8: Table showing participants' level of participation in political development activities

	Very Great Extent	Great Extent	Little extent	Not at all	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank
Belonging to a political Party	57	159	66	16	298	2.71	3rd
Voting in an election	300	54	23	12	389	3.53	1st
Contesting for political leadership position	12	22	7	100	141	1.28	9th
Taking part in decision making in your community	91	93	43	30	257	2.35	4th
Creating awareness on the importance of women's participation in politics	83	51	62	40	236	2.15	5th
Getting involved in campaign against female genital mutilation, harmful widowhood practices, early childhood marriage and other forms of violence against women.	21	54	85	47	207	1.88	7th
Organizing women for Change	70	32	90	40	232	2.11	6th
Belonging to women Organization	220	63	50	23	356	3.24	2nd

Among the political activities that the respondents have participated in include voting in an election (1st in the rank), belonging to women organization (2nd), belonging to a political party (3rd), taking part in decision-making in their communities (4th), and creation of awareness on the importance of women's participation in politics (5th). The areas that the women have not participated much in include getting involved in the campaign against female genital mutilation and other forms of violence against women (7th) and organizing of women for change (6th). The IDI respondents also demonstrated that women have participated actively in political development processes. Majority of the respondents stated that voting during elections and belonging to women organizations are the political activities that Oye Ekiti women have participated most in. One of the male IDI participants summarized women's involvement in political processes in the following words:

Women in this community surprised us during the last general election. They came out in multitude to exercise their rights by voting on all the election days (IDI respondent, a politician in Oye Ekiti: 59 years).

The IDI respondents also maintained that women organizations exist in every village in Oye Ekiti and most of the women belong to at least one of such organizations. According to the respondents, these organizations have helped women to tackle some of the problems confronting them in the community that they would not have been able to accomplish.

Table 4.2.9: Table showing participants' responses on if women's level of participation in development processes is low

Answer	No of Respondent	Percentage (%)
Yes	40	36.37
No	70	63.63
Total	110	100

Table 4.2.9 illustrates the participants' responses on successful empowerment of women in the community. Out of the 110 respondents 70 (63.63%) stated that women have not been successfully empowered while 40 (36.37%) indicated that women have been successfully empowered. All the IDI participants agreed that women have not been successfully empowered and this has led to their low participation in development process.

Table 4.3.0: Table showing frequency of participants' responses on the factors that have contributed to low empowerment and participation of Oye Ekiti town women in development process

Militating Factors	Frequency	Rank
Lack of time due to domestic and reproductive role of women	88	1
Discriminatory attitude of men	82	2
Illiteracy	70	3
Poor economic base	67	4
Lack of group coalition among women	59	5
Patriarchy	53	6
Lack of efficient and trustworthy women Leaders	50	7
Lack of sustained process of empowerment	41	8
Religious belief	33	9
Lack of assertiveness among women	12	10

The result in Table 4.3.0 above shows the frequencies of the participants' responses on the factors that limit women's participation in development processes in Oye Ekiti. Among the major problems indicated by the participants is lack of time due to domestic and reproductive roles of women (88). This was followed by the discriminatory attitude of men (82). Out of the 110 women surveyed, 70 indicated that illiteracy is a major limiting factor while 67 listed poor economic bases of women as a major factor. Other limiting factors listed in order of ranking by the participants include, lack of group coalition among women, patriarchy, lack of efficient and trustworthy women leaders, lack of sustained process of empowerment, rivalry among women, religious belief, and lack of assertiveness among women.

The IDI participants further indicated that women's low level of participation could be attributed to poor economic base, burden of domestic and reproductive roles of women and illiteracy. Majority of the female respondents in the IDI also included discriminatory attitude of men as a contributing to low level of participation of women in development processes.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study was conducted with the total sample of 140 respondents was chosen for this study. One hundred and ten (110) copies of the questionnaire were administered and were duly completed and collected. An in-depth interview (IDI) which involved 15 men and 15 women was also conducted to complement the survey instrument (questionnaire).

The general main objective of this study was to assess the impact of empowerment on women's socio-economic life. In addition to this main objective, other objectives were stated. These objectives include, to examine the effect of discrimination against women on women economic empowerment; to evaluate key strategies in women empowerment, their participation in business activities and challenges and to determine the relationship between women empowerment and unemployment. In line with these objectives, research questions were also raised and hypotheses postulated to guide the study.

Two instruments: questionnaire and in-depth interview were used for data collection and the data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. Weighted means were used in the analysis of research questions. With regard to the findings of the study, evidence from data analyses show that the results of the study are supportive of the major assumptions made at the beginning of the study and also support some of the literature that were reviewed. The results of the study show that the higher the educational level of women the higher their participation in development processes.

On the issue of the relationship between income level and women's participation in development process, the findings show that the higher the income level of women the higher their participation in development processes.

The findings also reveal that women are participating in development processes especially in agricultural production and voting in election. There is also an indication that women's participation in development processes is still generally low. This low participation according to the findings of the study is attributed to reproductive and domestic roles of women, discriminatory attitude of males, lack of group coalition among women, poor economic base of women, and illiteracy among women.

5.2 Conclusion

Women can be described as an indispensable group in the development of any nation. Women's empowerment creates a powerful influence on community, family and the nation at large. Thus, women empowerment can be seen as a vital strategy for any development effort. Although some initiatives have been established by government, non-governmental bodies and individual, some factors have constituted constraints to women's involvement in these initiatives. Ignorance of the existence of these initiatives, lack of interest among women and restriction from husbands and other males has denied women access to these initiatives. The study revealed that income level and educational level have significant relationships with women's participation in development processes. Thus, to help improve the participation of Oye Ekiti women in development processes, they should be empowered politically, educational and economically.

The study also reveals that women's participation in development is still low. It was observed that many factors still constitute barriers to active participation of women in development processes. There is need for government, non-governmental bodies and individuals to work hand in hand in eliminating or reducing these constraints in order to create a conducive environment for women to actively participate in the development process. This will lead to sustainable development in Nigeria.

5.3 Recommendation

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. National gender policy should be enacted into laws to provide a legal framework for gender mainstreaming in the national development plans and strategies.
- ii. There should be coalition among women organizations and groups. This will help them share experiences and be able to tackle problems facing women. Women groups could be used as an effective mechanism for information dissemination, social and mutual learning, institutionalized process for capacity building and empowerment.
- iii. Considering the relationship between income level of women and their participation in development processes as illustrated by the findings of this study, programmes for women upliftment must integrate the vital dimensions such as formation of social capitals, provision of financial and credit support systems, and enterprises and need

- based skill development through training. This should also include regular monitoring of women to ensure that they invest their resources in something meaningful to give them some degree of economic independence
- .iv. Re-orientation of men's mind set on women's empowerment and participation could greatly enhance women's empowerment. This could be achieved through seminars, training and workshops.
 - v. Women should be given unlimited access to education and media. Through these, women will come to realize the scopes and opportunities through which they can improve their status in the society.
 - vi. The empowering agents (e.g. governments, non-governmental bodies, individuals) should create necessary awareness on the availability of the existing empowerment initiatives so that women can take advantage of these initiatives to empower themselves.
 - vii. All traditional and religious practices affecting women and girls should be abolished by the appropriate authorities.
 - viii. Finally, women leaders and other highly educated women should make effort to sensitize and educate their fellow women. They should write about women achievers and their achievement in order to educate the public on the immense contributions of women to the socio-political and economic evolution of Nigeria.

5.4 Suggestions for Further Research

- i. It will be interesting to conduct a research that will discover the available empowerment initiatives in rural communities in Oye local government area since this study was carried out in an urban community.

- ii. The existing empowerment initiatives should be evaluated to determine the problem which the organizers encounter in the process of executing these initiatives.

- iii. Other researches should be carried out in other rural communities in Oye local government to assess the level of women's participation in development activities in the rural areas.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

**TOPIC: EFFECTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE. (A
CASE STUDY OF WOMEN IN OYE LOCAL GOVERNMENT)**

Dear Respondent,

I am **ADESANYA BETTY ADEOLA** a 400L Final year student of the department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Science, Federal University Oye Ekiti, Ekiti State with the Matriculation Number **SOC/14/2053** carrying out a research work titled "**EFFECTS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC LIFE. (A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN IN OYE LOCAL GOVERNMENT)**". This questionnaire is intended to request for necessary information so that the objectives of this research can be readily achieved.

I shall be grateful if necessary answers could be provided for the questions on the attached questionnaire.

You are advised to follow instructions carefully and answer each question in each section sincerely and fill the needed information by ticking (✓) in the box provided.

Thanks for your anticipated co-operation.

Yours Faithfully,

ADESANYA BETTY ADEOLA

QUESTIONNAIRE

➤ SECTION A: Respondent's Demographic Information

Instructions: You are kindly requested to tick just one option as it relates to you.

1. Gender: (a) Male (b) Female
2. Occupation: (a) Public Servant (b) Private sector employee (c) Housewife
(d) Self-employed (e) Others Specify _____
3. Age of Category: (a) 18-30years (b) 31-40years (c) 41-50years
(d) 51-60 years (e) Above 60years
4. Marital Status: (a) Single (b) Married (c) Widowed
(d) Divorced/Separated
5. Academic Qualification: (a) No Formal Education (b) FSLC
(c) GCE/WASSC/TCII (d) OND/NCE (e) HND/Degree
(f) Higher Degree (g) Others Specify _____
6. Monthly Income: (a) Less than N10,000 (b) N11,000-N30,000
(c) N31,000-N50,000 (d) N51,000-N70,000 (e) N71,000-N91,000
(f) N91,000 and above
7. Religion: (a) Christian (b) ATR (c) Muslim (d) None

SECTION B: Instructions and Objectives

Please kindly tick as appropriate

1. Are there key strategies in Women empowerment in Oye Ekiti?

Yes

No

2. If yes to question (1) above what are these empowerment initiatives? Tick those ones that are available (Multiple choices are allowed)

S/N	Key Strategies in Women Empowerment in Oye Ekiti	Tick those that are Available
1.	Micro Credit Programme	
2.	Free Education	
3.	Women Organization	
4.	Cooperative Societies	
5.	Right to use Land and other cash crops	
6.	Provision of Agricultural Production facilities	
7.	Adult Literacy Programme	
8.	Child Day Care Services	
9.	Political Parties	
10.	Establishment of Skill and Capacity Building centers	
11.	Awareness Programme	
12.	Others (Please Specify)	

3. In what ways have you been empowered economically, educationally and politically?

ECONOMICALLY (Multiple choices are allowed)

S/N		Tick those you have benefited from
1.	Access to Micro credit facilities	
2.	Skill/Technical training	
3.	Cooperative Societies	
4.	Access to Land and Cash crops	
5.	Provision of Agricultural production facilities	
6.	Others (Please Specify)	

EDUCATIONALLY (Multiple choices are allowed)

S/N		Tick those you have benefited from
1.	Access to media/Awareness programme	
2.	Free Education	
3.	Adult literacy programme	
4.	Formal education	
5.	Lectures/Workshop by extension workers	
6.	Others (Please Specify)	

POLITICALLY (Multiple choices are allowed)

S/N		Tick those you have benefited from
1.	Access to membership of a political party	
2.	Membership of a women Organization	
3.	Voting in election	
4.	Involvement in decision making	
5.	Political Awareness Campaign	
6.	Others (Please Specify)	

4. Has empowerment improved your participation in development process?

Yes No

5. If yes to question (4) above to what extent have participated in the under listed education development activities.

S/N		Very Great Extent	Great Extent	Little Extent	Not at all
1.	Paying school fees for others beside your children				
2.	Creating awareness on the need for education				
3.	Teaching in adult literacy programme				
4.	Teaching people about Health and Nutrition				
5.	Participate in building Schools for community				
6.	Others (Please Specify)				

6. To what extent have you participated in the underlisted economic development activities?

S/N		Very Great Extent	Great Extent	Little Extent	Not at all
1.	Getting involved in Agricultural/Production activities				
2.	Giving technical/skill training to people				
3.	Giving people loan to start up business				
4.	Setting up business to employ others				
5.	Creating awareness on the availability of micro credit facilities				
6.	Others (Please Specify)				

7. To what extent have you participated in the underlisted political development activities

S/N		Very Great Extent	Great Extent	Little Extent	Not at all
1.	Belonging to a political party				
2.	Voting in an election				
3.	Contesting for political leadership position				
4.	Taking part in decision making in your community				
5.	Creating awareness on the importance of women's participation in politics				
6.	Getting involved in Campaign against female genital mutilation, harmful widowhood practices, early childhood marriage and other forms of violence against women				

7.	Organizing women for change				
8.	Belonging to women organization				
9.	Others (Please Specify)				

8. Do you think women's participation in development processes is still low in Oye Ekiti?
 Yes NO

9. If No to question 8 above please indicate among the under listed factors that you know have contributed to the low participation of Oye Ekiti town women in development process

S/N		Tick those factors you think have contributed to women's low participation
1.	Discriminatory attitude of men	
2.	Patriarchy	
3.	Lack of sustained process of empowerment	
4.	Lack of group coalition among women	
5.	Lack of time due to domestic and reproductive role of women	
6.	Lack of efficient and trustworthy women leaders	
7.	Religious Belief	
8.	Poor economic base	
9.	Illiteracy	
10.	Lack of assertiveness among women	
11.	Others (Please Specify)	