TITLE PAGE

WOMEN EMPOWERMENTAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A STUDY OF BWARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, F.C.T, NIGERIA

BY

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This research work titled "Women empowerment and community development: A study of Bwari local government area, F.C.T, Nigeria," has been approved by the department of sociology, Caritas University Amorji Nike, Enugu State.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the Lord God Almighty, the God who breaks the law of man and fulfils his words. The same God yesterday, today and forever, the Lord that gives health and life, all praises honor and adoration be unto you the maker of heaven and earth. Also, to my beloved mother, Mrs. A.G. Osadebe and my lovely siblings.

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ABSTRACT

Women empowerment is all encompassing, so this work will want to narrow it to the subject of women development and the impact of skill acquisition and economic empowerment. This topic has generated so much controversy in Nigeria, and the debate centers on appropriate type of development and whether they would help stimulate women toward their development. There is much ambivalence within every society as to the proper place of women in all the vital spheres of life. However, there seems to be a consensus that the future of women development is greatly enhanced with these two variables mentioned above. This study therefore examines the role of skill acquisition and economic empowerment on women development and how women have contributed in the development of their community. This will be done by defining each of the concepts involved, showing their specific relation and reaching a conclusion on the topic.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The discriminatory practice in education which favored the male over the female was very unprogressive yet the government could not do anything to either stop or reverse it (Kema, 2003). The colonial government laid a very bad foundation for education generally and women's education in particular. It is on record that in Nigeria, the colonial government initially did not show any interest in educational development at all. The early efforts were made by the Christian missionaries who came to evangelize to the people.

In 1986, the federal ministry of education in Nigeria created a special unit, women's education unit. This showed that the government was beginning to respond to the urgent need for the development of women. This special right accorded to women in education suggests that apart from women benefitting from general education, there will be a measure of encouragement to them towards specialization in sciences, engineering, and technology. Another area were the federal government of Nigeria intensified effort to develop women's education was in the establishment of mass literacy commission. The effort of government has been complimented by the non-governmental organizations, who in several ways,

especially through the offer of scholarships, and grants to secondary and higher institution female students have greatly promoted women's education.

Women empowerment is dated back to 1970's and the beginning of the international women movement. Many women organizations worldwide set up credit and saving components as a way of both enabling women to increase their incomes, and coming together to address wider gender issues. The micro-credit summit programme is not only out to reach women but also to empower them.

Women empowerment is not a modern concept. Women all over the world including countries in the south have been challenging and changing many gender inequalities since the beginning of history. These struggles have not been supported by many men who have not been outraged at injustice against women.

Man is by nature an independent social being and cannot develop, actualize and objectify himself through labor in isolation from others and from the social environment (Mbah, 2005). Men have to interact with others to live well and to achieve more meaningful sustainable socio-economic development. The relationship between men and women has for a long time been marked by the sub-ordination of one group to the whimps and caprices of another. Women's position being relegated to the background and placed in a dependency position makes it

almost difficult if not impossible for them to take their own decision on issues and problems to affect them more especially on reproductive health.

Onu (1998) opined that "women are at the heart of development. They control most of the non-money economy (subsistence agriculture, bearing and raising children, doing domestic labor) and taking important part in the money economy (trading, the formal sector, wage employment)". He further stressed that every where world, women have two jobs, around the home and outside it. This assertion implies that women have a lot in of contribution to make towards the healthy socio-economic development of every county but women are constantly denied this opportunity by the nature of our societal organizations, and the cultural set up that makes it more comfortable for men to maintain the status quo. Today, awareness has led to the recognition of the important role women can play in national development and this calls for an urgent need to address these critical areas that have hindered full recognition of women's talents, women's right, women's development and empowerment.

CEDPA (1997:8) argued that there exist countries barriers that hinder women's efforts to improve the qualities of their lives. Compared to men, women have less access to crucial resources such as information, education, skill training, health (especially reproductive health and family planning), cash income and

credit, all of which are necessary for survival within the current economic depression.

According to the United Nations Millennium Campaign to reduce world poverty by the year 2015, women work two-third of the worlds working hours. The overwhelming majority of the labor that sustain life-growing food, cooking , raising children, caring for the elderly, maintaining a house, hauling water is done by women, and universally this work is accorded low status and with little or no pay. The ceaseless cycle of labor rarely shows up in economic analysis of a society's product and value.

Women earn only 10 percent of the world income. Where women work, they are limited to a set of jobs deemed suitable for women invariable low pay, low status position.

Furthermore, there are certain laws or customs that prevent women from getting loans or credit, or having the right to inheritance or to own their homes, they have no assets to leverage for economic stability and cannot invest in their own or their children's future.

Presently, women have more opportunities for education and stronger legal rights in many countries; they are taking leadership roles in local communities and stand at the fore front of peace movement. Perhaps the greatest change will come

when women and men agree to work together for gender equality. Women's rights are well established by international agreements, notably the international agreements on eradication of discrimination against women (CEDAW), which explicitly include women within the definition of human and hence in all international human right conventions.

In our society, community development practice is not new. Before the colonial era various communities employed communal efforts as mechanism for mobilizing community resources to effect physical improvement and functional facilities in their various localities. In the social, political and economic aspect of their lives. Through communal labor farmland were cultivated, homes steeds constructed and other needed amenities provided.

In the colonial era a new concept of community development was introduced in the area of mass mobilization for self help activities. Community development in recent times has come on top of the agenda of federal, state and local government in Nigeria .This re-awakening is justified for obvious reasons. It is common knowledge that Nigeria communities have been showing no appreciable improvement in the provisions of basic needs like food, house, medicate educational facilitates and provisions of social amenities like roads, water supply electricity e.t.c.

This situation has steadily degenerated into state of poverty diseases, filth, ignorance, unemployment for the majority of the people and their coping mechanism drastically eroded and is at the brink of collapse.

In the third National development plan (1975-1980) the country's rural development policy was for the first time incorporated in the framework of national development. The policy stipulated that the main objectives of the rural development are to increase rural productivity and income, diversify rural economy through the provision of basic social amenities such as health centers, pipe borne water and feeder roads .Also the establishment of local government areas in 1976 by the military government down to the grassroots in order to enhance full participation of the community members. But this has not made transformatory impact; it rather seems to have aggravated the problems. Rural areas (communities) still remain in deplorable conditions.

Under the present administration, the reviewed community development policy seeks to build the enthusiasm among the various partners involved in rural development. This study focuses on women who have also been recently affirmed as principal prerequisites for a successful approach to rural development.

From the onset, women have prided themselves in participating in what is today rural development. However, in societies where the agrarian's mode of

production dominates, roles are often directed or dictated by the society and culture. This limits the role, challenges of women to family related activities (criele and smoke1977).

Women in Nigeria like their counterparts in other parts of developing countries ,are mostly involved in food production to feed their families .According to world Bank(1993),women in Nigeria are responsible for production of about 70 percent of the total food supply. NCEMA (1990) and FOA (1979) also showed that the contribution of women to food production was 50-60 percent in Asia and more than 30 percent in Latin America. The main activities of women in rural communities is mainly participating in agricultural production (cocoa,oilpalm, rubber ,coffee).This crops serves as sources of revenue for the government . The women also are involved in agro forestry production particularly around the rural compound and farm stead.

1.2   STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The major problem facing the Bwari community and every other community in Nigeria is that of deprivation of women's right to participate in their full capacity in religious, economic, political and social activities just like their male counterparts. This hinders their ability to operate in their full capacity in development project in the local government, like every other local (rural) area. The literate women in Bwari outnumber that of the illiterate but still create little ignorance among some of other women defending their rights

Another major source of problem is the men controlling the affairs of their families, prevents or sanctions their wives from participating or partaking in some activities of women from the local government.

Some men whose wives are appointed or elected leader stopped their wives in such leadership roles thereby compounding the problems of women organization in the Bwari local government area of the F.C.T.

Another source of problem is lack of finance. This affects the organizational structure of men as a result of the fact that majority of the women are house wives who depend on their husbands. There is need for the women to finance themselves independently so as to stand a better chance to assist in their homes and also in the society. Also incompetence in management and control of women organization by

their executives hinders their development and efforts. At times some women leaders seem to antagonize one another when working together towards achieving a set goal. Child bearing also affects women in participating in other activities.

The problem of community development in Nigeria is a serious concern to Nigerians and the international community. The situation has engendered political instability, dictatorial governments, lack of rule of law/social justice, and irresponsible leadership's e.t.c, resulting to stagnation in poverty and underdevelopment; this raises some major questions such as

- What are the factors responsible for the failure of community development and women empowerment in Bwari local government area of Abuja?
- How has the government contributed to women empowerment and community development in Bwari local government area of Abuja?

1.3   RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How has the lack of government assistance hindered women empowerment and community development in Bwari local government area?
- What are the problems hindering women's participation in community development?

- In what ways have women contributed to the development of Bwari local government area?

- How can women be empowered in Bwari local government area?

- What strategies can be adopted to enhance women participation in community development of Bwari local government area?

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The major objective of the study is to find out problems that militate against women empowerment and community development in Bwari. The specific objectives can be summed up to this.

- To identify ways by which government assistance can help in women empowerment and community development in Bwari local government area.

- To identify the problems that hinder women's participation in community development.

- To find out ways women can contribute to the development of Bwari local government area of Abuja.

- To find out how women can be empowered in Bwari local government area of Abuja.

- To suggest strategies that can be adopted to enhance women's participation in community development in Bwari.

1.5   SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Recalling that the character of the UN (United Nations) re-affirms faith in the declaration on the elimination and discrimination against women at the present convention of which Nigeria was a signatory (CSW, 2005:8).

Recalling that under the auspices of the UN, African Union (AU), International and Local Organizations, the National policy on women was designed to protect women against all forms of discrimination (Newswatch: 2000).

Concerned, that women's right are human right and poverty is feminine. Aware that, a change in the traditional role of women, as well as men in the family and society is needed to achieve full equality between women and men. Whereas common understanding of women as principal prerequisite in the development of their communities, nation, region and globe.

This study will therefore measure the realization of the pledge to grant women equal access to health, education, legal rights, labor market opportunities, public life and decision making position by year 2015 (MDG 2006).

With the drawing plans for a new gender policy on the way, this study will contribute to an effective policy that will give all Nigerian women irrespective of class, age, tribe and religion a strength that can be reckoned with.

Also through this study international and local sponsors will be educated about the contributions of women networks to community development in Bwari local government.

Finally, for the rural community these women belong to, the study will improve on the awareness of individuals and groups to not limit the activities of these women but to help them in articulating their positions, situations and demands. This will in turn improve the standard of living, enhance rural community resources and add to national development and a successive continuation of human race.

1.6   DEFINATIONS OF TERMS

- Community: A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.
- Development: The gradual growth of something so that it becomes more advanced, stronger. This is also defined as skill and capacity, greater

freedom, creativity, self discipline, responsibility and material well-being. Rodney (1972)

- Empowerment: To give someone the power to do something. To give somebody more control over their own life or the situation they are in.

- Women: It is the plural of woman. It is defined as an adult female human being. Women all over the world constitute a gender group; they are a disadvantaged group based on their sex.

- Women Network: Women coming and working together in a group to achieve an objective.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1   OVERVIEW OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment and community development is a topic that looks into the level of development of Nigerian women and the opportunities given to them so far in participating in the development of Nigerian communities, especially the Bwari local government area of Abuja. It also checks the level of discrimination on gender and how government has worked towards the eradication of discrimination against women.

First of all, education is a basic tool for development and if women most flow into the mainstream of development, education then becomes mandatory. Women have passed through phases of frustration, deprivation and suffering through history, and these accounts partly for their determination today to eradicate illiteracy amongst them. In all schemes of women endeavors, this sector seems to record the greatest success.

This was not the case for many years in Nigeria. The nation neglected women's education at the policy level and individuals did not help maters either. Parents particularly preferred to send their male children to school. This attitude was informed by two major inter-related reasons. First, most people were poor and

could barely afford to feed their large families and thus could not afford the luxury of educating all their children. So if children must go to school, then it must be the male who were regarded as more important to the families. Secondly, women would eventually end up in marriage, so parents see it as futile spending the families' meager resources on their education. Rather than sending their daughters to school, parents preferred them to be good and obedient house wives, and gladly gave them out into marriage at as early an age as thirteen. This continued to be the case until recently when parents themselves acquire education and thus knowledge of the dangers of such acts. However, in some parts of our country precisely in the North, such practices still persist.

The fact that we are forming organizations and holding conferences, seminars and workshops on gender empowerment would suggest that we have agreed at some stage that Nigeria women are not adequately empowered in their societies and that we are aware of the need to "empower" them, so that they could be strong and resourceful, able to give their maximum contribution to developing the Nigeria Nation. (Dr Zaynab, 2001:26)

According to Karl (1995:94), the participation of women is a means to achieve the goals of development, through gender awareness, more efficient economy wide policies. It will contribute to achieving economic growth, but it will also help identify the social goals the society is willing to pursue. Indeed, an idea

which is gaining momentum is that increased participation of women in decision making at all levels will help to adjust the goals pursued through development.

The above statement indicates women's participation is not only essential to economic development; it will also have a transformative effect on the goals of both economic and social development. Women's participation, thus, does not mean simply increasing women's number or integrating them into existing development models, rather, it is part of the process of empowerment and a way to make development policies and programmes more people centered.

According to Karl (1995:101), "we believe that the most fundamental and underlying principle of another development should be that of structural transformation. Accordingly at international level, another development should replace the forms of exchange with that of mutually beneficial and negotiated interdependence. National models of development have to be based on the principle of self-reliance and the building of genuinely democratic institutions and practices. Such a model would ensure general participation including that of the basic needs of all citizens, regardless of their race, gender or age".

The concept of empowerment of women as a goal of development projects and programmes gained wider acceptance in the 1990's. According to Young (1995) the concept of empowerment as used by development agencies, refers

mainly to entrepreneurial self-reliance. Taking a critical view of the use of empowerment terminology by development agencies, Young states "The term echoes the general emphasis with the mainstream on unleashing the capacity of individuals to be more entrepreneurial and more self-reliance. It is closely allied to the current emphasis on individualistic values: people empowering themselves by pulling themselves up by their boot-strap". On the other hand an empowerment approach to development can also mean peoples participation in the policy making and planning processes. According to Young (1995) it is now recognized in development circles that economic growth and social betterment are best achieved when the mass of the population are informed about and involved in development aims and plans, and sees itself as a direct beneficiary of the expanded resources growth should bring. One of the ways to achieve this is structuring the decision making process in such a way as to ensure widespread consultation at all levels of society about development goals, the processes by which those goals are to be reached and the resources needed to achieve them. Empowerment is given to a range of interest groups and NGOs, by using them as consultative bodies or councils.

A study entitled empowerment of women in South Asia identifies two approaches commonly used by development agencies. Empowerment through economic interventions to increase women's economic status through employment,

income generation and access to credit and empowerment through integrated rural development programmes, in which strengthening women's economic status is only one component along with education, literacy, the provision of basic needs and services, and fertility control. These approaches are contrasted with generally used by women's organization and other NGO's: Empowerment through awareness building, capacity building and organizing women that leads to transformation of unequal relationships, increasing decision making power in the home and community, and greater participation in politics.

Some of these ideas are also taking root in development programmes, and agencies are beginning to develop gender training frameworks that include the concepts of empowerment. For instance, the United Nations children Funds (UNICEF) is using the women's empowerment frame-work, developed by Sara Longwe of Zambia, as a tool to be used in its efforts to mainstream gender throughout UNICEF's programme planning process and as a conceptual basis for gender responsive assessment, evaluation and programming.

2.2   OBSTACLES TO EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

There are many obstacles that affect the efforts of women in development. Some of these obstacles as observed by Ijere (1992:4) are as follows

- Male perception of women's role.

As a result of the traditional social system, more than any other thing, which has given men more recognition and status than women, the work and place of the latter are regulated to the background. As a result many planners, who are mostly men, take the submerged with and subordinated to those of the men. In other cases, the roles are considered of little consequence to be worth the attention.

- The question of status.

The pervasive influence of the status of women is seen through their lack of ownership of such item as land, financial resources and buildings. As a consequence they lack consummate power, influence and responsibility which in turn force them to maintain "appropriate behavior in the home and public". As long as it is made difficult by custom for women to own or inherit land, and acquire independent wealth or buildings, their status will be subservient to that of men.

- Institutional constraints

Women also suffer from institutional constraints as a result of lack of equal access to education with the men. It was observed that only 16 percent of the adult females in Nigeria rural sector are literate. The higher level of illiteracy of their communication ability and deprived of their benefits.

- Non consultative of women.

In most cases women are not consulted at the planning stage of development communities' market places, roads, civic centers or maternity homes are hardly considered necessary to ask women's view as to their likes and dislikes. Rather, the men assume what their wives would have to say and proceed with the plan. When the decision has been taken, the women are bought in to implement, especially when the going gets difficult.

- Lack of initiative

While it is easy to blame society and men for the problems of women, it must be emphasized that the women themselves share in some of their problems, Infact, they help to create them. For example, most women will refuse to exert themselves or to demonstrate that they can achieve anything. Some are satisfied with their husband's position or achievements. They often say, "It depends on my

husband". In this way women abdicated their responsibilities and rights to the men. In election they would rather vote for the men than themselves or other women. At meetings, the women sit clustered in a corner far away from men. As long as these tendencies and practices persist, women cannot be bought to play their expected role in rural development.

2.3 ROLES OF WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS IN WONEM EMPOWERMENT

The UN declaration of 1975-1985 as women decade stimulated Nigeria women to take concrete actions concerning their plight. During the period many women NGO's were formed to empower Nigeria women. The following are some of the organizations that existed in Nigeria and their aims.

- Women Research and Documentation Center (WORDOC)

This was formed in the early 60's. Its main aim was to co-ordinate research and documentation efforts of various women research groups. This organization has succeeded in encouraging documentation on women issues in Nigeria.

- Women In Nigeria (WIN)

This organization emerged in 1982 (WIN DOCUMENT 1985). It was formed by a group of women academics with majority in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. WIN's achievement could be seen in the area of raising consciousness amongst people about the subordinate position occupied by women in Nigeria. WIN argues that the only way the position of women can be improved is through the transformation of the social system. This is been done through various publications, organization of seminars, symposia and conferences.

- Country Women Association Of Nigeria (COWAN)

The country women association of Nigeria (COWAN) was initiated by chief (Mrs.) Ogunleye in 1982. Cowan approached the empowerment of rural women using "bottom up" approach. It is the only organization in the country where the Board of Directors was rural women with Mrs. Ogunleye as the secretary. Its main goal is to empower women towards achieving self sufficiency. This association has succeeded in providing members with credit assistance, health and family planning, education and services, technical and managerial advices, traning in agriculture and small scale business. It started off with 6 co-operation societies in 1982 in Ondo state and now has well over 600 societies operating in virtually all the 37 states in the country ,including Abuja [David 1995;16].According to chief

Ogunleye, the individual membership is about 18,000 poor families. The organization has also facilitated access to credit for smaller women's group in south west Nigeria. Studies have shown that women have proved to be good borrowers who pay back on time. They are reliable preferring loans to grants and enjoying the dignity that paying borrowed money affords them. Women participation is strong in credit unions and co-operatives organizations which provide both savings and loan services to members. They participate both as members and as full-time officers within these groups [Olumese 1998; 160]. The various achievement of this organization earned the coordinator, Mrs. Ogunleye the prestigious award of United Nations prize for leadership for the sustainable end to hunger project and advocacy.

- Better Life Programme{BLP}

This organization was initiated by Mrs. Maryam Barbangida in 1987.its objectives were to empower rural woman economically, socially and politically

- Women Rights Advancement And Protection Alternative{WRAPA}

  This was established in 1999 by Mrs. Abubakar. This organization was focused on the legal rights of women irrespective of color, creed or social status and is rendering services to women to ensure the actualization indeed succeeded in empowering Nigeria women through enlightment of women

regarding their legal rights, offering of free legal services and empowerment of woman in vocational skills within the period of 2004-2006, WRAPA successfully handled 494 cases of women rights were abused.

2.4 CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT

There is no way we can discuss woman contribution to development without specifically mentioning their contribution to the following.

- Woman In Politics

Political evolvement and development in Nigeria-: some have argued that politics is the mother of other developmental factors, economic or socio-cultural factors. Without a stable polity there cannot be any form of development in the positive side. No form of growth can be expected under anarchy.

From age, the Nigerian women have enjoyed and cherished their liberty to participate in policies that will sharpen their destiny to participate in policies that will sharpen their destiny and that of their children. While in Europe women seem to be over protected and are adjudged a ''weaker vessel'' the Nigerian women have always demonstrated their independent mindedness.

Traditionally the men folks are accorded the right of leadership in running the affairs of the community. However, the woman had never found themselves handicapped in either supplementing the efforts of their male counterparts or taking initiatives in matters of political expediency; ''This is why the attempt by the colonialists to treat Nigeria women by European standards was resented by women and this lead to various demonstration which reached the climax in the Aba women's Riot of 1929''.

The roles played by women in the pre-colonial, colonial and post colonial period in Nigeria have demonstrated their agility and preference for politics. It is known for instances that the first serious socio-political revolution, dubbed the Aba women's riot of 1929, was organized and led by women.

In most communities women leaders or their representatives participated in making important decisions. This was not considered inappropriate anywhere; the elders who controlled the political affairs by then did not object to women's participation. In most traditional institutions women were represented by the leaders of their organizations. In pre-colonial Nigeria society, both the male and female performed essential political functions .This was possible because of the sexual division of labor which assigned some important economic roles to the men

Women participation in politics now has improved tremendously with representatives of women playing very active roles at all arms and levels of

government. We have women ministers, senators, speakers of house of assemble, chairmen of local government. There has been increase in the number of women judges and women heads of parastatals.

There had been resurgence in the growth of women societies and groups at national levels. Many awareness campaigns, seminars and workshops have been organized to help gearing up the sleeping ones among the women folks. The practice of politics in this republic has not been free of violence but the levels are so low compared with the experience of the first and second republic. This has no doubt encouraged women to be more active as party members and executives. They formed themselves into formidable camps that no aspiring political leader can afford to neglect their importance and relevance. They use their numerical strength to bargain for position in government. This situation is a very good omen and with the sustenance of democracy in Nigeria, women in a few decades to come will stand shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts in all aspects of leadership.

- Women And Agricultural Development

The agricultural sector is one of the economies where women make the greatest contribution. The traditional roles played by women particularly in the rural areas

centre on economic development. Uma lele (1975) stated that the processes of developing or transforming any area must pass through three unique features.

i. Mass participant.

ii. Improving the living standard of the people.

iii. It must be self-sustaining.

In Nigeria, agricultural production in pre-colonial and post-colonial era was one of the major activities of the economic sector. This involves the production of food and rearing of animals, for domestic benefit. And it also includes livestock production, forestry, hunting processing and marketing of the produced agricultural products.

Women represent the majority of any given population who live in the rural area. They play vital role mainly in agricultural production, in food crop production and also ignore the challenges they face.

Bwari local government of Abuja has experienced a tremendous transformation in agriculture production. Bwari women are mostly farmers, this making them to devote their time to produce food and cash crops that serves as sources of revenue to their local government, the entire society as a whole and also helping to feed their immediate families with fresh fruits and food supplement.

- Nigeria Women And Community Development

There is no way we can discuss women contribution to development without specifically mentioning their contribution to economic evolvement and development in Nigeria. Some have argued that economy is the mother of other developmental factors. Without a stable economy there cannot be any form of development in the positive side. Women play multiple roles in the economic development of their communities.

Traditionally, in Africa like in other parts of the world, women have been making contributions to the triple role of production, reproduction and communal activities.

According to Sani (2001:17) "our women work as mothers, wives, doing domestic chores, as breadwinners doing farming and trading, and they see to the nursing of their children against the backdrop of polygamous settings. The issue is no longer whether they contribute to the nation's developmental efforts, rather, it is now how effective and efficient their contributions are".

2.5   STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING CAPACITIES OF WOMEN

Women organizations try to develop capacities of women through skill acquisition and economic empowerment. There seems to be a consensus that the future of women development is greatly enhanced with these two variables mentioned (Onweni, 1995:6).

Skill acquisition as it affects women is a process or a conscious program where women of minimum educational or of a certain level of age are trained in various techniques of producing or rendering service for economic gains. This includes sewing, weaving, making of ornaments and other types of braids and business (selling and buying). Women economic and empowerment on the other hand, implies all the methods or strategies employed to place women in a process of acquiring wealth so as to take control and action in order to overcome all obstacles that occasion their back-wardness.

The idea of skill acquisition for women simply implies a deliberate programme whereby women who do not have opportunities for further education are trained in some trades such as catering, sewing, weaving, knitting, plaiting, handcrafts and selling. These trades are learned and serve as means to obtain employment to produce commodities and service of high value and benefits to the recipients. Women with these trades are better placed in having access to income

which helps them to take control and action in their families in order to overcome their socially imposed disadvantages. Whether the situation is in the presidency in Abuja, government house in state capital, local government head quarters or in the parlor of a family house, skill acquisition puts the women at comparable advantages. This reduces the degree of difference in status, wages, political visibility, access to development benefits, between them and men. These obvious results are measured in terms of control and actions that women may take to overcome their societal inflicted obstacles. It can therefore be argued that skill acquisition encourages women to participate fully as a means of getting themselves into the labor market (Anyaoha, 1998:5).

On the other hand economic empowerment implies a collective programme or process of action that targets conscious enablement of a group of people so as to facilitate the groups' access to gains or incomes of the society's resources. It is the deliberate placement of a group of people either individually or collectively, in money-yielding ventures so that it (the group) would enjoy the benefits of development in the society. It includes access to credit facilities, land, gainful employment, ownership of enterprises, entrepreneurs, access to means of production, and power through effective distribution of wealth and other position that can afford meaningful or tangible economic. For women in Nigeria, economic empowerment means deliberate placement of women in cash economy so as to

own or manage larger business concerns as well as working in income generating industrial settings with total control and realization of their full economic potentials.

2.6   REVIEW OF RELEVANT THEORIES.

In this work some feminist theories would be reviewed.

Feminist theory is a generalized, wide-ranging system of ideas about social life and human experience developed from a woman centered perspective. Feminist theory is woman centered or woman centered in two ways. First, the starting point of all its investigation is the situation and experiences of women in society. Second, it seeks to describe the social world from the distinctive vantage points of women.

2.6.1 LIBERAL FEMINISM

This is an individualistic form of feminist theory which primarily focuses on women's ability to show and maintain their equality through own actions and choices. Liberal feminists argue that our society holds the false belief that women are by nature less intellectually and physically incapable than men, it tends to

discriminate against women in the academy, the forum, and the market place. Liberal feminists believe that "female subordination is rooted in a set of customary and legal constraints that black women's entrance to success in the so called public world". And they work hard to emphasize the equality of men and women through political and legal reform.

Historically the first element in the liberal feminist argument is the claim for gender equality. This claim was first politically articulated in the declaration of sentiments drafted at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1884 with the express purpose of independence to include women. It opens with the revisionist line "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal", changes the list of grievance to focus on women's state, and concludes with a call for women to do whatever is required to gain equal right with men. In its arguments, the declaration of sentiments let the women's movement lay claims to the intellectual discourses of the enlightenment, the American and French revolutions, and the abolitionist movement. It claims for women the rights accorded to all human beings, under natural law, on the basis of the human capacity for reason and moral agency, asserted that laws which denied women their right to happiness were "contrary to the great precept of nature and of no … authority"; and called for change in law and customs to allow women to assume their equal place in society.

2.6.2 RADICAL FEMINISM

Radical feminism is based on two emotionally central beliefs

i.   That women are of absolute positive value as men, a belief asserted against what they claim to be the universal devaluing of women.

ii. That women are everywhere oppressed, violently oppressed by system of patriarchy (Bunch, 1987)

Radical feminists see in every institution and in society's most basic stratificational arrangements heterosexuality, class, caste, race, ethnicity, age and gender systems of domination and subordination, the most fundamental structure of which is the system is the system of patriarchy. Not only is patriarchy historically the first structure of domination and submission, it continues as the most pervasive and enduring system of inequality, the basic societal model of domination (Lerner, 1986). Through participation in patriarchy, men learn how to hold other human beings in contempt, to see them as nonhuman, and to control them. Within patriarchy, men see and women learn what subordination looks like. Patriarchy creates guilt and repression, sadism and masochism, manipulation and deception, all of which drive men and women to other forms of tyranny. Patriarchy, to radical feminist is the least noticed yet most significant structure of social inequality.

Central to this analysis is the image of patriarchy as violence practiced by men and by male dominated organizations against women. Violence may not always take the form of overt physical cruelty. It can be hidden in more complex practices of exploitation and control: in standards of fashion and beauty; in tyrannical ideals of motherhood, monogamy, chastity and heterosexuality; in sexual harassment in the workplace; in the practices of gynecology, obstetrics and psychotherapy; and in unpaid household drudgery underpaid wage work (Mackinnon, 1979). Violence exists whenever one group controls in its own interests the life chances, environments, actions and perceptions of another groups as men do to women.

A theoretical evaluation of radical feminism should note that it incorporates arguments made by both socialist and psychoanalytical feminists about the reasons for women's subordination yet moves beyond those theories. Radical feminists, moreover, have done significant research to support their thesis that patriarchy ultimately rest on the practice against women. They have a reasonable thought perhaps incomplete program for change. They may however, be faulted for their exclusive focus on patriarchy, a focus that simplifies the realistic of social organization and social inequality.

2.6.3 SOCIO CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

Culture is the sum total of all that human societies has accumulated over the years of their existence. It includes their non-materials aspects like mode of dressing; these are socially transmitted from generation to generation through the process of socialization (Aina, 1998).

The school of thoughts came into being as a result of the failure of the biological theories to explain the social position of women in society. This approach attempts to locate the differences between male and female within the framework of culturally defined system.

Sherry B. Ortnear (1974) observed that women's status all over the world is that of a second class citizen. She notes that, the explanation for this is that women are at times identified with something that every culture devalues and or defines as being of lower order of ranking. She observed further that, those societies arrogate gender differential to nature and postulate that this was possible because the reproductive functions of a woman, her social role and resistant structure place her close to nature rather than culture.

Ironically the more scholars have tried to explain the difference between men and women, the more it becomes clear that the difference is at best tenuous. Usually, what one feel is that, the same culture which creates roles and

imposes them on sexes is also responsible for widespread beliefs which undermine the role of women. One very important consequence of male dominated and the existence of a super-flow whose identity is only discernible in being the wife, sister or daughter of some hypothetical man.

2.6.4 MARXIST APPROACH

In theoretical terms, Karl Marx prepared the ground for debate of women's issues. His theory is based in economic determination, especially; he argued that the ownership and control of means of forces of production have exerted the most significant influence on societal satisfaction system. Marxian approach to gender stratification centers, on the extent to which women's access to the control of the forces of production determines their relative position in the society. The approach adopted by the Marxian school is borrowed from the works of Engels (1968).

This focuses on the role played by familiar structure and to the extent to which women participate in social production. Thus, Engel argues that a nuclear family is based on the supremacy of the man, its expressed aim is the begetting of children of undisputed paternity, this paternity being required in order that those children may in due time inherit their father's wealth. For this variant of

Marxian theory, therefore, women's oppression is traceable to class domination which will be ended when the proletariat takes up their destiny in their hands and overthrow the bourgeois and end the exploitation of man by man. They argue further that women are vital ingredients to the survival of capitalism because they produce the labor force and maintain "stable home" which inevitably feeds the capitalist system with labor force.

The existence of the family makes it possible for super exploitation of all women. Men are seen as the breadwinner of the family. It is also women's labor that is most advantage to capitalism because it is the married women who do by nature in existing farming system have to bear the total cost of production, (Bevaky, 1987:63). Because women could be paid less than men, the employers have been able to be using them to depress the value of labor force.

2.7 THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

Socio-cultural approach

Socio-cultural approach is the best approach to adopt as my theoretical framework, because it is the culture of the people that placed women as weaker vessels, and sees them as less important when decisions need to be taken for the growth of communities and even in their household, and this belief moves from

generation to generation. This cultural approach deals with tradition, beliefs, values, norms and practices system of the people living in the same society.

As explained in the socio-cultural perspective, culture and its beliefs and practice of a particular people and society has been the major drawback for women as regards to their participation in developing their communities and also been empowered.

The socio-cultural viewpoint of women, beings with the assumptions that human behavior and conduct are largely directed and determined by culture that is learned recipes for behaviors shared by members of a society.

Prominent supporters of this view include Ann Oakley, Bruno Bettcheim, Enestine Fried and Sherry B. Octnear. From their perspective, gender role are the product of culture rather than biology and as such the present condition of women, particularly in Bwari.

2.8 HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis One

H: Women empowerment is likely to be directly than indirectly helpful to the development of Bwari Local Government Area.

Hypothesis Two

H: the higher the level of educated women is likely to increase the level of development in Bwari Local Government Area.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Research is the process of arriving at a dependable solution through the planned and systematic collection, analyses and interpretation of data (Aromolara; 1998).

To carry out this study, we shall depend on primary and secondary sources of data. This primary source will include the use of structured questionnaires. For secondary sources, textbooks, journals and internet materials shall be consulted. This chapter considers the research design, study area, study population, sample size and sampling techniques.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN.

This study will be based on sample survey method. This will be achieved with the use of questionnaires.

Sample survey also known as survey research is one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting and analyzing data from a sample of people or items considered to be representation of the entire population.

This survey is favored because only few number of the population of people from Bwari Local Government Area will be given the privilege to fill the questionnaires and those without knowledge of questionnaires (illiterate) will be interviewed orally due to time factor. The sample for study would be strictly women.

3.3 STUDY AREA

The study will be carried out among the people of Bwari Local Government Area of Abuja. Bwari is a development that fell under the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) and was thus, administered through the administrative secretaries, until it became a fully fledged council.

It is worth mentioning that the area had five (5) administrative secretaries that administered it from 1980 to 1996. These secretaries were directly responsible to the deputy mayor/chairman of AMAC as the case may be.

Bwari Local Government Area is located North East of Abuja. A vast area with a scenic landscape and its striking features makes the area unique. It shares boundaries with Tafa local government area of Niger state, Abuja municipal area council (Fct), Gwagwalada area council (Fct) and Nasarawa state.

Bwari has good dual carriage road network. From the city center, one could access the council secretariat in 30 minutes.

The existence of FCT can be said to lie on Bwari Local Government Area where the entire territory derives its water supply from the lower Usman-Dan which is situated in the council. Bwari also standout as the food basket of FCT, home of tourism and again, designed as educational zone by the federal government, thus, making it a citadel of learning. The following institutions are being housed by the council.

- Headquarters of JAMB, Bwari.

- Headquarters of the school of legal studies (Nigeria law school, Bwari)

- Civil service Staff College at Dutse Alhaji.

- Dorben polytechnic, Bwari Abuja.

- FCT NYSC orientation camp, Kubwa Abuja.

- Headquarters of childcare trust, Bwari.

- A newly laid foundation for catholic university in Gaba, Bwari.

The culture of the people of Bwari local government area is expressed in various languages, food festivals etc. the dominant indigenous tribe in the

area council is the Gbagyi which is followed by the Koro ethnic group, then we also have the Gwari's, Basa's, Gaba, Goyipe etc.

The population of Bwari as at 2006 census was given as 129,274 habitants, with the population of men as 59,919 and the population of women as 69,355.

3.4   POPULATION OF THE STUDY

Hence the total population of women in Bwari local government area is 69,355 women, about 200 women of the entire population of women in Bwari will form the population of the study.

3.5   SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of this study is two hundred (200) possible respondents. The research considered this sample size large enough for this study, taking into consideration statistical analyses. The sample size is considered appropriate for effective management due to time and financial factors.

3.6   SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

In carrying out a research work, one has to be bias free; therefore multistage stratified and random sampling methods will be used. This method is favored because it is bias free when applied to the research. Questionnaires will be distributed in some offices, to petty traders, cleaners and security women etc. with the use of this method, 200 female of the population will be selected randomly.

3.7   METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The techniques of data collection will include questionnaire method and the oral interview for those who are illiterates. These methods will be used because the respondents will be able to give appropriate response as regarding their personal characteristics such as age, marital status etc, and major variables in the study.

3.8   METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data gathered from the study will be analyzed in this section. Respondent's characteristics will be analyzed using frequency table and simple percentages, while chi-square statistics will be used to test the hypothesis formulated for the study.

Chi-square $x^2 = \sum \frac{(0-e)^2}{e}$

Where $x^2 = chi - square$

O = observed frequency

E = expected frequency

$\sum$ = summation sign

The result gathered using the chi-square method of data analyses would be discussed and represented in chapter four.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF DATA AND ANALYSES

4.1   INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on information collected from field survey of 200 women in Bwari local government area of Abuja, are analyzed in this chapter. Results are tabulated in simple frequency and percentages. This analysis will at a glance depict women's level of development and their contribution in community development of Bwari local government area.

4.2   DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSES

Table 4:1 Distribution of questionnaire

Questionnaire	Level of respondent
Number distributed	200
Number collected	150
Number lost	50

Table 4.1 above, indicates that 200 questionnaires were distributed but only 150 were eventually completed and returned, and 50 questionnaire were lost.

Table 4:2 Age distributions of respondents

Age	Respondents	Percentage (%)
20-29	35	23.3%
30-39	40	26.7%
40-49	50	33.3%
50 and above	25	16.7%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The table indicates that 35 respondents who constituted 23.3% of the respondents were between the ages 20-29; 40 respondents who constituted 26.7% of the respondents were between the ages 30-39; 50 respondents who constituted 33.3% of the respondents were between the ages 40-49; 25 respondents who constituted 16.7% of the respondents were between the ages 50 and above.

Table 4:3 Respondents marital status

Marital status	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Single	25	16.7%
Married	75	50%
Divorced	20	13.3%
Widowed	30	20%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 25(16.7%) of respondents are single; 75(50%) are married; 20(13.3%) are divorced; 30(20%) are widowed.

Table 4:4 Respondents occupation

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Civil servants	45	30%
Farmer	35	23.3%
Petty trader	30	20%
Crafting	25	16.7%
Others	15	10%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 45(30%) of respondents are civil servants; 35(23.3%) are farmers; 30(20%) are petty traders; 25(16.7%) are crafting; 15(10%) are involved in other occupation.

Table 4:5 Respondents level of occupation

Level of education	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Primary	30	20%
Secondary	28	18.7%
BSc and above	62	41%
None	30	20%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 30(20%) of respondents are primary school certificate holders; 28(18.7%) are secondary school certificate holders; 62(41%) are BSc and above certificate holders; 30(20%) didn't attend school at a

4.3 ANALYSES OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research question 1: how has the lack of government assistance hindered women empowerment and community development?

Question number 6 of the questionnaire was asked to test research question 1.

The respondents were asked, to what extent has the lack of government assistance hindered the empowerment of women and community development?

Table 4:6 contingency table for testing research question 1

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
To a great extent	62	41.3 %
To some extent	30	20 %
To a little extent	30	20 %
To no extent	28	18.7 %
Total	150	100 %

Source: data from fieldwork showing responses to question 6 in the questionnaire

The above table shows that 62(41.3%) of respondents believe that lack of government assistance has hindered women empowerment and community

development to a great extent, 30(20%) to some extent, 30(20%) to a little extent, 28(18.7%) to no extent.

Research question 2: what are the problems hindering women's participation in community development?

Question number 7 of the questionnaire was asked to test research question 2.

The respondents were asked, what factors are responsible for the lack of women participation in community development.

Table 4:7 contingency table for testing research question 2.

Response	Respondent	Percentage (%)
Cultural factor	60	40 %
Biological factor	30	20%
Lack of finance	15	10%
Lack of support from the government	45	30%
Total	150	100 %

Source: data from fieldwork showing responses to question 7 in the questionnaire

The above table shows that 60(40%) of the respondent believe that cultural factor is responsible for lack of women's participation in community development, 30(20%) believe it is biological factor, 15(10%) believe it is lack of finance, 45(30%) believe it is lack of support from government.

Research question 3: in what ways have women contributed to the development of Bwari Local Government Area?

Question number 8 of the questionnaire was asked to test research question 3.

The respondents were asked, in what ways have you contributed to the development of Bwari?

Table 4:8 contingency table for testing research question 3

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Financially	10	6.7%
Materially	50	33.3%
Others	90	60%
Total	150	100%

Source: data from fieldwork showing responses to question 8 in the questionnaire

The above table show that 10(6.7%) of respondents have contributed to development project financially; 50(33.3%) have contributed materially; 90(60%) have contributed in other ways.

Research question 4: how can women be empowered in Bwari Local Government Area?

Question number 9 of the questionnaire was used to test research question 4.

The respondents were asked, what do you consider the best way in which women can be empowered?

Table 4:9 contingency table for testing research question 4.

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Financially	20	15.4%
Materially	10	7.7%
Academically	70	53.8%
Skill acquisition	30	23.1%
No idea	20	13.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: data from fieldwork showing responses to question 9 in the questionnaire

The above table shows that 20(15.4%) of respondents suggested that women should be empowered financially; 10(7.7%) suggested material empowerment; 70(53.8%) suggested academic empowerment; 30(23.1%) suggested skill acquisition; 20(13.3%) had no idea.

Research question 5: what strategies can be adopted to enhance women participation in community development of Bwari Local Government Area?

Question number 10 of the questionnaire was used to test research question 5.

The respondents were asked, what ways can be adopted for women to participate effectively in community development?

Table 4:10 contingency table for testing research question 5

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Government support	55	36.7%
Encouragement from the society	25	16.6%
Gender equality	70	46.7%
Total	150	100%

Source: data from fieldwork showing responses to question 10 in the questionnaire

The above table shows that 55(36.7%) of respondent suggested government support as a way for women to participate effectively in community development, 25(16.6%) suggested encouragement from the society, 70(46.7%) gender equality.

4.4   ANALYSES OF QUESTIONNAIRE

Table 4:11 Respondents were asked if they know what women empowerment is about.

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	130	86.7%
No	20	13.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 130(86.7%) of respondents know what women empowerment is about; 20(13.3%) do not know what it is about.

Table 4:12 respondents were asked if they have participate in any women empowerment programmes

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	60	40%
No	90	60%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 60(40%) of the respondents have participated in women empowerment programme; 90(60%) have not been opportune to participate.

Table 4:13 respondents were asked if they have benefitted from the empowerment programme they participated in.

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	28	18.7%
No	122	81.3%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 28(18.7%) of respondents have benefitted from women empowerment programme; 122(81%) have not benefitted from it.

Table 4:14 respondents were asked if they belong to any women society or group in their community

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	98	65%
No	52	34%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 98(65%) of respondents belong to a society or group in their community; 52(34%) do not belong to any group or community.

Table 4:15 respondents were asked for the society they belong to

Response	Respondents	Percentages (%)
Women farmers association	20	13.3%
Women co-operative association	50	33.3%
Women traders association	28	18.7%
None	52	34.7%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table show that 20(13.3%) of respondents belong to women farmers association; 50(33.3%) belong to women co-operative society; 28(18.7%) belong to women traders association; 52(34.7%) do not belong to society.

Table 4:16 respondents were asked if they have ever participated in the development of their community

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	77	51.3%
No	73	48.7%
Total	150	100%

Source; field survey 2013

The above table show that 77(51.3%) of respondents have participated in the development of their community; 73(48.7%) have not participated in their community development.

Table 4:17 respondents were asked which ways they encouraged other women to participate in community development

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Through seminars	27	18%
Through creation of awareness	38	25.3%
Through network building	12	8%
None	73	48.7%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 27(18%) of respondents encourage other women to participate in their community development through seminars; 38(25.3%) through creating of awareness; 12(8%) through network building; 73(48.7%) do not encourage women to participate in their community development.

Table 4:18 respondents were asked if they are aware of any of these programmes

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Bwari agricultural development	65	43.3%
Poverty eradication programme for women and children	55	36.7%
None	30	20%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 65(43.3%) of respondents are aware of Bwari agricultural development programme; 55(36.7%) are aware of poverty eradication programme for women and children; 30(20%) are not aware of any of these programmes.

Table 4:19 respondents were asked if government has participated in any community project in their area

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	120	80%
No	30	20%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table shows that 120(80%) of respondents said that government has participated in community project in their area; 30(20%) said government has not participated in community project in their area.

Table 4:20 respondents were asked the extent the development project has improved their way of life

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
To a great extent	13	8.7%
To some extent	42	28%
To a little extent	68	45.3%
To no extent	27	18%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table show that 13(8.7%) of the respondents said the development project has improved their way of life to a great extent; 42(28%) to some extent; 68(45.3%) to a little extent; 27(18%) to no extent.

Table 4:21 respondents were asked if empowering women would help in community development

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	138	92%
No	12	8%
Total	150	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table show that 138(92%) of respondents believe that empowering women would help develop community; 12(8%) do not believe it would.

Table 4:22 respondents were asked if it is necessary for women to be educated

Response	Respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	138	92%
No	10	6.7%
Total	148	100%

Source: field survey 2013

The above table show that 138(92%) of respondents said that it's not necessary for women to be educated; 10(6.7%) said that it's not necessary for women to be educated. Just 148(98.7%) out of the 150(100%) responded to this question.

4:5   TESTING THE HYPOTHESES

4.5.1 WORKING HYPOTHESIS ONE:

Women empowerment is likely to be directly than indirectly helpful to the development of bwari local government area of Abuja.

Question 21 of the questionnaire was asked to test the working hypothesis 1

Age	Yes		No		Roll total
	O	e	O	e	
20-29	30	29.4	2	2.56	32
30-39	23	25.8	5	2.24	28
40-49	49	46	1	4	50
50 and above	36	36.8	4	3.2	40
Column total	138	138	12	12	150 (GT)

$$x^2 = \Sigma \frac{(0-e)^2}{e}$$

$$x^2 = \frac{(30-29.4)^2}{29.4} + \frac{(2-2.56)^2}{2.56} + \frac{(23-25.8)^2}{25.8} + \frac{(5-2.24)^2}{2.24} + \frac{(49-46)^2}{46} + \frac{(1-4)^2}{4} +$$

$$\frac{(36-36.8)^2}{36.8} + \frac{(4-3.2)^2}{3.2} \quad +$$

$x^2 = 0.01+0.14+0.30+3.40+0.19+2.25+0.02+0.2$

$x^2 = 6.5$

Degree of freedom (df) = (c-1) (r-1)

= (2-1) (4-1)

$$= 1 \times 3$$

$$df = 3$$

Table chi-square at .05 level of significance $= 7.82$

With calculated $x^2 = 4.67$

And table $x^2 = 7.82$ Therefore

Hence the chi-square table value is higher than the calculated chi-square, the hypothesis one is hereby rejected.

4:5.2 WORKING HYPOTHESIS TWO

The higher the level of educated women is likely to increase the level of development in Bwari Local Government Area.

Question 22 of the questionnaire was asked to test this hypothesis question

Age	Yes	No	Sub total
	O e	O e	
20-29	30 29.8	2 2.16	32
30-39	23 25.2	4 1.82	28
40-49	49 46.6	1 3.38	50
50 and above	36 36.4	3 2.64	40
Column total	138 138	10 10	148 (GT)

$$x^2 = \sum \frac{(0-e)^2}{e}$$

$$x^2 = \frac{30-29.8^{\;2}}{29.8} + \frac{2-2.16^{\;2}}{2.16} + \frac{23-25.2^{\;2}}{25.2} + \frac{4-1.82^{\;2}}{1.82} + \frac{49-46.6^{\;2}}{46.6} +$$

$$\frac{1-3.38^{\;2}}{3.38} + \frac{36-36.4^{\;2}}{36.4} + \frac{3-26.4^{\;2}}{26.4}$$

$$x^2 = 0.0013+0.01+0.19+2.61+0.12+1.68+0.0044+0.05$$

$x^2_{= 4.67}$

Degree of freedom (df) = (c-1) (r-1)

= (2-1) (4-1)

= 1×3

df = 3

Table chi-square at .05 level of significant =7.82

With calculated chi-square =4.67

And table chi-square =7.82   Therefore

Hence the chi-square table value is higher than the calculated chi-square, the hypothesis two is hereby rejected.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1   SUMMARY

Women are key actors in solving the major issues on the development agenda for the coming century, including the need to manage the environment in a sustainable manner, the exploding rate of population and urbanization, food security, human needs with regards to health, education and literacy and also the elimination of poverty in the society. For this reasons, rural development advocates, planners and educators have asserted their role as an essential perquisite for its success. In Nigeria however, the community development policy is designed to integrate communities into the life of nation by delivery services that will empower the people, who will in turn contribute to the development of the country. Can women, as members of the community, constituting a gender group and benefactors of community development initiatives, have claims to having contributed to national development? This is the focus of this research.

More so, Nigeria has since 1975 continued to empower women and a majority of them (women) are still at a disadvantaged position. Given equal access to opportunities and resources, women like men have proved to be efficient, dynamic and indispensable partners in development. Their empowerment therefore

is crucial for enhancing living conditions and achieving development goals. From their response, this was the experience of women in Bwari Local Government Area of Abuja. The coming together of these women in network, they have genuine claims to have contributed to the development of their local government.

5.2   CONCLLUSION

Women are aware of oppression as a result of class difference and biological differences. This findings resulting from the study, shows their struggle to uplift themselves and their families, and inject freshness into their community. It is important to note their level of contribution to the success of the local areas(community) is also determined by their access to finance, for its quite difficult and for some, a solution have been sought. Most of the women that have succeeded, have built strong networks, with different objectives but a common goal of helping themselves, which have directly taken its tool to their success.

Although Bwari community have come a long way, though with help from government, they still do their best in developing their community. The study has proved that the women folk are indispensable partners to the development of their local community and Abuja.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Lack of co-ordination is the bane of community development activities in the country. All tiers of government, including the major stake holders in community development have a role to play in providing funds for the execution of projects. In the local government areas however, though their members have proved to be reliable, they alone cannot be solely responsible, especially for provision of public goods which requires effective mobilization and valuation procedures. This is in view of the fact that income earning opportunities are not so limited and poverty is not endemic.

As indispensable partners in community development discrimination in education and training, hiring and remuneration and promotion as well as inflexible working conditions, lack of access to productive resources and inadequate sharing of family responsibilities, contribute to community development.

As a tool for social development, the possible solutions are not mutually exclusive, indeed often complement others.

- Inspite of the opportunities available to women, they are underrepresented in decision making positions in arts, culture, sports, education, religion, the media and law. This has prevented them from having significant impact on

many key institution and policies. Only when granted the opportunity, can women help eradicate or alleviate poverty.

- More, needs to be done to help women acquire self confidence, self actualization, self esteem and control over their life's and social relationships, because there is every need for women to be in decision making with men for development goals to be met.

- The high and middle class women need to put their differences aside and build networks that will give Nigerian women irrespective of their social status or stages in family circle, a voice to speak.

- Feminist argued that the root cause of misfortune of the women folks lies in patriarchy. It is therefore our duty to continue to advocate for change in culture and tradition that relegate women to the background and keep them inferno to men.

Finally, it will be out of place not to recommend area for further study as more questions have been raised. Questions have been raised why, community development have not succeeded as an instrument of national development? What approach can best solve the women question in Nigeria? Are women's right human's right?

Women studies in Nigeria are seen as a romantic discipline because its subject matter is indeed yet to be clearly defined. Thus there is the need to sponsor researchers in not only areas of health, agriculture, education and law but largely in the area of patriarchy, sexuality, imperialism power and inequality.

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APPENDIX I

Department of Sociology

Caritas University

Amorji-nike, Emene

Enugu.

Dear respondent,

INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO THE RESPONDENTS

I am a final year student of the Department of Sociology, Caritas University, Enugu. I am conducting a research on the topic "women empowerment and community development" a study of Bwari Local Government Area of Abuja.

Your response will be used for academic purpose only. I promise to make all information confidential as your identity is, however not required.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours Sincerely

Osadebe Anthonia .N.

APPENDIX II

Section A: socio- demographic characteristics.

Instruction: please tick (√) the appropriate box (es).

1. Sex: Female only

2. Age: 20-29[ ] 30-39[ ] 40-49 [ ] 50 and above [ ]

3. Marital status: Single [ ] Married [ ] Divorced [ ] Widowed [ ]

4. Occupation: Civil servant [ ] Farmer [ ] Petty trader [ ] Crafting [ ] Others [ ]

5. Level of education: Primary [ ] Secondary [ ] B.Sc and above [ ] None [ ]

Section B: Questionnaire

6. To what extent has the lack of government assistance hindered the empowerment of women and community development?   To a great extent [ ] To some extent [ ] To a little extent [ ] To no extent [ ]

7. What factors are responsible for the lack of women participation in community development?

    Cultural factor [ ] Biological factor [ ] Lack of support from government [ ] Lack of finance [ ]

8. In what ways did you as an individual contributed to development in Bwari? Financially[ ] Material donation [ ] Others [ ]

9. What do you consider the best ways in which women can be empowered? Financially [ ] Materially [ ] Academically [ ] Skill acquisition [ ] None [ ]

10. What ways can be adopted for women to participate effectively in community development?   Government support [ ] Encouragement from the society [ ] Gender equality [ ]

11. Do you know what women empowerment is all about?   Yes [ ] No [ ]

12. Have you had the opportunity to participate in any of the women empowerment programme?   Yes [ ] No [ ]

13. If yes in question numbers 7 have you benefitted from it?   Yes [ ] No [ ]

14. Do you belong to any women society or women group in your community? Yes [ ] No [ ]

15. If yes in question number 14 which of these women group do you belong to? Women farmers association [ ] Women co-operative society [ ] Women traders association [ ] Others [ ]

16. Have you ever participated in the development of your community? Yes [ ] No [ ]

17. In what ways have you encouraged other women in your community to participate in community development?   Through seminars [ ] Through creation of awareness [ ] Through network building [ ] None [ ]

18. Which of the following programmes are you are of?   Bwari agricultural development [ ] Poverty eradication programme for women and children [ ] None [ ]

19. In the past 5 years has government participated in any community project in your area?   Yes [ ] No [ ]

20. To what extent has the project improved the way of your life? To a great extent [ ] To some extent [ ] To a little extent [ ] To no extent [ ]

21. Do you think empowering women would help in community development? Yes [ ] No [ ]

22. Do you think it's necessary for women to be educated? Yes [ ] No [ ]