

DOI: 10.28934/jwee19.34.pp103-108

CASE REPORT

Enhancing Women's Economic Empowerment through G-WiN Project: Research Report



Priscilla Achakpa¹
Gaduwa Housing Estate, Abuja Nigeria
Mirjana Radović-Marković²
Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia

ABSTRACT

The lack of women empowerment calls for research by scholars and policy makers. This article explores the impact of G-WiN project on women economic empowerment in Nigeria. We used questionnaire, interview, web surveys, and direct observation in data collection. Key findings of the study showed that lack of skills and political and economic power affect the marginalization of women in Nigeria. Based on the research results, it was concluded that G-WiN Project plays a critical role in the economic development of women. In line with this, the study recommends that implementation of this and similar programs can support women and girls and improve their position in society.

KEY WORDS: *women, empowerment, education G-WiN project, Nigeria*

¹ Executive Director of Women Environmental Programme, Block E Flat 2 Anambra Court, Gaduwa Housing Estate, after Apo Legislative Quarters, P.O.Box 10176 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria, tel: +2348117295065

² Zmaj Jovina 12, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia, e-mail: mirjana.radovic@ien.bg.ac.rs

Introduction

Women empowerment has been considered differently among scholars. Therefore, we can find a series of women empowerment programmes dedicated to women with the aim to reduce their poverty (Awojobi, 2013). In spite of these difficulties and issues, it has turned out to be broadly acknowledged that advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) is basic to accomplishing sustainable human development, poverty annihilation, and financial development on the African countries and Nigeria specifically (UNFPA, 2014). In this context, the Federal Government of Nigeria approved the implementation of the Girls and Women Initiative in Nigeria (G-WIN) project. The goal of this project is to improve conditions of living for women and girls and reduce their poverty. It is, however, not documented as to what extent this project has achieved its deserved objectives. So, this research investigated enhancing women economic empowerment in Nigeria with respect to the implementation of the G-WIN project.

Goals of the Study

- i. Explore the G-WIN project implementation with an aim to support women economic empowerment in Nigeria.
- ii Examine institutional framework to strengthen women.

Concept of Empowerment

The growing number of initiatives are linked to promoting women empowerment in developing countries (Achakpa and Radović-Marković, 2018). Measuring women economic empowerment is defined as economically enabling women/woman when she has both the capacity to succeed and progress monetarily (Achakpa, 2015), the ability to settle on and follow up on economical choices; to succeed and progress monetarily. Women require skills and resources to contend in business sectors, as well as fair and equal access to economic institutions; to have the power and organization to gain from engaging in economic activities (Radović-Marković, 2016; 2019). They need the capacity to settle on and act on choices, control resources and benefits (Radović-Marković, 2013). Enemu (2001:26) is of the view that "a successful and practical procedure of women empowerment must fundamentally incorporate the extension of women's entrance to education opportunities, skill acquisition and positions of authority".

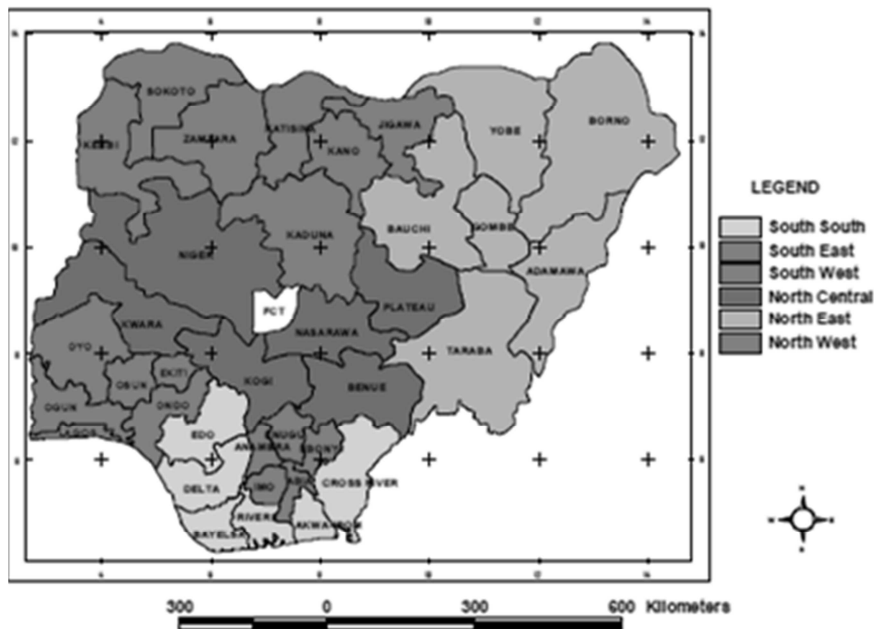
Okemakinde (2014) considered women empowerment as a means to build women capacities and their control over the resources and choices influencing their lives. Woman empowerment is consequently, viewed as a tool for breaking obstacles they are faced in traditional Muslim society .

The Government of Nigeria in 1998 planned a national policy on which was intended to secure women against all types of segregation, discrimination and empower them. This arrangement since appearing has accomplished close to nothing or nothing has been done (Nwakaego, 2013).

Study Area

Nigeria lies between latitudes 4° and 14° N and longitudes 3° and 15° E in West Africa, covering a land mass of $923,768 \text{ km}^2$.

Picture: Nigeria's Geopolitical Zones



Nigeria's population is assessed to be 167 million in 2011, making it the most populated country and one of the biggest nations in Africa. Around 50 percent of the Nigeria's population is female, and 50 percent male. The sex proportion (the quantity of men per 100 women) is 99.

In spite of phenomenal gender equality arrangements and aims, gender imbalance remains a test. Around 56% of the uneducated population is women. Regarding work, women's cooperation in the work drive stays low, with just a single third of Nigerians who secure an occupation in the formal part being women. Participation of women in politics, civil society, leadership and the private sector is limited on local, national and global levels (Castellani, 2014).

Research Method

The total population of the study area is 5521, that comprised of women and girls who benefited from the G-WIN programme directly in the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. However, for an effective work, four Local Government Areas were considered in the study. Therefore, 120 participants were selected from each of the four Local Government Areas, making a total of 2400 participants, who were randomly selected. For data analysis, simple percentages were used. We did research from 2016 to 2018.

The questionnaire was prepared according to the goals of this research. One was administered on the pioneer ministries (Health, Water, Women Affairs and Social development, works and communications) and the beneficiaries of G-WIN Project in selected area.

Results

The age distribution of respondents shows that the project favors people who are adults, as they are responsible, energetic and the capacity to plan for the funds and skills acquired given to them and thus able to use the fund profitably.

The G-WIN Project targets vulnerable women, who majorly work in agricultural sector apart from South West Zone where the project favours more of civil servants. This is an indication that the project is geared towards support to poor families.

On academic attainment, the study revealed that majority of the respondents is educated up to university level.

The study favors the married women because for them they have a lot of responsibilities to carry out to support their families. The widows are also favored because of the sympathy the communities usually have for them as they are bread winners for their families.

On the achievement of project vision and mission, the study revealed that considerable success, especially in the areas of giving women a voice, ensuring parity in the society, stimulating the economy by initiating skills acquisition, access to loan, education. The participants acclaimed that these benefits have pulled them out of poverty, to positive economic growth, thus empowering them through skills acquisition, access to loan, small scale business and financial support.

Beneficiaries of the project got the information about the program via local government support, television and radio and through local association, and are the major sources of information dissemination for women empowerment in the local communities.

The study revealed that the selection processes of the selection of beneficiaries were done democratically by the Local Government, thus eliminating elite capture. Challenges of GWIN project identified include insufficient fund, cultural belief, and low turnout.

Conclusion and Recommendation

This study examined women economic empowerment in Nigeria with emphasis on the G-WiN program. Nigerian women are considered as important contributors to the development of the nation. However, due to some constraints, their full potentials have not been used.

The G-WiN project has significantly strengthened women who took a part in the area of gender equality, increased income and decreased poverty. At the same time, this project provided opportunities to Nigeria's economic growth, sustainable human development and social progress. The study therefore recommends that more women development programs should be formulated and implemented by the government and non-governmental organizations and such programs should enable to reach rural women and girls.

References

- [1] **Achakpa, Priscilla and Radović-Marković, Mirjana.** (2018). Employment Women Through Entrepreneurship Development and Education in Developing Countries. *Journal of Women's Entrepreneurship and Education*, No. (1/2). pp. 17-30.

- [2] **Achakpa, Priscilla.** (2015). The role of education in fostering female entrepreneurship in Nigeria. The Fourth International Scientific Conference Employment, Education and Entrepreneurship.
- [3] **Awojobi, (2013) Awojobi, N.O.** (2013). *Microfinance as a strategy for poverty reduction: The Nigerian experience*. Unpublished Master Thesis, Berlin School of Economics and Law, Berlin, Germany.
- [4] **Castellani, C.** (2014). Literature review: Women's empowerment- Economic and social participation in Africa. Retrieved on 18th February, 2017 from www.worlded.org/WEIInternet/inc/common/_download_pub.cfm?id=15182..3
- [5] **Enemu, F. C.** (2001). Political participation and the economic empowerment of Nigerian women: Imperatives and prospects. In Obi C. I. (ed), *Women's political participation through economic empowerment*. Lagos: O.V.C. Nigeria Limited.
- [6] **National Bureau for Statistics** (2012). Report on Poverty in Nigeria. New York times magazine,
- [7] **Nwakaego, O. A.** (2013). Women empowerment and community development a study of Bwari Local Government Area, F.C.T, Nigeria. An unpublished a research submitted to the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences Caritas University Amorji Nike, Enugu State.
- [8] **Okemakinde, T.** (2014). Women education: Implications for national development in Nigeria. *European Journal of Globalization and Development Research*, 9 (1), 553-564.
- [9] **Radović-Marković, Mirjana** (2016). Empowering Employment. *Journal of Women Entrepreneurships and Educations*, No. 1-2, pp. 3-17
- [10] **Radović-Marković, Mirjana** (2013). Female Entrepreneurship: Theoretical Approaches, *Journal of Women's Entrepreneurship and Education*, No. 1-2, 1-9 p.
- [11] **Radović-Marković, Mirjana and Živanović, Branko.** (2019). Fostering Green Entrepreneurship and Women's Empowerment through Education and Banks' Investments in Tourism: Evidence from Serbia, *Sustainability*, 11, 6826; doi:10.3390/su11236826
- [12] **UNFPA.** (2014). *Gender Equality: Empowering Women*. Retrieved from <http://www.unfpa.org/gender/empowerment.htm>.

Article history: Received: 12 September, 2019

Accepted: 1 December, 2019