



THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA: A CASE STUDY OF OKITIPUPA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The place of women in the global world cannot be over emphasized either in politics, education, and agriculture even in community development and many others that cannot be mentioned in this research work that is why this paper examine and also explore the role of women in sustainable community development in Africa focusing on Okitipupa local government area of Ondo state using both qualitative and quantitative method. The population of the study comprises the women in the local government while 100 women were picked at random for the study. Although many challenges are very much a head of women like gender inequality, funds inadequacy ,limited human resources due to lack of education, the findings reveal that The findings review that the calculated $x^2=18.18 < 3.841 @ 0.005$ significant level the hypothesis was rejected because women are instrumental in sustainable actions, promoting local governance with their little education. The study conclude with recommendations among others; enhancing women's roles in development processes through inclusive governance, Women must be educated and the government must encourage the women by formulating good policies that will give them soft land to operate .

Keywords: Sustainable development, Community, Involvement, Gender

Introduction

Sustainability is a process where human needs and action are addressed in a point that is environmentally friendly and stable. It is the actions and behaviors that take into account the effects individual actions have on the global world and the society at large and towards future generation. Every human now conscious about their environment, which they can live not to cause harm to their neighbours and themselves and how they can be mindful of that actions many communities and societies around the globe have taken steps in practicing sustainable development which is one of the roots of sustainable community development which take into cognizance the issue of sustainable economically, socially and environmentally in the community.

Sustainable community can be defined as a community planned, built or modified to promote sustainable living. Sustainable communities tend to focus on environmental and economic sustainability, urban infrastructure, social equality and local governance. It addresses multiple needs, not just one at the exclusion of all others. It is a place where people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives feel welcome and safe, where every group has a seat at the decision-making table and where prosperity is shared. Sustainable communities make people feel belong, no matter what the situation may be. Every community is secured because of the understanding between the people, even they are believed in the security of the present and also the future. A sustainable community manages and monitors its human, natural and financial capital to meet current needs while assuring that adequate resources are ready for future born and unborn generation.

The recognition of the significance of the place and the role of women in the society is a current social preoccupation. Whether in politics, economic, education or generally, women were portrayed as not being able to provide a fertile ground for academic debate in African society in terms of their limited roles in the past. As a result of this neglect, record has it that history of African women and their contribution to sustainable community development were not taken into consideration, because the writing and studies of history were male oriented by the Europeans who had patriarchal traditions Akinyombo (2012). In the African setting, the significance of women cannot be overemphasized as they contribute immensely to their community, women make the society to be sustainable because they are the soul of the functional

level in the society, women go to the bush to fetch firewood which they used in cooking food for their family, the firewood resulted to carbon monoxide that causes climate change in the world, but proper training of these women will allow them to know the impact of this in their environment so that they can make the environment they live to be sustainable.

Women are called agents of change for sustainable community development in the society, from the time immemorial women and girls have contributed immensely to the growth and development of communities in various dimensions; politically, socially and economically and environmentally(Yidau,etal,2021) in Ifeoma F.U, Women as Agents of Positive Change for sustainable Community Development River state Journal of Education. Women involved in domestic economic through agriculture they farmed along their husbands by producing goods and services, they also participated in the production of oil palm and palm kernel; for sustainable livelihood (Ohaegbuchi, 2014, Nwankwo, 2010, Bawa, Donye&Nuhu, 2010).

Hence, African women in moving sustainable community development up involved in rural businesses especially in petty trading which involved around the African soil (Nwankwo&Okeke,2017)Generally, women are the back bone of every society, because they provide human capital; in the form of labour to local industry and commerce through their natural reproduction, without women there would be no labour resources in communities around the world including Africa (Elmhirst&Resurrecion,2012;United Nations,2014). Actually, because of the hazard encounter by the women in the process of either fetching firewood, excavating clay from the ground made them to be manager in natural resources management, and major contributors to environmental conservation. Women play very authentic roles in protecting communities against issues like ozone layer depletion, environmental pollution as well as degradation portending adverse effect on environmental sustainability. Absolutely without mincing word, African women are regarded as uneducated, weaker sex, deprived and under privilege. The same study discussed the active involvement of women traditionally in farming and other related community development activities even though their contributions have remain largely unmentioned and underrated.

In Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo state, most of the projects embarked upon in the past in the rural communities excluded women from being participants, but due to the extensive education and orientation given to them, it has made them to be actively involved for sustainable

life in the community by driving positive change across various aspects like the environment, economy and the social well-being, they are the forefront of grassroots movements and actively involved in many projects that bring about sustainable community development. Empowerment of women in this area lead to more sustainable communities by promoting education, healthcare, and families and society at large.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the role of women in achieving the sustainable community development in the study area and the specific objectives are to:

- (i) examine the role of women in achieving sustainable development in the study area
- (ii) assess the challenges of that the women face in achieving the goal in the study area

Research Questions.

- (i)What are the roles play by the women in the study area to achieve the sustainable community in the study area?
- (ii)What are the challenges face by the women in achieving the sustainable community development in the study area?

Hypotheses of the Study.

- (i)There is no significant relationship between the role of the women and sustainable development in the study area.
- (ii) There is no significant difference in the challenges face by women in achieving sustainable development in the study are.

Methodology

Research design survey was used in this study, the design was appropriate for the study because it allows information to be obtained from a representative's sample of the population as they exist, the population of the study consisted of consisted of 100 women in the study area, the sample was carefully selected randomly across the length and breadth of the local government area which comprises 13political wards and 15 towns by using a random sampling technique. A questionnaire was used to get information from the respondents which includes section by section. The data from the questionnaire were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics then the hypotheses were tested using chi-square test at 0.05 level of significance

Discussion on Findings

The findings from the research work shows that women dominate major aspects like, domestic job, office job and others, it was discovered that the office of the women are not in the other room in the study areas, majority of the women are into agrarian work while other are helping their husband to do one thing or the other, it was also discovered that women in this area are not well educated, men are well educated than them, the leadership ladder for women are limited compare to the men in the local government. It was also discovered that this work will fill a lot of gap in the study of women in the study area, there are lots of work that have been done ,but this work will fill some gap which was left undone by other researchers

Socio-economic characteristic of the Respondents

Table 1: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Group	Numbers	Percentage (%)
30 – 34	30	30
35 – 39	30	30
40 – 44	15	15
45 – 49	15	15
50 – 54	5	12
55 – 59	5	10
Total	100	100

From the table 1 above is the age distributions of the respondents range from 30 – 59 years. Age group 30 – 34 has thirty respondents with 30 percent. The respondents between ages of 35 – 39 has total number of 30 respondents with 30 percent. Follow by 40 – 44 ages with 15 percent. 44 – 49 ages of 15 respondents with 15 percent and ages 50 – 54 with 5 respondents with 5 percent and the last but not the least is 55 – 59 ages with total number of 5 respondents with 5 percent

Table 2: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Numbers	Percentage (%)
Single	40	40
Married	30	30
Divorced	20	20
Widow	10	10
Total	100	100

Table 2 shows the marital status of the respondents there are 100 total numbers of the respondents while single respondents have 40 (Forty) with 40percent and filled by the married with total number of 30 respondents with 30percent. Divorce is the third in the role with 20 respondents with 20 percent and the list is widow with total numbers of 10 (Ten) respondents into 10 percent.

Table 3: Education Level of Respondents

Educational Level	Number	Percentage
HND/University	30	30
NCE/OND	30	30
SSCE	20	20
Primary Six	20	20
Total	100	100

Table 3: shows the educational qualification of the respondent in the study area. HND/University graduate of are respondents are 30 (Thirty) with 30 percent followed by the OND/NCE holders with total number of 30 respondents and 30 percent and secondary school certificate holders are 20 in numbers with 20 percent and the least is primary six certificate holders with 20 percent, which shows that the respondents are relatively educated, because of the largest respondents which are the university graduates.

Analysis of the Research Hypotheses

Hypothesis1: There is no significant relationship between the educational status of the women and their role in achieving the sustainable community development.

Category	Yes	No	Total
Illiteracy	30	70	100
Literacy	60	40	100
Total	90	110	200

Chi-square Analysis of Educational Level

O_1	E_1	$O_1 - E_1$	$(O_1 - E_1)^2$	$(O_1 - E_1)^{2/E}$
30	45	-15	225	5
70	55	15	225	4.09
60	45	15	225	5
40	55	-15	225	4.09
200	200	0	1000	$X^2 = 18.18$

Degree of freedom $(R - 1) (C - 1) = (2 - 1) (2) = 1$



Level of significant = 0.05, $\chi^2 = 18.18$, table value = 3.841. We reject the hypothesis, since at the calculated value is greater than the table value which means the educational status of the women and their role is significantly influenced the place of women to achieve sustainable community development in the study area.

Chi-Square	18.18 ^a	1	0.05
Table value like hood Ratio	3. 842	1	0.05
Valid cases	2		

Since Cal value is greater than table value $18.18 < 3.841$.

H₁: there is no significance relationship in the age of the respondents and their involvement in sustainable community development

Hypothesis 2-There is no significance difference in the challenges faced by women in respect to their place in sustainable community development

	Yes	No	Total
Glass ceiling	80	20	100
Religion	40	60	100
Total	120	80	200

O ₁	E ₁	O ₁ – E ₁	(O ₁ – E ₁) ²	(O ₁ – E ₁) ² /E
80	60	20	400	6.6
20	40	-20	400	10
60	60	0	0	6.6
40	40	0	0	10
200	200	0	800	(7.6)

Degree of freedom = 1, significant level = 0.05, table value = 3.841, Cal value = 7.6 the hypothesis is rejected since at the calculated value is greater than the table value which means the challenges faced by the women is significantly influenced the place of women in their activities to achieve sustainable community development in the study area.

	Cases	Missing		Total
Glass ceiling and Religion	N	Percentage	N	Percentage
	2	(%)	2	100%

	Value	df	Assumption
Chi-Square Cal	7.6 ^a	1	0.00
Table Value	3.841	1	0.00
Number of valid cases 2			

$$P < 0.050, x^2 = 7.6 \text{ } x^{2\text{tablevalue}} = 3.841$$

Conclusion

The place of African women in Sustainable community development is very important in the global world, this work shows the type of women. Before, the African women are fragile and uneducated in nature, but thanks to the civilized world, women are leaders and advocates of many causes, African women respect their husband as much as themselves, but they realized that the community they live must be sustainable for themselves and the future unborn children and there a lot of measure they put in place meanwhile, good things cannot stand without challenges. Glass ceiling is one of the hindrances all over the globe that educated women faced, which is the same in this study area. Religion, takes special aspect in affecting the development of women to achieve sustainable community development.



Recommendations:

- (i) Women must be educated to know what to do in order to achieve the sustainable community development
- (ii) Challenges that face women must be reduced to the barest minimum in order for the women to achieve the sustainable community development.
- (iii) Government must encourage the women by doing good policies that will favour them
- (iv) There must be a total support to the women like the 35% affirmative during former President Jonathan's era

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