JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



Sustaining Community Development Programmes Through Increase Women's Participation: an Analysis of Selected Communities in Kogi Central, Nigeria

Dr. Lawrence Oburevu Ibrahim, Dr. Femi Owemidu Bamidele, Abdulwahid Yusuf

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Confluence University of Science and Technology, Osara, Kogi State

Abstract

This research examines the factors impeding women's participation in community development programmes, with the aim of fostering more sustainable implementation of such programmes within selected communities in Adavi and Okehi Local Government Areas of Kogi State, Nigeria. A multi-stage sampling and systematic random sampling method was employed to collect primary data, utilizing the administration of questionnaire to respondents, supplemented by focus group discussions. The study surveyed 260 respondents across four communities to ideFntify barriers to women's engagement. Both descriptive and quantitative research methodologies were employed to analyze the collected data. The findings indicate a significant underrepresentation of women in three of the communities examined when compared to male participation. The persistence of factors restricting women's involvement poses a threat to the sustainability of community development programmes. Some of these factors includes; Socio-cultural, Economic, Educational, political and Institutional factors. To address this pressing challenge, the study proffers comprehensive recommendations aimed at enhancing women's participation in community development programmmes. Strengthening this engagement is crucial not only for improving the socio-economic conditions of women in these communities but also for ensuring the long-term viability and efficacy of community development programmes.

Keywords: Community Development Programmes, Women's involvement and Sustainability.

1.0 Introduction

The removal of subsidy in oil prices has led to the current economic crisis in the country and significantly has negative effect on the livelihoods of many families in Nigeria. The incubation and propagation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) through the various community development programmes in Nigeria holds a lot of potential for bailing out Nigerians families especially women from the incessant economic crisis. Several government regimes and NGOs over the years have role out community development programmes that have claim billions of naira. With little or no serious concern on the level of women participation in these programme. According to Shimawua, (2020) women have begun to make wrong assumptions believing that their major roles are to make babies and take care of their babies and husband. Yet, in developed countries, women's participation in community development programmes has come to stay as one of the most

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



important factors considered by government and NGO in empowering families. According to Ajani, et. al. (2010), research findings show that some of the reasons for failure of past government and NGO's sponsored community development programmes were poor policy formulation, inconsistency in implementation of programmes, corruption and poor women participation. Women generally have contributed not only to the well-being of their families but also to the development of their community in many ways. However, there are factor mitigating women participation in community development programmes in some communities. Therefore. This research paper seeks to evaluate key factors mitigating women's participation in community development programmes in two communities in Okehi and two other communities in Adavi local government areas of Kogi State, Nigeria.

The Study Area

The study area is located in Kogi state, in the north-central zone of Nigeria. The state is located between longitudes $5^0$18E to $7^0$45E and latitude $6^0$3'N to $11^0 2^0$N. It is popularly called the confluence state due to the fact that the confluence of Rivers Niger and Benue occurs there. Its capital is Lokoja, see figure 1. It has 21 local government areas which are: Adavi, Ajaokuta, Ankpa, Bassa, Dekina, Ibaji, Idah, Igalamela-Odolu, Ijumu, Kabba/Bunu, Koton Karfe, Lokoja, Mopa-Muro, Ofu, Ogori/Magongo, Okehi, Okene, Olamaboro, Omala, Yagba East, Yagba West. The estimated land area of Kogi State is 29,833 km^2 with a population of 3,278,487 NPC, (2006). The projected population as at 2014 using 3.2% growth rate was 4,218,101. The vegetation zone of the State is Sudan Savanna experiencing dry and wet seasons with the usual harmattan period. The mean annual temperature is 32.1^{o}C, while the mean annual rainfall is 800mm. The three major ethnic groups and languages are Igala, Ebira and Okun, Kogi State ADP, (2014). The people of the State are pre-dominantly farmers engaged in crop and livestock production. It is estimated that about 70% of the population live in rural areas Omang, et. al. (2022). Many communities in the LGAs are characterized by limited access to social services such as electricity, access roads, markets, health and educational facilities and safe drinking water. Many of the communities in the state are living in isolation as a result of poor road network; this has great negative implication for agricultural productivity in the state and also the country in general, O'Reilly, (2021).

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



Figure 1: Kogi State in Nigeria
Source: GIS Laboratory Federal University, Lokoja, 2025

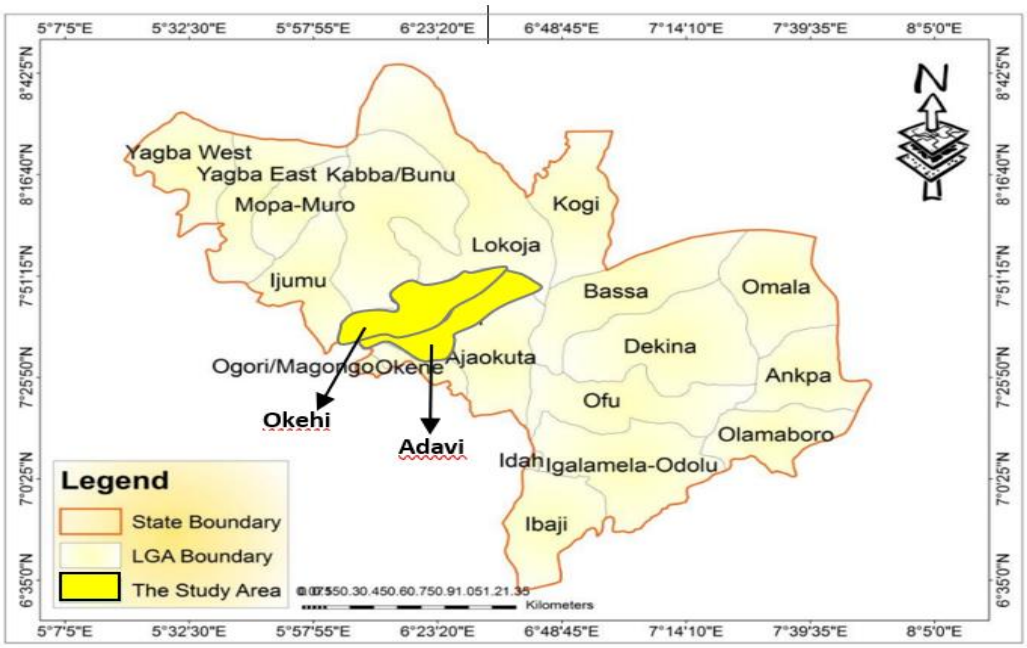


Figure 2: Study Area in Kogi State
Source: GIS Laboratory Federal University, Lokoja, 2025

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



2.0 Materials and Methods

A multi-stage sampling technique was used to select respondents for this study. The first stage involved the purposive sampling of two (2) Local Government Areas (Adavi and Okehi from the 21 local government areas in the state) The second stage was a random sampling of two (2) communities from each of the Local Government Area making a total of four (4) communities; Ogaminana, Osara, Ihima and Eika respectively. The four communities were selected in order to examine the topic: sustaining community development programmes through increase women's participation: an analysis of selected communities in Kogi State, Nigeria. The third stage was random sampling of five (5) action groups from each of the four (4) communities making a total of twenty (20) action groups. Out of the twenty (20) action groups, each present the head of the group accompanied with twelve (12) key members making a total of thirteen (13) members to give a total of two hundred and sixty (260) respondents for this study. Data were collected with the aid of questionnaire complemented with group interview scheduled and was analyzed using both frequency percentage table and descriptive account. Therefore, this method of data collection and analysis for the research work was deemed appropriate for this study as it aimed to collect and analyze data collected in a systematic manner. The questionnaire was structure in this form, the first section was on personal data of the respondents while the second section was to collect information on the level of participation of respondents and factors that mired women participation in community development programmes through focus group discussion. The researchers administered the questionnaire with the help of two research assistants for each community. The research assistants were briefed by the researcher on the modalities of administration and collection of the instrument. The researchers and research assistants administered the questionnaire to the respondents and collected it back on the spot.

3.0 Result and Discussion

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Age Distribution

Age was identified as the number of years the respondent had lived on earth at the time of interview. Age has been found to affect an individuals' interest, perception and conduct as regards decision to participate in certain developmental activities and programmes. **Table 1**, shows that majority of the respondents were adults within the age range of 30 – 38 and 39 – 47 years across the four communities.

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



Ogaminna with (42.7%) & (31.9%), Osara (44.6%) & (35.8%), Ihima (45.3%) & (31.1%) and Eika (47.3%) & (39.2%) respectively which, implies that respondents were in the most productive stage of their life. The age of an individual is expected to have direct relationship with productivity in community development activities. However, those respondents within the age range of below 20 and 48 above are less in number, Ogaminna with (6.1%) & (4.2%), Osara (4.2%) & (3.8%), Ihima (2.9%) & (11.9%) and Eika (1.5%) & (3.5%) respectively. which goes to show that this age group have low interest in taking decision to participate in development activities and programmes within their community.

Distribution of the Respondents Based on Age

Age (years)	OGAMINANA		OSARA		IHIMA		EIKA	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 20	16	6.1	11	4.2	6	2.9	4	1.5
21 – 29	39	15.0	30	11.5	24	9.2	22	8.4
30 – 38	111	42.7	116	44.6	118	45.3	123	47.3
39 – 47	83	31.9	93	35.8	81	31.1	102	39.2
48 - & above	11	4.2	10	3.8	31	11.9	9	3.5
Total	**260**	**100**	**260**	**100**	**260**	**100**	**260**	**100**

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Marital Status

Marital status of the respondents as shown in Table 2, indicated that majority of the respondents were married; Ogaminna with (95.0%), Osara (96.5%), Ihima (91.9%) and Eika (96.9%) respectively. were single and other forms of marital status such as separated, divorced or widowed were low. Ogaminna with (3.81%) & (1.2%), Osara (0.8%) & (2.7%), Ihima (4.6%) & (3.5%) and Eika (1.2%) & (1.9%). However, it can be readily seen that, the high proportion of rural women who were married is an indication that the respondents were responsible adults. It also connotes that married women are more willing to participate in community development activities in supporting their family when compared to others. It also appears that single persons shoulder less responsibility for not showing much interest.

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



Distribution of the Respondents Based on Marital Status								
Marital Status	OGAMINANA		OSARA		IHIMA		EIKA	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	10	3.8	2	0.8	12	4.6	3	1.2
Married	247	95.0	251	96.5	239	91.9	252	96.9
Others	3	1.2	7	2.7	9	3.5	5	1.9
Total	260	100	260	100	260	100	260	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

Major Occupation

The result, shows that (56.1%) & (33.8%) of the participants in Ogaminana were into trading and farming while (9.2%) & (0.8%) are artisan and civil servant. In Osara (59.2%) & (26.1%) of the participants were in trading and farming, while (13.1%) & (1.5%) are artisan and civil servant. In Ihima (55.4%) & (35.0%) were in trading and farming while (9.2%) & (0.4%) were into artisan and civil servant. In Eika (59.6%) & (26.5%) were in trading and farming, while (13.5%) & (1.1%) were into artisan and civil servant. This reveals that greatest percentage of the respondents depend majorly on trading and farming activities as their source of income and livelihood. Nonetheless, few percentage of the respondent depend on artisans and civil servant for their source of livelihood. The involvement of the respondents in these economic activities aliened with their level of education which, hindered them from securing a gainful white-collar job within and outside their community.

Distribution of the Respondents Based on Occupation								
Occupation	OGAMINANA		OSARA		IHIMA		EIKA	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Farming	146	56.1	154	59.2	144	55.4	155	59.6
Trading	88	33.8	68	26.1	91	35.0	69	26.5
Artisans	24	9.2	34	13.1	24	9.2	35	13.5
Civil servant	2	0.8	4	1.5	1	0.4	3	1.1
Total	260	100	260	100	260	100	260	100

Source: Field Survey, 2025

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



Focus Group Discussion within Adavi and Okehi L.G.A.

Group Discussion in Ogaminana

The results obtained were as follows: on the issue of participants recognizing community development programmes carried out by government and non-governmental organizations; The respondents acknowledged, Appeal, KG-Care, Action-Aid community development programmes in their communities among others. On the issue of whether they were marginalized, Participants expressed their concerns regarding their marginalization during the programmes especially during policy formulation and implementation phases of these programs that women have low representation, they emphasizing the necessity of high number of women involvements at these two-key levels of the programme life circle, to ensure program sustainability. On the issue of constrain effecting women participation in this programmes, majority of the respondents mentioned the following factors; societal beliefs on women in the State, poverty, early marriage, and restrictive religious practices. The next opinion sought for was their advice. They respondents advised both the government and non-governmental organizations on the importance of women inclusiveness in policy-making, implementation and adequate financial support to enhance the effectiveness of community development programs in the area.

Group Discussion in Osara

The results obtained were as follows: Participants recognize government and non-governmental development programmes in their community which include; Action-Aid, Appeal, KG-Care, FADAMA among others. On the issue of whether they were marginalized, Participants expressed their concerns regarding their marginalization during the programmes especially projects relating to farming, road construction, policy formulation and implementation phases of these programs, participants emphasizing the necessity of high number of women involvements to ensure program sustainability. On the issue of constrain effecting women's participation in this programmes. majority of the respondents mentioned the following factors: poor access to financial services like loan, discrimination, unequal political opportunities, cultural norms against women and poor information dissemination by the initiatives. The next opinion sought for was on their advice. They added that there should be increase in the number of implemented programme in Osara community because of its size, with 26 community covering a wide landmass. They

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



plead with government and other agencies to place more priority on dam project in their community due to the current water scarcity they are experiencing in Osara community.

Group Discussion in Ihima

The results obtained were as follows: on the issue of participants recognize non-governmental organizations in their community, they acknowledge, KG-Care Program, Appeal Program, Ihima Liberation Initiative Program, Elite Initiative Program, and the Bar. Natasha Initiative Foundation Program. among others. On the issue of whether they were marginalized, Participants expressed their concerns regarding their marginalization during the programmes especially projects relating to farming, road construction, policy formulation and implementation phases of these programs, participants emphasizing the necessity of high number of women involvements to ensure program sustainability. On the issue of constrain effecting women's participation in this programmes. majority of the respondents, mentioned the following factors: government policy not gender inclusive, Corruption whereby projects are been highjacked by politician or diverted from the top to other areas, ineffective advocacy and sensitization system. The next opinion sought for was on their advice Their advice is that women should be registered before participating in any of the programme. In addition, enhancing community engagement at all stages of program circle, establishing robust monitoring plans for projects. They also stress community involvement at both policy and implementation stage.

Group Discussion in Eika

The results obtained were as follows: on the issue of participants recognize non-governmental organizations in their community which include; Hayat Foundation, KG-Care, and Appeal, among others. On the issue of whether they were marginalized, Participants did not expressed concerns regarding their marginalization during the programmes. On the issue of constrain effecting women's participation in this programmes. majority of the respondents, mentioned these factors: the need to increase budget for community programmes, the elimination of 10% counterpart funding before access programmes, poor awareness mechanism and more women to workwith agencies saddled with the responsibility of programme initiation and implementation. The next opinion sought for was on their advice to both government and non-governmental organizations. Participants recommended that future programs should include community consultations to address

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



specific needs effecting local communities, they also stressed the importance of project sustainability through the use of quality materials and sticking to project specifications at all level of implementation.

4.0 Conclusion

Out of the four communities studied in Adavi and Okehi Local Government Area, three showed low levels of women's participation in community development programmes, while only one had a slight high level of involvement. Overall, women's participation in these programmes is generally low, which could affect the success and sustainability of community projects. Increasing women's involvement in community development is very important because their participation is key to achieving lasting and meaningful progress.

This study was carried out to understand and address the ongoing challenges that prevent women from fully taking part in development activities in the selected communities. The results show that several connected issues; such as cultural beliefs, financial challenges, lack of education, low political representation, corruption, cultural norm against women and weak institutions; are major reasons why women are not actively involved in both government and non-government programmes. Generally, these factors mentioned can be summarized into socio-cultural, economic, educational, political and institutional factors. To improve the success and impact of community development projects, it is necessary to remove these barriers and create more opportunities for women to participate. The study also highlights the importance of encouraging women's involvement in areas like Adavi and Okehi Local Government Areas in Kogi Central, as well as in other parts of the State. When more women take part in development programmes, it can lead to stronger and more sustainable projects and help raise the overall standard of living in the communities. Supporting women's participation is not only fair, but it also helps reduce poverty and promotes social and economic development across Nigeria.

5.0 Recommendations

Recommendations made based on the study findings:

Review of Government Policy on Women's Involvement in Community Programs: It is essential to review and strengthen government policies that encourage women's participation in community development programs. The government should prioritize creating policies

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



that directly address the challenges women face in accessing and engaging with community initiatives. This includes promoting gender-inclusive programs, offering financial and logistical support for women, and establishing clear pathways for their active involvement in local governance and decision-making processes. The government can also empower women to become key players in driving community development.

Eradication of Corruption in Government and Non-Governmental Organizations: the eradication of corruption within both governmental and non-governmental organizations is vital for ensuring that resources intended for women's empowerment and community development reach the intended beneficiaries. Corruption often undermines the effectiveness of programs aimed at improving the livelihoods of rural women, diverting resources and perpetuating inequality. To create an enabling environment for women's participation in development, both public and private sectors must take a firm stance against corruption. Transparent governance, proper accountability mechanisms, and rigorous oversight can help ensure that women in rural communities benefit equitably from development programs and services.

Improving Access to Information for Women: Ensuring that local women have access to useful information is crucial for enhancing their participation in development activities. This information can come through various channels, such as journals, media reports, and other forms of literature that can influence their decision-making. As local women gain better access to educational resources, they are better equipped to improve their skills, knowledge, and overall capacity to make informed decisions that positively affect their lives and communities. In addition, efforts be made to facilitate easier access to information through media campaigns, community outreach, and educational programs, thus enabling local women to engage more fully in activities that can improve their standard of living.

Increased Advocacy and Sensitization Visits to Rural Women: development agencies, along with the State Ministry of Women Affairs and the Community Development Unit under the Department of Education at the Local Government Areas, should ramp up advocacy and sensitization efforts in rural communities. These visits should aim to encourage women to participate actively in community development programs, as this would enhance their decision-making abilities and contribute to the

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



development of their communities. It is crucial to raise awareness among rural women about the benefits of engaging in development activities, such as improved social, economic, and political opportunities. The more women are informed about the importance of their participation, the more likely they are to take part in initiatives that can drive positive change within their communities.

Formal Education: Formal education for women plays a significant role in advancing women understanding of development issues and the importance of active participation. There is also the need to enhance women's economic empowerment through expand access to financial services, vocational training opportunities, and eliminate workplace gender discrimination, cultural and religious constraints that limit women's economic opportunities need to be address.

References

Afolayan, G. E. (2021). Non-formal education as a tool for empowering girls and women in a religiously conservative context: The case of northern Nigeria (Doctoral dissertation, Murdoch University). Murdoch University.

Akinboyo, O. L. (2020). Rethinking young adults' entrepreneurial program policies and barriers on enterprise performance in Nigeria (Doctoral dissertation, Walden University). Walden University.

Bonjoru, F. H., Akinnagbe, O. M. and Ajayi, A. R. (2010). Challenges of Women Farmers' Participation in the National Fadama Development Programme Phase II in Taraba State, Nigeria. In proceedings of 15th Annual National Conference of Agricultural Extension Society of Nigeria, 10 – 14 May, 2010. Pg 10 – 18

Kogi State Agricultural Development Project (KADP) (2014). Annual Progress Report, Lokoja, Kogi State.

Muhammed, Y. (2015). Impact of Survival Farming Intervention Programme (SFIP) in Selected LGAs of Kogi State, Nigeria. An MSc Thesis, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

National Population Commission (2006). "Nigeria's National Census" NPC, Abuja.

Omang, A. T., Okpa, J. T., & Okoi, O. N. (2022). Women's empowerment and the well-being of the unemployed women in Yakurr, Nigeria. Journal of International Women's Studies, 24(1), 1–19.

O'Reilly, A. (Ed.). (2021). Maternal theory: The essential readings. Demeter Press

Pretty, J. N. and Volouhe, S. D. (1997). 'Using Rapid of Participatory Rural Appraisal', In: Burton, E. S., Robert, P. B. and Andrew, J. S. (eds), Improving Agricultural Extension- A reference manual, Rome: FAO.

Sabo, E. (2006). Participatory Assessment of the Impact of Women in Agriculture Programme of Borno State, Nigeria. In:

JOURNAL OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS
VOL30, NO 5. SEPTEMBER, 2025
https://nitpjournals.ng/index.php/jnitp/



Journal for Tropical Agriculture. 1(44): 52-56

Shimawua, D. (2020). The role of non-governmental organizations in poverty alleviation and community development in Nigeria: A case of Aisha Buhari Foundation. International Journal of Advanced Research in Global Politics, Governance and Management.

Verner, D. and Verner, M. (2005). Economic Impacts of Professional training in Informal Sector: The Case Study of the Labour Force Training Programme in Cote d'voire. World