

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN AKPABUYO
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE**

BY

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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that OKON WINIFRED EFFIONG with Matric Number: SOC/13/1299 carried out this project in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of the Social Sciences. Federal University Oye Ekiti, Ekiti, under my supervision.

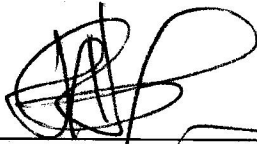


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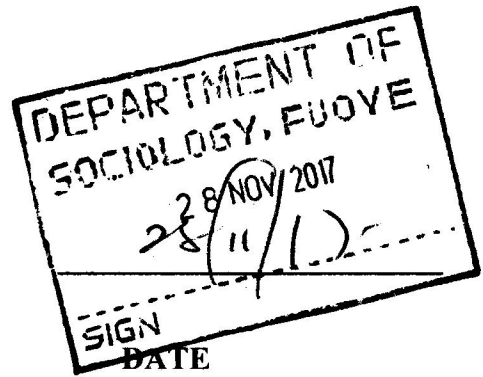
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DEDICATION

This research work is dedication to the ALMIGHTY GOD, the maker of heaven and earth, my **CREATOR**, the lifter of my head , my **COMFORTER**, my **SAVIOUR**, my **ALL**, and also to **the** most wonderful parent on earth, Mrs. Ekanem Effiong Okon for her support spiritually and **financially**.

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I wish to use this medium to appreciate my supervisor, Dr. Anthony Adebayo for his **guidance** in carrying out this study. Thank you so much for your understanding and support **during the whole process** of this work. May the Almighty God also guide you in all your **endeavors**.

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to ascertain women empowerment and community **development** in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State. To achieve the purpose of this study, four hypotheses were formulated.

Literature review was carried out according to the variables of the study. the methodology adopted for study was Quantitative research design. Samples of two hundred (200) women were randomly selected for the study. The selection was done through multi-stage sampling techniques. A questionnaire formulation was used for data collection as the only instrument.

Chi-square test of independence was adopted to test hypotheses directing the study. The result of the analysis revealed that government assistance, cultural factor, women's contribution and academic empowerment/gender equality significantly influenced women empowerment and community development.

Based on this finding, it was concluding that Women are aware of the oppression as a result of class difference and cultural differences. Women folk are indispensable partners to the development of their local community and Cross River State if given the opportunity or privilege, in equal gender, education empowerment, full participants in community development project, and a fair share in political offices and many more. And also recommended that all tiers of government, including the major stake holders in community development should help in providing funds for the execution of projects proposed by the rural women; women should be granted the opportunities in decision making, position in arts, culture, sports, education, religion, the media and law so as to help eradicate or alleviate poverty and in turn develop the community.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

In the past years, gender discrimination in education, politics and religion practice has been so fast and which favored the male over the female was very progressive yet the government could not do anything to either stop or reverse it, (Kema, 2003). This chapter seeks to explore the concept how women can be empowered in community development with the aim of creating a path way to fighting gender inequality and also cultural factor.

The colonial government laid a very bad foundation for education generally and women's education in particular and even our culture also hinder or limited women empowerment. 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 unit accorded to women in education suggests that apart from women benefiting from general education, there will be a measure of encouragement for them towards specialization in sciences, engineering and technology. Another area where 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 organization 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 programmed 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 sudden wishes and changes 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 that affect them more especially on reproductive health.

Onus (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 everywhere in the world, women have two jobs, around the home and outside it. This assertion implies that women have a lot of contribution to make

towards the healthy socio-economic development of every country, 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 that 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.

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 (Circle and Smoke 1977).

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.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The major problem facing the Akpabuyo 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 of Akpabuyo community 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 Akpabuyo local Government of Cross River State.

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. 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.

Finally, the problem of community development in Nigeria especially Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State 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 leaderships resulting to stagnation in poverty and underdevelopment.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i. To what extent has lack of government assistance hindered women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo local government of Cross State?
- ii. What are the problems that hindering women's participating or involve in community development?

iii. In ways have women contributed or initiate to the development of Akpabuyo local government?

iv. What are the method or strategies can be adopted to enhance participation in community development (and how women can be empowered) in Akpabuyo community?

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 Akpabuyo community. The specific objectives can be summed up to this.

i. To identify ways by which government assistance can help in women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo local government.

ii. To identify the problems that hinder women's associate or participation in community development.

iii. To find out ways or method women can contribute to the development of Akpabuyo local government of cross river state.

iv. To find out how women can be empowered or enhancement in their community development in participation in Akpabuyo local government of cross river state.

1.5 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

In order to answer the stated research questions, the following hypothesis are formulated;

i. There is no significant influence to any extent of government assistance on women empowerment and community development.

ii. Cultural factors have no negative influence on women's participation in community development.

iii. Women's contributions in any ways generate no impact on community development.

iv. Academic empowerment/ Gender equality have no significant influence on women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo local government.

1.6 ASSUMPTION OF THE STUDY

This study is carried out under the assumption that;

i. Government assistance to a great extent has influence on women empowerment and community development.

ii. Women empowerment and community development relates significantly with cultural factors and other factor.

iii. Women contribution has a great impact on community development.

iv. Academic empowerment/Gender equality has great positive significant influence on women empowerment and community development.

v. The questionnaire instrument is a reliable and valid in method for assessing the hindrance of women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo local government of cross river state.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study will serve as a tool for energizing the various ways in which women empowerment will contribute to community development.

This research is concerned, that women's right are human and poverty is feminine. 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 the 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 2017(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 Nigerian women irrespective of class, age, tribe and religion, the strength that can be reckoned with,

also through this study International and the local sponsors will be educated about the contributions of women networks to community development in Akpabuyo local government.

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

1.8 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The study was on examining the hindrance on women empowerment and community development. The researcher's work cannot cover all the local Government Area of Cross River State because of the limitation of time and the resources available to carry out the investigation in which the researcher narrow it to Akpabuyo local government as the case study area. The

major challenge or difficulty faced for the work was the unwillingness of the respondents to complete and return the questionnaire honestly and accurately. Also some of the respondents (mainly house wives) withdraw from participation.

1.9 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study was delimited in scope to majorly married men women in Cross River State, Akpabuyo local government in particular these are people who have experience the true position of gender discrimination as a result of government programmed, cultural and traditional factors and perception in terms of headship and power.

The nature of job, position, ability, involvement, contribution of women has drastically influence their empowerment and community development which needs an urgent technique to address in solving or curbing the menace.

1.9.2 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

To avoid ambiguity, it is very important to give operational definition of terms as used in the context of the study. These including;

i. Community: As a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.

It can also define as those patterns of action and interaction that are shaped by a people's daily activities in a relatively permanent place of residence.

ii. Development: The gradual growth of so that it becomes more advance, stronger. Its involve the total transformation and mobilization of society

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

iv. Women: 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.

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

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviewed literature on women empowerment and community development with emphasis on the factors that hinders women empowerment and the effect of gender inequality on women socio-economic status on community development. The researcher reviewed books on psychology, and book of readings in sociology as well as journal articles from the internet, and magazines.

The review was done under the following

- 2.1. Theoretical framework on women empowerment
- 2.2. Obstacles to effective participation of women in community development
- 2.3. Roles of women organizations in women empowerment
- 2.4 Contributions of women in national development
- 2.5 Strategies for developing capacities of women
- 2.6 Summary of literature

2.1 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

According to (business dictionary) “A theory is set of assumptions, propositions, or accepted facts that attempts to provide a plausible or rational explanation of cause and effect (causal) relationships among a group of observed phenomenon. In this study, two theories are used as Socio-Cultural determinants and Liberal feminism.

2.1.1 SOCIO-CULTURAL DETERMINANTS

Socio-cultural approach is the best approach to adopt as my theoretical framework, because it is the cultural 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 thus 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 view point of women, been with the assumptions that human behavior and conduct are largely directed and determined by culture that is learned recipes for behaviors shared by member of a society.

Prominent supporters of this view include Ann Oakley, Bruno Bettheim, Gnestine Fried and Sherry B. Ortneer. From their perspective, gender role are the product of culture rather than biology and as such the present condition of women, particularly in Akpabuyo local government.

However, as earlier stated, 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.

Sherry B. Ortneer (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 time 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 postulates that thus was possible because of the reproductive functions of a women, her social role and resistant structure place her close to the nature rather than culture.

2.1.2 LIBERAL FEMINISM

Feminist theory is a generalized, wide-ranging system of ideas about social life and human experience developed from a women-centered perspective.

The liberal 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 emphasis the equality of men and women through political and legal form.

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 the observed by Iyere (1992:4) are as follows:

i. 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 later are regulated to the background. As a result many planners, who are mostly men, take the sub merged with and

subordinated to those of the men. In other cases, the roles are considered of little consequence to be worth the attention.

ii. 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.

iii. 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 deprived of their benefits.

iv. NON CONSULTATIVE OF WOMEN:

In most cases, women are not consulted at the planning stage of development in the 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 brought in to implement it, especially when the going gets difficult.

v. 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 some of their problems. In fact, 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.

2.3 ROLES OF WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The UN declaration of (1975-1985) as women decade stimulated Nigerian 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 organization that existed in Nigeria and their aims.

i. WOMEN IN NIGERIA (WIN)

This organization emerged in 1982 (WIN DOCUMENT 1985). It was formed by a group of women academic 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. Thus is been done through various publications, organization of seminars, symposia and conferences.

ii. COUNTRY WOMEN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (COWAN)

The country women association of Nigeria (COWAN) was initiated by chief (Mrs.) Ogunleye in 1982. COWAN approached was to empowerment the 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, training in agriculture and small scale business. It started off with (6) six co-operative societies in 1982 in Ondo state and now has well over (600) six hundred thousand societies operating in virtually all the 36 states in the country, including Abuja.

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 and south- south Nigeria. Studies have shown that women have proven 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 organization which provide both savings and loan services to members. They participate both as members and as full-time officers within these groups (Olumese 1998:60). 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.

iii. BETTER LIFE PROGRAMME (BLP)

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

iv. Women Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA)

This was established in 1999 by Mrs. Abubakar. This organization was focused on the legal right of women irrespective of colour, creed or social status and rendering services to women to ensure the actualization in need to succeed in empowering Nigeria women through

enlightenment regarding of legal rights, offering free legal services and empowerment of women in vocational skills within the period of two years interval.

WRAPA has successfully handled 494 cases where women rights were abused

2.4 CONTRIBUTIONS OF WOMEN IN COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT

There is no way to discuss women contributions to nation development in bulk without specifically mentioning their contribution to the following:

i. WOMEN 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 and that of their children. While in Europe, women are 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 their community. However, the women 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 Nigerian 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 preferences for politics. It is known for instance that the first serious socio-political revolution, dubbed "the Aba women's riot" of 1929, was organized and led by women.

Women participation in politics now has improved tremendously compared to the pre-colonial and colonial period. Within our days, women are representatives playing very active roles at all arms and levels of government. We have women ministers, senators, speakers of house of assembly, chairman of local government. There has been increase in the number of women judges and women heads of government

There have been resurgences 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.

ii. WOMEN AND AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The agricultural sector is one of the economics where women make the greatest contribution. The traditional roles played by women particularly in the rural areas centers 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, agriculture 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 is 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 a vital role mainly in agricultural production, in food crop production and also ignore the challenges they face. Akpabuyo Local government of Cross River State has experience a tremendous transformation in agriculture production. Akpabuyo women are mostly farmers, this makes them to devote their time to produce food and cash crops that serves as source of revenue to their local government, the society as whole and also helping to feed their immediate families with fresh fruits and food supplement.

iv. 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 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 (Onuweni, 1991:6).

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 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 backwardness.

The idea of skill acquisition simply implies deliberate programmed whereby women who do not have the opportunities for further education are, trained in some trades such as catering, sewing, weaving, knitting, plaiting, and 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 the 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 headquarters or in the parlor of family house, skill acquisition puts 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 so that women may 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 labour market (Anyaocha, 1998:5).

On the other hand, economic empowerment implies a collective programmed 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, and 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 businesses concerns as well as working in income generating industries settings with total control and realization of their full economic potentials.

2.6 SUMMARY OF LITERATURE REVIEWED

The importance and roles of women in community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria and the world at large should not be under-mind or compromise, resulting from their contribution to all sectors of the economies.

It was as bitter as experience on women in the first and second republic where women were seen as “weaker vessels” low mental psychue, low managerial skills and talents as compared to their males counterparts who dominated all key position and offices, either as a result of gender discrimination, cultural factors or educational qualification. As such of the above perception women were not given the opportunities to participate in the development of their communities.

However, they (colonialist) failed to note that the participation of women is a means to achieve the goals of development through gender awareness, more efficient economy wide politics and this will help to contributes to achieving economic growth, identifies the social goals that the society is willing to pursue and will help in decision-making at all levels to adjust the goals pursued through development.

Due to male perception of women’s role, the question of status, institutional constraints, non-consultative of women and lack of initiative as obstacles to effective participation of women in community development in Akpabuyo local government of Cross River State and Nigeria as whole, women are now empowered through women organizations like Women Research and Documentation Center (WORDOC), Women in Nigeria (WIN), Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN), Better Life Programmed(BLP) and others in making sure that women are given the opportunities both in economically, socially and politically. They (W omen Organization) have also enlighten women regarding their legal right so as to challenge then miss-

conception of their male counterparts viewing them as only house wives, farmers and domestic chores attendant. There is relationship between government assistance and women empowerment in community development.

This is to generate substantial employment opportunities, provides loans and credit facilities which will enable the rural women to become self-sustenance.

The study of women empowerment and community development provides knowledge to hindrances faced by women in participating fully in community development and outline skills or immediate solution to the stated factors in order to elevate women to match with their male counterparts in today's society of ours, whereby everyone is given the opportunity to be treated equally than discrimination in terms of gender, age, religion, culture and academic qualification.

As experience has shown that success of any community greatly depend on women as they contributes to the triple role of production, reproduction and communal activities, it therefore means that women should be empowered through skill acquisition and economic empowerment.

In conclusion the roles of women are seen as the major contribution or impact to community development yet, they are not well equipped nor empowered, opportunities and freedom are not granted, unequal perception by their male counterpart in participating in community development as such, it is pertinent to adopt strategies for developing capacities of women in community development, equal concern and perception should be accorded them and governmental assistance is highly needed for a balance society.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

According to (Mouly 1978) defined research is the process of arriving at a dependable solution to problems through the planned and systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data”.

However, this chapter is design to give detailed account of the instrument and the procedures employed in carryout research, method by which correspondents are reached and also collection of data, and systematic analysis for drawing conclusions.

To carry out this study, I shall depend on primary and secondary sources of data. These primary sources will include the use of structured questionnaires, for secondary sources, textbooks, journals and internet materials shall be consulted.

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopted a quantitative research design; data will be collected from respondents at a point in time the use of quantitative research instrument. This will be achieved with the use of questionnaires in collecting the needed primary data. This including collective of primary data from the respondents based on their availability with the number in the sample size which is gotten from the population of the study.

The sample for study would be strictly women aims at looking into the impact of women empowerment and community development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

3.2 STUDY SITE

The study will be carried out among the people of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State. Akpabuyo Local Government is one of the 18 Local governments of Cross River State with its head quarter at Ikot Ndakanda. It has an Area of 1241km² and a population of 271 395 at the 2006 census.

It is located between Latitude 4° 51' and 5° 40' North and Longitude 8° 25' and 8° 32' East. It is bound to the North by Bakasi Local government, to the South by Calabar Municipality to the West by Akamkpa Local government and to the East by the Republic of Cameroon.

There are three major ethnic groups as the Efiks, the Quas and the Efut with English speaking group. Their major occupation is farming and fishing. The researcher chose this area because the researcher is a resident indigene of the place and thus has a fair knowledge of the study area.

3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population will comprise of 200 women of the entire population in Akpabuyo Local Government Area.

Population is defined as the totality number of specified elements, the set of individual, items or data from which a statistical sample is drawn.

3.4 SAMPLE SIZE

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

3.5 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Sampling techniques is the name or other identification of the specific process by which that will be used for study component of sample the entities of the sample have been selected or a procedure used by researcher to determine the actual sample that will give representative view of the whole.

For the quantitative collection of data: therefore multistage, 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 pretty traders, cleaners and security and so on, with the use of this method, 200 female of the population will be selected randomly.

3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

Questionnaire will be used in collecting data. This is a device for collecting specific information from the correspondents to aid in deriving solution to research problem.

The instrument used in this study is Questionnaire which was divided into two parts.

Part one was the demographic data of the respondents each has; age, marital status, Occupation and educational qualification.

Part two which is the main body of the questionnaire (instrument) has (17) seventeen items aim at testing the stated hypothesis.

Item one, was framed to elicit responses on what extent has the lack of government assistances hindered the empowerment of women and community development.

Item two, was framed to elicit responses on what factors are responsible for the lack of women participation in community development.

Item three, was frame to elicit responses on the impact of women empowerment to community development.

Item five and seventeen, was frame to elicit on what extent and significant academic empowerment and gender equality influence women empowerment and community development.

3.7 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The techniques used in data collection will include questionnaire which will be used for collecting the needed primary data from the respondents.

This method will be used because the respondents will be able to give appropriate response as regarding their personal characteristics such as age, marital status and so on as well as major variables in the study.

3.8 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The method of data analysis depends on each hypothesis. Each hypothesis of the study is re-stated here and the variables in it are identified, and appropriate statistical analysis technique for testing, it was given. The entire hypothesis is tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Hypothesis one

There is no significant influence to any extent of government assistance on women empowerment and community development.

Independent variable: Government assistance

Dependent variable: women empowerment and community development.

Statistical analysis technique used: chi -square test of independence.

Hypothesis two

There is no significant relationship between cultural factors and women participation in community development.

Independent variable: cultural factors

Dependent variable: women participation in community development

Statistical analysis technique used: chi-square test of independence.

Hypothesis three

There is no significant relationship between women's contribution and community development.

Independent variable: women's contribution

Dependent variable: community development

Statistical analysis technique used: chi-square test of independence.

Hypothesis four

There is no significant relationship between academic empowerment of women gender equality and women empowerment and community development.

Independent variable: academic empowerment/gender equality

Dependent variable: women empowerment and community development.

Statistical analysis technique used: chi-square test of independence.

CHAPTER FOUR

This chapter focuses on information collected from field survey of 200 women in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State and is analyzed in this chapter. Results are tabulated in sample frequency and percentages. This analysis will at a glance depict women's level of development and their contribution in community development of Akpabuyo Local government area.

4.1 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONDENT

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 questionnaires were lost.

Table 4.2: Age distribution of respondents

Age	Respondents	Percentage%
20-39	30	20
40-49	50	33.3

50 and above	70	46.7
Total	150	100%

Source: Field survey 2017

The above table indicates that 30 respondents who constituted (20%) of the respondents were between the ages 20-39; 50 respondents who constituted (33.3%) of the respondents were between the ages 40-49; 70 respondents who constituted (46.7%) of the respondents were between the ages 50 and above.

4.3 Respondents Marital Status

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

Source: Field survey 2017

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

4.4 Respondents Occupation

Occupation	Respondents	Percentage%
Civil Servants	46	30.6
Farmers	30	20

Petty traders	34	22.7
Crafting	25	16.7
Others	15	10
Total	150	100%

Source: Field survey 2017

The above table shows that 46(30.6%) of respondents are civil servants; 30(20%) are farmers, 34(22.7%) are petty trader; 25(16.7%) are crafty, 15(10%) are involved in others occupation.

4.5 Respondents Education

Level of education	Respondents	Percentage%
Primary	30	20
B.sc and above	62	41.3
Secondary	35	23.4
None	23	15.3
Total	150	100%

Source: Field survey 2017

The above table indicate that 30(20%) of respondent are primary school certificate holders; 62(41.3%) are B.sc and above certificate holders, 35(23.4%) are secondary school certificate holders; 23(15.3%) didn't attend school.

4.2 ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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

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

The respondent were asked, to what extent has 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	76	50.7
To some extent	48	32
To no extent	26	17.3
Total	150	100%

Source: data from field work showing responses to question 1 in the questionnaire.

The above table indicate that 76(50.7%) of respondents believe that lack of government assistance has hindered women empowerment and community development to a great extent; 48(32%) to some extent, and 26(17.3%) to no extent.

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

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

The Respondents were asked what factors are responsible for the lack of women participating in community development.

Table 4.7 Contingency table for testing research question 2

Response	Respondents	Percentage%
Cultural factor	70	46.7
Biological factor	30	20
Lack of government support	50	33.3
Total	150	100%

Source: Data from field work showing responses to question 2 in the questionnaire

The above table shows that 70(46.7%) of the respondents believe that cultural factor are responsible for lack of women's participation in community development, 30(20%) believe in biological factor while 50(33.3%) believe that it is lack of government support.

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

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

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

Table 4.8 Contingency table for testing research question 3

Responses	Respondents	Percentage%
Financially	20	13.3
Materially	40	26.7
Others	90	60
Total	150	100%

Source: Data from field work showing responses to question 3 in the questionnaire.

The above table indicate that 20(13.3%) of the respondents have contributed to the development project financially; 40(26.7%) have contributed while 90(60%) have contributed in others ways that covers larger portion of engagement.

Research Question 4: What strategies can be adopted to empower and enhances women participation in community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area?

Questions number 4 and 5 respectively were used to test research question 4 (question 5 is on gender equality and 4 is on educational empowerment).

4.9:1 Contingency table for testing research question 4

Responses	Respondents	Percentage%
Government support	50	33.3
Encouragement from the society	30	20
Gender equality	70	46.7
Total	150	100%

Source: Data from field work showing responses to question 5 in the questionnaire.

4.9:2 Contingency for testing research question 4

Responses	Respondents	Percentage%
Financially	32	21.3
Academically	80	53.3
Skill acquisition	38	25.3
Total	150	100%

The above two table 4.9:1 and 4.9:2 shows that gender equality 70 (46.7%) of the respondents and academic empowerment 80 (53.3%) are strategies that should be adopted to empower and enhance women participation in community development in Akpabuyo; 38(25.3%) of respondent believe on skill acquisition; 32(21.3%) hope on financial support; 30(20%) on encouragement from the society and 50(33.3%) of respondents suggested to be from government support.

4.3 TESTING THE HYPOTHESES

4.3:1 WORKING HYPOTHESIS ONE

There is a significant influence to any extent of government assistance on women empowerment and community development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

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

Age	Yes		No		Roll total
	Fo	fe	Fo	fe	
20-39	40	40.48	4	3.52	44
40-49	32	34.96	6	3.04	38
50 and above	66	62.56	2	5.44	68
Column Total	138	138	12	12	150(GT)

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (fo - fe)^2}{fe}$$

Where: x^2 = chi-square

Fo- observed frequencies in each cell

Fe-Expected frequencies in each cell

$$\text{Thus } \chi^2 = \frac{(40-40.48)^2}{40.48} + \frac{(4-3.52)^2}{3.52} + \frac{(32-34.96)^2}{34.96} + \frac{(6-3.04)^2}{3.04} + \frac{(66-62.56)^2}{62.56} + \frac{(2-5.44)^2}{5.44}$$

$$\chi^2 = 5.7 + 0.07 + 0.25 + 2.88 + 0.19 + 2.18 = 11.27$$

$$\chi^2 = 11.27$$

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

$$\chi^2 = (2-1)(3-1)$$

$$\chi^2 = 1 \times 2$$

$$df = 2$$

Table chi-square at 0.05 level of Significance = 5.991

With calculated $\chi^2 = 11.27$

And table $\chi^2 = 5.991$. Therefore; since the chi-square calculated value is higher than the chi-square critical value, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected, otherwise retained the alternative. This means that, there is a significant influence to greater extent of government assistance on women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area OF Cross River State.

4.3:2 WORKING HYPOTHESIS TWO

Cultural factors have negative influence on women's participation in community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area.

Question 2 of the questionnaire was asked to test this hypothesis 2

Age	Yes		No		Roll total
	fo	fe	fo	fe	
20-39	40	38.99	3	4.01	43
40-49	30	34.45	8	3.54	38
50 and above	66	62.56	3	6.44	69
Column total	136	136	14	14	150(GT)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$x^2 = \frac{(40-38.99)^2}{38.99} + \frac{(3-4.01)^2}{4.01} + \frac{(30-34.45)^2}{33.54} + \frac{(8-3.54)^2}{3.45} + \frac{(66-62.56)^2}{62.56} + \frac{(3-6.44)^2}{6.44}$$

$$X^2 = 0.03 + 0.25 + 0.57 + 5.62 + 0.19 + 1.84$$

$$X^2 = 8.49$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom (df)} = (c-1)(r-1)$$

$$X^2 = (2-1)(3-1)$$

$$df=2$$

Table chi-square at 0.05 level of Significance = 5.991

With calculated $x^2 = 8.49$

And table $x^2 = 5.991$. Therefore since the chi-square calculated value is higher than chi-square table value, the null hypothesis is hereby rejected; otherwise retain the alternative that cultural factors have a negative influence on women's participation in community development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

4.3:3 WORKING HYPOTHESIS THREE

Women's contribution in any way has greater impact on community development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area.

Question 3 of the questionnaire was asked to test this hypothesis 3

Age	Yes		No		Roll Total
	fo	fe	fo	fe	
20-39	34	33.95	4	4.05	38
40-49	42	41.09	4	4.91	47
50 and above	58	58.96	8	7.04	66
Column Total	134	134	16	16	150(GT)

$$X^2 = \frac{\sum (f_0 - f_e)^2}{f_e}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(34-33.95)^2}{33.95} + \frac{(4-4.05)^2}{4.05} + \frac{(42-41.09)^2}{41.09} + \frac{(4-4.91)^2}{4.91} + \frac{(58-58.96)^2}{58.96} + \frac{(8-7.04)^2}{7.04}$$

$$X^2 = 7.36 + 0.02 + 0.02 + 6.17 + 0.17 + 0.13$$

$$X^2 = 13.87$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom (df)} = (c-1)(r-1)$$

$$X^2 = (2-1)(3-1)$$

$$X^2 = 1 \times 2$$

$$df = 2$$

Table chi-square at 0.05 Significance = 5.991

With calculated chi-square =13.87 and table chi-square value is higher than the table chi-square value; the null hypothesis is hereby rejected and the alternative that women's contribution in many ways have great impact in community development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

4.3:4 WORKING HYPOTHESIS FOUR

Academic empowerment/gender equality has significance influence on women's empowerment and community development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area.

Age	Yes		No		Roll Total
	Fo	fe	fo	fe	
20-39	36	34.96	2	3.04	38
40-49	42	41.4	3	3.6	45
50 and above	60	61.64	7	5.36	67
Column Total	138	138	12	12	150(GT)

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(36-34.96)^2}{34.96} + \frac{(2-3.04)^2}{3.04} + \frac{(42-41.4)^2}{41.4} + \frac{(3-3.6)^2}{3.6} + \frac{(60-61.64)^2}{61.64} + \frac{(7-5.36)^2}{5.36} +$$

$$X^2 = 0.03 + 0.36 + 8.7 + 0.1 + 0.04 + 0.50$$

$$X^2 = 9.73$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom (df)} = (c-1)(r-1)$$

$$X^2 = (2-1)(3-1)$$

$$X^2 = 1 \times 2$$

$$df = 2$$

Table chi-square (x^2) = 5.991 at 0.05 significance

With calculated chi-square (x^2) = 9.73 and table $x^2 = 5.991$. Since the calculated chi-square value is higher than the table chi-square value, therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative is retained that academic empowerment and gender equality have great significance influence on women's empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

The major findings of this study were that;

- I. Government assistance to great extent influence women's empowerment and community development as was rated higher percentage in research question one.
- II. Cultural factor have a negative influence on women's participation in community development as was rated first with higher percentage in research question two.
- III. Women's contributions in many ways have greater impact on community development as were rated higher percentage in research question three.
- IV. Academic empowerment/gender equality have significance influence on women empowerment and community development as were rated first with higher percentage in research questions five and seventeen respectively.

THE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF EACH FINDING IS AS FOLLOWS:

The first objective was to identify ways by which government assistance can help in women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area.

The data collected for this objective were rated. Result of the hypothesis revealed that there is significance relationship between government assistance in women empowerment and community development. This implied that government assistance is relatively important on

women empowerment and community development which might be responsible for the high percentage frequency. This is supported by Young (1995) who stated that he 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.

The second major finding, it 'was revealed that cultural factor have negative influences on women's participation in community development. This is in line with the second objective of the study which sought to determine the problems that hinder women's participation and contributed to community development.

A significance difference existed because of the high percentage frequency recorded. This implied that the cultural factor have a higher influence on women's participate in community development. In support of this reason 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 times, identified with something that every culture devalues and or defines as being of lower order of ranking.

The third objective was to determine ways women contribute to the development of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

Data collected were presented in table 4.8. The result showed a significant relationship between women's contribution to community development.

The percentage of the respondents showed that women contribute in so many ways in community development. In line with this Sani (2001:7) opined that "women work as mothers, wives, doing domestic chores, doing farming and trading, and they see to the nursing of their children against the backdrop of polygamous settings.

These roles played by women cannot be over emphasized since it has been argued by many that economy is the mother of other developmental factors, with which without a stable

economy there cannot be any form of development in the positive side. And this development is anchor by women who play multiple roles as mentioned above.

The fourth objective was to find out how women can be empowered in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State. The data collected were presented in table 4.9:1 and 4.9:2 respectively. They showed that there were significant relationship between education empowerment/gender equality and women empowerment and community development in Akpabuyo Local Government Area. In other words, both categories of respondent have similar belief in the strategies to be applied on women empowerment in Akpabuyo Local Government Area.

This is supported by Iyere (1992:4) that women suffer from institutional constraints as a result of lack of equal access to education with the men. Added, Karl (1995:94) view that "the participation of women is a means to achieve the goals of development, through gender awareness, through (Zaynab, 2001:26) opinion that Nigerian 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 the developing of Nigerian as whole.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 SUMMARY:

Women are the key factors in solving the major problems or issues on the development agenda for the coming century.

Women play significance impact in the society, 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 literally, also elimination of poverty in the society. For these great reasons, rural development advocates, planners and educators have asserted their role as an essential need for its success.

In Nigeria however, the community development policy is designed to integrate communities into the life of nation by delivery service that will empower the people, who will in turn contribute to the development of the country.

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

5.2 CONCLUSION

Women are aware of the oppression as a result of class difference and cultural differences. This finding resulting from the study, shows their struggle to uplift themselves and their families, and rejected freshness into their community. It is important to note that their level of contributed to the success of the local area or community.

This is also determined by their access to qualitative education and finance, for it's quite difficult and for some, a solution has been sought. Although Akpabuyo community has come a long way, through 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 Cross River State if given the opportunity or privilege, in equal gender, education empowerment, full participants in community development project, and a fair share in political offices and many more.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

Lack of co-ordination is the problem of community development activities in the country as a whole. All tiers of government including the major stakeholders in community development should endeavor to play a role in providing funds for the execution of projects proposed by the rural women. In the local government area 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 of resources and valuation procedures. This is in view of the fact that income earning opportunities are not so limited and poverty is not endemic.

In spite of the opportunities available to women, they are underrepresented in decision making, positions in arts, culture, sports, education, religion, the media and law, 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. Those have prevented women from having significant impact on many key institutions and politics. Only when granted the opportunity can women help eradicate poverty.

More needs to be done to help women acquire self-confidence, self-actualization, self-esteem and control over their lives 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 difference aside and build networks that will give Nigeria 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 as un-important to men.

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, impenalism power and gender inequality.

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APPENDIX
QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent,

INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO THE RESPONDENT

I am a final year student of the Department of sociology.

I am conducting research on the topic, "Women Empowerment and Community Development" a case study of Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

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

APPENDIX II

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS.

INSTRUCTION: Please tick (\checkmark) the appropriate boxes.

1. SEX: Female only
2. AGE: 20-39 () 40-49 () 50 and above ()
3. MARTIAL STATUS: Single () Married () Divorced () Widowed ()
4. OCCUPATION: Civil servant () Farmer () Petty trader () Crafting () Others ()
5. LEVEL OF EDUCATION: Primary () Secondary () B.Sc and above ()

SECTION B: QUESTIONNAIRE

1. 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 no extent ()

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

Cultural factor () Biological factor () Lack of support from government ()

3. In what ways did you as an individual contributed to development in Akpabuyo?

Financially () Material donation () others ()

4. What do you consider the best ways which women can be empowered?

Academically () Skill acquisition () financially ()

5. What ways can be adopted for women to participate effectively in community development?

Government support () Encouragement from the society () Gender equality ()

6. Do you know what women empowerment is all about? Yes () No ()

7. Have you had the opportunity to participate in any of the women empowerment programme? Yes () No ()

8. If yes to question number 7, have you benefited from it? Yes () No ()

9. Do you belong to any women society or women group in your community?

Yes () No ()

10. If yes to question number 9, which of these women group or women society do you belong to? Women farmers association () Women co-operative society () Women traders association () others ()

11. Have you ever participated in the development of your community? Yes () No ()

12. 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 ()

13. Which of the following programmes are you of?

Akpabuyo agricultural development () Poverty eradication programme for women and children () none ()

14. In the past 5 years, has government participated in any community project in your area?

Yes () No ()

15. To what extent has the project improved the way of your life?

To a great extent () to some extent () to no extent ()

16. Do you think empowering women would help in community development?

Yes () No ()

17. Do think it's necessary for women to be educated? Yes () No ()