

Statistical Analysis of the Impact of Women in National Development

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Abstract

Women have been left out in the past national development plans, even their contributions to Gross National Product (GNP) of the nation have been treated as insignificant. The situation is further worsened by illiteracy, poverty, pest, and diseases, fire and other natural disasters. Many bodies had championed the course of the rural women in recent times notable among which are Better life for Rural Women (BLRW), Family Support Programme (FSP), Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP), and National Council for Women Society, empower and better the lots of women. Without doubt this research has through its discovery supported the fact that women are contributing immensely to national economic development through divers' roles they play in their rest. These with other reasons had falsified the notion that women are subordinate to men in rural and national development. Finally, it is suggested in the study that greater access to education, credit land and technology will go a long way to improve women's lots in the nation and in their contribution to national development, particularly in the local government to women in the rural communities of the country.

Keywords: Development, Women, Economy

1. Introduction

Women are a controversial human species hitherto women parse are not the basis of the numerous debate that cut across gender, cultural, age, ethnic and religious boundaries. Indeed the subject centre on the role of women in the economy, political, social and cultural development of the nation. No project that expresses the goals in terms of production gains or increased benefits can afford to ignore the economic potential and needs of acclaimed over one half of the population. Rural women are active agents of economic and social change and cultural development of the nation. No project that expresses the goals in terms of production gains or increased benefits can afford to ignore the economic potential and needs of an acclaimed over one half of the population. Rural women are active agents of economic and social change and environment protection who are, in many ways and to various degrees, constrained in their roles as farmers, producers, investors can give and consumers. They play crucial role in ensuring food and nutrition, security, eradicating rural poverty and improving the well-being of their family yet continues to face serious challenges as a result of gender based on stereotypes and discrimination that deny them equitable access to opportunities, resources, assets and services. In particular attention is being given to overall plight of women children and the dwellers in general Olukoya, (1991).

The series of the case study on women's role and gender difference in development was developed to demonstrate that such analysis is not only essential, but also feasible with existing structures. The federal government of Nigeria, in recognition of the phenomenal change in the potentials and perception of the Nigeria women has embarked on various project and programs designed for their integration into the mainstreams of national life. The first attempt in this drive to create opportunities for the realization of the full potentials of the Nigeria women was made by the country's first lady during the Babangida Regime who inaugurated the 'Better Life for Rural Women' which commenced in 1987, through persistence meetings with the women in the rural parts of the country with a view of improving their productivity. This programme was terminated after the demise of the Babangida led government in 1993.

However, it was to be followed by the Family Support Programme commenced in 1994 and it is aimed at advancing and broadening the economic capabilities and performance of both rural and urban women through various schemes under the family economy advancement programme (FEAP). There is consequently among Nigeria women, especially rural women, a new and confident belief and hope in the future. Economy development in this sense could therefore be expressed in terms of developing the real income potentialities of the underdeveloped areas by using investment to effect those changes and to argument those productive resources which promise to raise real income per person Jhingann. (2009). In recent years, considerable interest has been shown by people from all walks of life in the economic development of the rural landscape both in developed and less developed countries (LDCs).

Many schools of thought have prescribed various panacea for the ills of rural life and living. For example, protagonist of industrialization tend to emphasize industrial possibilities of rural development, which advocate back to the land, see modernized agriculture with efficient utilization of natural resources, such as, land, labour, fisheries, forestry's, livestock and minerals, as well as allied processing operation as possessing more premises of a faster rate of development in the rural economy. There is no doubt about the fact that combination of prognostic of these two schools of thought, under the umbrella of a progressive socio- political atmosphere and stability can effectively launch rural landscape into self- perpetuating or

dynamic economic property. The problem and promises of economic development can become a nightmare or a catastrophe, if the socio- political atmosphere is punctuated by perennial instability, unbridled lusts for power, uneconomic policies in the context of technological and finance evaluations

The study is scheduled to access the impact of women in the rural development of the country, effort will be made to highlight the economy and socio- cultural roles been performed by women in enhancing rural development. It will also mention the involvement of women in power and in politics and their educational role in rural areas. The study will also discuss the efforts of various organizations helping women to contribute their own quota to rural development. The study will highlight the constraints of women in rural development and recommended the politics aimed at finding lasting solution to them. Efforts will be made to investigate the demographic distribution of these women and their features, organization, communal works, and contributions in their respective areas.

The research questions are:

- Women increase the country's marketing values
- Women are able to cater for their children with no or little assistance
- Women have a direct or indirect control over the nation's economy

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

Development; Todaro defined development as a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and national changes institutions plus acceleration of economic growth, reduction of poverty, inequality and unemployment. But Dudley Seers posed the basic questions about the meaning of development,

1. What has been happening to poverty?
2. What has been happening to unemployment?
3. What has been happening to inequality?

Dennis Goulet (1971) said the basic components or core values of development are;

1. Life-sustances; the provision of basic needs of life like housing, food, clothing and minimal education.
2. Self –esteem; the feelings of self respect and independence
3. Freedom from the three evils of want, ignorance and squalor

The United Nation Expert Committee on development believed development concerns not only man's material needs but also the improvement in economic welfare.

The United Nations second development decade strategy in 1970, include the statement that the full integration of women in the total development process should be encouraged at all levels. Also the general assembly of the UNO, focused attention on the role of women and their contributions in the development by calling for intensified actions in the following regard:

- To promote equality between men and women
- To ensure full integration of women in the total development effort emphasizing women's responsibilities in the total development at all levels.
- To recognize the importance of women increasing contributions to development process.

In writing about the contribution of women, it has been a general consensus that women contribute invaluable to national economic development. Thus A major and often overlooked feature of LDCs agrarian systems, particularly in Africa and Asia is the crucial role played by women in agricultural production. Ogunsakin (2010) wrote that despite women invaluable contributions in providing vital nurturing, supportive and maintenance service for their families, the bulk of women's work go unrecognized and describe as social in the accounting of Gross National Product.

He went further to note that:

- There is a serious and inimical loss of potential to the country's economic growth, which is inherent in any policy that negates the role of women in agriculture and food production (i.e. national economic development)
- Then Nigerian women have proved to be more than a mere bench warning spectator even in the midst of the male-dominated professions. The Nigerian medical associations (NMA), the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria (ICAN) have been led in recent times by female president. These feats according to an accomplished professional Chief Mrs Bola Kuforijolubi, apart from testifying to the silence, determination and unyielding spirit of women last in bold relief too useful and challenging facts. These are firstly, that leadership traits are not generally acquired and have nothing to do with gender. Women can effectively participate in policy making and government. If given the chance they can hold their own in very difficult and stressful situations and can do as well, if not better than men.
- Secondly, that man admires and respect women who wield power whether it be economic or political. This fact dismantles the confusing and misleading notion that successful women are abhorred and constitute a threat to the society and especially to their husband and associated.

Ogunsakin (2010) stated that women continue to manage the subsistent economics of developing countries, but are often the poor and the most economically vulnerable, always found to be at the bottom of the occupational ladder of most economies.

According to Onimode (1976), the crisis of underdevelopment in the third world which as generated is increasing demand for the mobilization of human and material resources to create beneficial socio-economic, transportation makes the question of women emancipation a serious national issue. He went further that Nigerian women have made and can still make the decisive contributions to national development as manual and intellectual workers, socializes and mothers. According to him, women constitute about 50% of the total Nigerian population; thus they should be accorded a fundamental attention in any serious discussion of the overall development of the country.

Oyemade (1976) wrote on the involvement of women in the national development, that women can play important role in nation building if given the opportunity. This can effect progress in social and economic development, if given the right to decide freely and responsibly on issues affecting their lives and the society at large. Women should have equal opportunity to develop their intellectual potential like their male counterparts. According to her, certain conditions such as education, nature of employment, position within the family and marriage pattern affect the status on Nigerian women. Igben (1980), nothing also the subjection of women's work wrote that the non- recognition of the possible role of women in the successful functioning of any development programme in Nigeria is due to ignorance on the part of the policy makers. The positive role of women in Nigerian's economic development cannot be under estimated and this positive role has been expanding over the years, with variations in the work input by women to differing production system.

Oguiibe (1984), on behalf of the national council of women societies, summated that the rural (Nigeria) women carries the bulk of the work load of the villages both in terms of daily chores like cleaning, cooking, farming etc. it was also noted that some occupation, such as gin brewing, palm oil and garri production are also seen as specific. Pittin (1984) also wrote about the subject of women's contribution. In his work, he noted that the subjection of women extends to the works expected and demanded of them. Task assigned to women are believe to be less difficult than those assigned to men even when evidence to the contrary is being faced. The director of the united national food and Agricultural organization (FAO) also noted that the problem of development has never been resolved due to the subjection of women's contribution. According to him, it is very important that most of the problems we have been facing for years would not have become so serious if due consideration have given to the women of developing world. Still writing on the status of women in the society, Raza and Famoriyo (1980), maintained that women occupy a pivotal place in the socio-economic and socio-cultural life of a society and they constitute of a major bulk of the neglected majority in the rural settings.

3 Data and method of research

The data used for this research work is a primary data obtained from Osu Local Government Osun State. The following test shall be employed in the analysis.

Chi-Square Test ; The simplest and most widely used non- parametric tests in statistical work. The χ^2 test was first used by Karl Pearson in the year 1900.

The Chi – square (χ^2) test (Chi – pronounced as Ki) is one of the quantity that describes the manipulate of the discrepancy between theory and observation. It is defined as

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} \right]$$

Where O refers to the observed frequencies and E refers to the expected frequencies.

NOTE: If χ^2 is zero, it means that the observed and expected frequencies coincide with each other. The greater the discrepancy between the observed and expected frequencies the greater is the value of χ^2 .

Chi square- Distribution; The square of a standard normal variant is a Chi-square Variant with 1 degree of freedom i.e. if X is normally distributed depends on the degrees of freedom. There is a different distribution for each number of degrees of freedom. With mean μ and standard deviation σ , then $\left(\frac{X-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^2$ is a Chi-square variate (χ^2) with 1 d.f. The distribution of Chi –square

A chi-square test demand as χ^2 test is any statistical test in which the sampling distribution of the test is a chi-squared distribution when the null hypothesis is true. Also considered a chi-squared test is a test in which this is asymptotically true, meaning that the sampling distribution (if the null hypothesis is true) can be made of approximate a chi-square distribution as closely as desired by making the sample size large enough. The chi- square test is used to determine whether there is a significant difference between the expected frequencies and the observed frequencies in one or more countries.

4 Analysis of data; respondent details

Section A

Table 1 Village name

Village	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
ILOBA	50	33.3	33.3	33.3
OKE-OSUN	50	33.3	33.3	66.7
Valid ABA ILEKO	50	33.3	33.3	100
Total	150	100	100	

Table 2 Ages

AGE INTERVAL	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUMMULATIVE PERCENT
20 – 29 YEARS	4	2.7	2.7	2.7
30 – 39 YEARS	40	26.7	26.7	29.3
40 – 49 YEARS	98	65.3	65.3	94.7
50 AND ABOVE	8	5.3	5.3	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Table 3 Marital status

AGE INTERVALS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUMMULATIVE PERCENT
MARRIED	100	66.7	66.7	66.7
DIVORCED	9	6.0	6.0	72.7
SEPARATED	9	6.0	6.0	78.7
valid WIDOWED	31	20.7	20.7	99.3
SINGLE	1	0.7	0.7	100
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Table 4 Education attainments

QUALIFICATIONS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUMMULATIVE PERCENT
UNIVERSITY DEGREE	1	0.7	0.7	0.7
POLYTECHNIC/NCE	19	12.7	12.8	13.4
SECONDARY/TECHNICAL SCHOOL	25	16.7	16.8	30.2
valid				
PRIMARY SCHOOL	47	31.3	31.5	61.7
NO FORMAL EDUCATION	57	38.0	38.3	100.0
Total	149	99.3	100.0	
Missing				
System	1	0.7		
Total	150	100.0		

Table 5 OCCUPATIONS

OCCUPATION	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUMMULATIVE PERCENT
FARMING	68	45.3	45.3	45.3
TRADING	56	37.3	37.3	82.7
CRAFT AND ART	17	11.3	11.3	94.0
valid				
CIVIL SERVANT	8	5.3	5.3	99.3
OTHERS	1	0.7	0.7	
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Table 6 NUMBERS OF CHILDREN

INTERVALS	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUMMULATIVE PERCENT
1 – 5	125	83.3	83.3	83.3
6 – 10	23	15.3	15.3	98.7
11 – 15	1	0.7	0.7	99.3
valid				
16 ABOVE	1	0.7	0.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Table 7 SOURCE OF INCOME

	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUMMULATIVE PERCENT
OCCUPATION	113	75.3	75.3	75.3
HUSBAND	13	8.7	8.7	84.0
valid				
GOVERNMENT	11	7.3	7.3	91.3
COPERATIVE	13	8.7	8.7	100.0
Total	150	100.0	100.0	

Table 8 TEST STATISTICS

	Chi – square	Df	Asymp. Sig.
DO YOU BUY AND SELL FROM YOUR NEIGHBOURING TOWN	137.242 ^a	1	.000
IN THE WORLD MARKETTING STRUCTURE, WOMEN PLAYS PROMINENT ROLES	237.880 ^b	2	.000
RURAL WOMEN PROMOTES THE CULTURAL VALUES OF THE SOCIETY	285.253 ^c	3	.000
MOST RURAL WOMEN AIDS IN FIGHTING AGAINST HUNGER IN THE NATION	14.107 ^d	1	.000
RURAL WOMEN ARE VERY CREATIVE (ART AND CRAFT)	96.000 ^d	1	.000
RURAL WOMEN ARE RATIONAL IN THEIR SPENDING	9.720 ^b	2	.000
RURAL WOMEN ARE GOOD ENTERTAINERS, HENCE THEY PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY	53.787 ^c	3	.000

- a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 74.5.
- b. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 50.0
- c. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 37.5
- d. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 75.0.

H₀: women do not increase the marketing values of a nation

H_i: women increase the marketing values of a nation

5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

From the table above, since all the chi – square test statistic has the Asymptotic significance of 0.000 i.e. all the women has the same view about each of the question in this section we reject H₀ and conclude that women increases the marketing values of a nation.

Table 8 TEST STATISTICS

	Chi – square	Df	Asymp. Sig.
WHAT AREAS DO YOU PROVIDE FOR MONETARILY IN YOUR FAMILY	50.680 ^a	2	.000
RURAL WOMEN PLAYS CRUCIAL ROLE IN CONFLICT SETTLEMENT	151.840 ^a	2	.000
RURAL WOMEN ENSURES DISCIPLINE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD	111.720 ^a	2	.000
RURAL WOMEN PARTAKE MOSTLY IN SANITATION OF THEIR ENVIRONMENT	203.680 ^a	2	.000
MOST RURAL WOMEN ARE MORE AGILE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY THAN THEIR HUSBANDS	64.480 ^a	2	.000

- a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 50.0.

H₀: women are not able to cater for their children with no or little assistance

H_i: women are able to cater for their children with no or little assistance

Since the entire chi – square test statistics have are asymptotically significant, we reject H₀ and conclude that women are able to cater for their children with no or little assistance.

Table 9. TEST STATISTICS

	Chi – square	Df	Asymp. Sig.
DO YOU PAY TAX	7.707 ^a	1	.000
DO YOU THINK WOMEN CAN HANDLE PROMINENT POSOTION IN THE COUNTRY	183.195 ^b	2	.000
IF YES (SUGGEST)	241.181 ^b	2	.000
WOMEN ARE INDISPENSABLE IN NATIONAL ECONOMY	175.440 ^c	3	.000
WOMEN INCREASE THE MORAL VALUES OF A NATION. HENCE THEY STRENGTHEN DECISION MAKING IN THE COUNTRY	84.640 ^d	2	.000
NO MAN CAN SUCCEED IN POWER (OR IN POLITICAL) POSITION WITHOUT WOMEN PLAYING A CRUCIAL ROLE	169.120 ^d	2	.000
ARE WOMEN RECKONED WITH IN YOUR VILLAGE	19.440 ^a	1	.000
RURAL WOMEN ARE ABLE TO CONTROL THE POPULATION OF THE NATION	32.760 ^d	2	.000

- a. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 75.0.
- b. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 49.7.
- c. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 37.5.
- d. 0 cells (.0%) have expected frequencies less than 5. The minimum expected cell frequency is 50.0.

H₀: women do not have a direct or indirect control over the nation economy

H_i: women have direct or indirect control over the nation economy

Since the chi – square test statistic are asymptotically significant, we reject H₀ and conclude that women have a direct or indirect control over the nation’s economy.

6 CONCLUSION

The study has analyzed the characteristics, ways and nature of their involvement in the nation at large. Notable amongst the areas analyzed includes: Agriculture, trade, Health, Politics, Power and Education. The government agencies established with the purpose of initiating positive and structural changes simply refuse to do their work. A clear case is that of the extension workers who are trained and equipped to help farmers. You see them all around the place doing something else at the peril of the society. Another example is evident in fertilizer distribution. Fertilizers meant for women farmers association are always diverted and more so all effort of the government to make life more bearable for the rural dwellers has been sabotaged by unscrupulous government workers. While interpreting the data attempt were made to distribute women according to their ages, marital status, occupation, education, financial responsibility and so on. Also it has been shown from the data interpretation that women efforts in farming is what keeps the nation going like the men whose effort is only limited to cash crops. They are into farming more than trading, they also carry more than 50% of financial burden in the family. The multifaceted constraints that are facing rural women in their efforts to develop their areas include poor infrastructural facilities, poor access to education, shortage supply of credit, poor technology and poor access to extension service and improved input, conservative attitudes towards innovation or modernization. If women roles are to be result oriented all the restraints to their contributions must be totally eliminated since there can be no National development without rural development Todaro, (2009). And rural development is not meaningful without full participation of women. Government have a large role to play particularly local government council which is the grass root level government in ensuring that women are integrated into the development of the national economy.

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