**THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN IZZI LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF EBONYT STATE**

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**APPROVAL PAGE**

This project was read and approved by the Department of sociology, Godfrey Okoye University Ugwuomu-Nike Enugu State, as having met the requirement for the award of a Bachelor Science (B.Sc.) Degree in Sociology**.**

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**DEDICATION**

This research work is dedicated to the Almighty God for his infinite love, mercies, companion, protection and grace to have seen me through in a accomplishing this great work throughout the hectic period and to my beloved mother—Mrs. Grace Ojike and Mr. Emmanuel Ojike for their academic envisionment.

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**ABSTRACT**

This study was carried out to examine the Role of Women in Community Development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. Four research questions were formulated to guide the study. A total of six (6) communities in the study area were used for the study. 230 people were selected through simple random sampling techniques to complete the questionnaire. The instrument used for the study was a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher for the collection of data and the survey research design was adopted for the study. The questionnaire contained 20 items based on the research questions. The mean and frequencies were used for the method of data analysis. The data were analyzed and interpreted using mean scores. The results of the findings revealed that political and economic instability militate against effective role of women in community development because valued resources are not properly allocated to the appropriate quarters. Inconsistent policy formulation and programmes design as well as unpurposeful leadership militate against the Role of Women in Community Development. However, women are formidable productive force and a store of incredibly human resources which are required for community and national development. Therefore, women should not be discriminated and marginalized due to their potentialities in development sphere. Based on the findings, it was recommended that political and economic stability, review of government policies and programmes on the role of women, emancipation of women should be urgently and properly carried out completely, special child care/security allowance should be given to the women. Women should be heard, seen and involved in all ventures through their concerted efforts and all plans for the achievement of the objective of women development progress should be prudently designed and faithfully executed.

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**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

It is pertinent to note that women are at the heart of development in various nations, state, local governments and even communities as they control most of the non-monetary economy (subsistence agriculture, bearing children, domestic labour etc.) and play vital role in the monetary economy (trading, wage labour, employment etc.) (Yawa,1995). Everywhere in the world, women work both around the home and outside the home. The most topical issue in international developmental programme is women.

In support of this, Eze (2008) asserted that the instrumental role of women in community development is obvious, hence, cannot be over-emphasized. The woman as an individual is an agent of production of life itself. This inevitable role places her in the position of the life blood of the entire humanity. Woman is the first teacher, the sustained and maintainer of the home, the peace maker, and the symbol of beauty as well as the major character molders of the child. She is the mother to human race. As mothers and wives, women do avert considerable impact on the productivity: male workers. As workers in their own rights, they can be linked to the rejected stone in the Holy Bible which has definitely become the corner stone of the house. By their sheer psychological and intellectual make up, women do perform more than mere complementary roles in the production process Jerminiwa, 1995).

To be candid, most of the contributions by women globally had not been recognized until recently when the United Nations declared:-the Decade for Women (1976-1985), making it mandatory on governments to focus on issue of women as an integral component national development.

To ensure the actualization of this noble objective, the United

Nations General Assembly in 1979 adopted the convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. Consequently, subsequent conferences on women were held in Copenhagen, Demark 1980, Nariobi in Kenya 1985, and Benjing in China, 1995.

Notwithstanding, an international news magazines “Africa Today” reported in July, 1995 that the full implementation of all the strategies and recommendations of the various conferences on omen issues had still not been achieved and enthusiasm was waning. According to the magazine, the United Nations itself reported that only six out of the 184 ambassadors to UN are women and only four out of the 32 UN specialized agencies and prgoramme are headed by women.

But in Nigeria the 1995 constitutional conferences has only eight women out of a total of 369 delegates. Sadly, much of women’s work remains invisible, unremunerated and unrecognized. But women are now challenging the status quo to right women are working for an improvement in their socio-economic statues and for recognition in national development (Amah, 1995).

According to Eking (2008), women have come a long way. The concern for “women in development or women’s progress and women is emancipation is anchored in the practiced that women as subordinate to men. Consequently, Anikpo (2000) contented that various rights were denied women and their contributions to National Development were either stifled or ignored. Deliberating on the matter, Ebo (1996) raised pertinent issues on the emancipation of both Nigerian women and men in national development without which women folk will slow down the pace of national advancement.

It is pertinent at this function to take a critical look on the role of women in community development, A case study of Izzi local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

A community is a group of people occupying a geographical space or area and is bound together by common culture, language value and aspirations. Succinctly, Ede (2001:55) sees the community as a group of people, made up of adult, children, social and non-social people living in a certain territory or geographical setting where they all share a mode of life but not all are conscious of its organization and purpose”. He further explained that there is a nonsocial part of the community such as little children and mentally deranged people who are not conscious of the way of life of the society and their rights and obligations. Culture in its simple forms to complex forms is being universally defined and understood as the totality of the ways of life of a people or a society. Onwueje Ogwu (1994) sees “culture as all material objects made by man ranging from stone implements to atomic energy and non-material things thought out and institutionalized by man ranging from values, norms to ideas like marriage, economy, drama dance and language”

Since women are part of the community, there is much need for. Apart from the physical attractions, women are indispensable at home not only in the domestic work they do, but also in taking care of the children. In support of this, Oyesakim (1982) asserted that women perform certain functions that make for development such as child bearing and economically, they are helping hands to man. In his opinion, Demise (1991) describes the roles and duties of women in the family as wives, mothers, and village/community politicians. He was of the opinion that women function in various capacities ranging from founders of nations/states. Also there are assumptions that women are the main custodians of social, cultural and values of a society at large and a community in particular.

However, this custodian role of women has been threatened by colonialism, modern technology and advent of Western Education where women were grossly under-privileged.

Obviously, Nigerian association with the British as its colonizers left an indelible mark on the socio-cultural attitudes and patterns of behaviour of its citizens. During the colonial era, women were relegated to the Kitchen, thus destroying the indigenous courage and capacities displayed by their great grandmothers in service to their communities (Dadirep 1995). Coming from a background where a woman’s place was in kitchen, the colonial masters and administrators thought it strange to find the African woman involved in substantial economic and political activities outside the home (kitchen). According to Dadirep (1995), the Victorian period in England in the 1gth country re-emphasized the act that the physiology of women naturally made them timid, feeble and unable to think because they had smaller brains than man.

Development means different things to different people Mabogunje (1980) identifies development to be economic growth and modernization.

Mabogunje (1991) identified the eight cardinal elements of sustainable development as they affect women as education, health, culture, politics, economy, agriculture, enhanced environment, quality and peaceful co-existence.

Perhaps, the field where women have excelled and where they have contributed immensely to national development as well as community is trading with reference to the transportation, exchange, and distribution of food stuff.

More so, the better life programme which was (launched in 1987 and the family support programme of the Abacha administration did a lot to enhance women’s participation in development process. However, despite their attendant circumstantial and congenital constraints, some specific achievements can be attributed to the programme in some parts of Nigeria such as:

• Formation of co-operative societies and unions.

• Many women are deeply involved in the following

• Production of book soap

• Production of honey

• Founding of day care and primary schools

• Organization of literacy classes

• Preservation of perishable food items

• Promotion EPI/ORT activities

• Promotion of sanitation programmes.

It also undoubtedly clear that woman played a lot of vital roles in politics during the pre-colonial era. Nigerian women participated in politics and government through the institution of women chiefs, the authority of first born daughters and the age grades. They held various positions in their various ethnic groups. Currently, women are involved in all socio-cultural, economic, political and leadership aspects of the society.

Many of them were elected into various positions in their different communities, states and Federal level. To be precise, women are fully involved in developmental processes.

**Conclusion**: In spite of the imposed constraints or impediments on the Nigerian women at large and the study area in particular, there is over whelming evidence from what has been discussed in this introduction that women can be formidable productive forces which are needed for community and national development. They can dictate the pace and direction of the economy and society. Their sheer numerical strength is enough to jolt cynics. Their contribution

cannot be discounted in house-hold and national economics. The performance in national development efforts should be;

• Ensure major policy interventions to bring women’s social status and economic chance at par with those of men.

• Shift emphasis in regional development efforts to the provision of infrastructures and location of production ventures in marginalized areas.

• Identification and elimination Of all appearances of discrimination based on sex.

• Special child care security allowance should be put in place due to the tact that a properly brought up child is an assets to the society and not to the mother alone.

Converted efforts have been made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures, including political strides because the best advocates for women’s emancipation must be women themselves.

• Cottage economic activities that are socially, acceptable and economically viable should be identified.

• Credit facilities should make easily accessible to women.

• All plans for the achievement of the objectives of women’s development progress should be prudently designed and faithfully, executed (Jeminiwa, 1995).

**1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problem of this study is to identify the actual roles of women in community development in Ezzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State so that the non-recognition, discrimination, marginalization, oppression and suppression of women as well as other negative tendencies will be ended for the effective development of our society. It wilt also identify the causes and consequences of some of the factors that either militate against favour the role of women in community development in the study area.

**1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The main objectives of this study are to critically examine the

-des of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyl State, Specifically, this study sought to:

Determine the factors that affect the role of women in community development.

• Ascertain the contribution and level of development in the study area through women

• Examine the areas requiring more participation of women in the development of community in Izzi Local Government Area

Determine how women contribute in the provision of funds and other resources for developmental projects in the community in the study area.

**1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The following questions are formulated which if adequately answered would identify the roles of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

1. What are the factors that affect the role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State?

2. What are the contribution of women and the extent of the

evel of community development in Izzi Local Government Area

through the role of women?

3, What are the areas that require more participation of women for community development in your area?

4. How do the women contribute in the provision of fund and other resources for the execution and implementation of community developmental projects?

**1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

This research work is expected to serve as an adjunct to existing literature on the role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyl State in particular and Nigeria at large. This work can be regarded as a managerial, administrative, and policy guide.

The results of the findings and recommendations of this research work will among other things.

1. Provide prudent and useful guide for government, organizations, communities, managers, project implementers, individual investors, industrial and developmental sectors as well as present and future researchers.

2. In addition, the study seeks to promote participation of women

n development of the society to enable them handle their

duties and functions better.

Furthermore, the study service to improve the quality of materials and allocation of resources for community development to combine with the ones which women provide willingly for better performance in the study area and elsewhere.

In addition, the study hopes to promote cordial relationships Detween government project executors and implementers, women s well as the entire community.

Finally, it will serve as a catalyst forwards further research on community development and its effects on the people and the society.

**1.6 SCOPE /DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY**

The scope of this research is limited to the role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

The delimitation of this research study to Izzi Local Government Area only is as a result of area where reliable data is available.

**1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

This study concentrated on the role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State due to time frame and financial constraints. Another limiting factor is the necessary materials to be used which are very scare while the respondents may lose some questionnaires on which can make the sample small in relations to the entire population.

**1.8 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1. Development: This means a widely participatory process of social changes in society intended to bring about social and material advancement (including greater equality freedom and other valued qualities) for the majority of people through gaining control over :eir environment.

2. Role: This is the function or postion that somebody has.

Community: A community is a group of people occupying a geographical setting and bound together by common culture, language, value and aspiration.

**CHAPTER TWO**

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This review of related literature is focused on the role of women in community Development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

This chapter reviews relevant literature for the study based on

the following sub-headings:

2.1 Theoretical framework

2.2 Conceptual/framework

2.3 Empirical studies

2.4 The factors that affect the role f women in community development

2.5 The extent of community development

2.6 Through the role of women

2.7 The areas that require more participation of women in community development.

2.8 How women contribute in the provision of funds for the effective implementation of community developmental projects.

2.9 Summary of review of related literature.

**21 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

Theories are systematic groupings of inter-related principles for explaining the occurrence of any phenomenon. Theories aim at training together significant knowledge to give it a framework. Person emphasizing the importance of theory in the development of organized knowledge observed; “It is scarcely much to say that the most important index of the state of maturity of a science is the state of systematic theories” therefore, theories are essential tools which researchers use in shedding more light on the possible relationship between variables that appear to have logical connections. In research process such as this, theories provide explanations generally by relating the subject of interest to the phenomena. They serve as tools which other researchers apply for critical analysis of phenomena and data generation. Eze (2006) describes development as “the gradual growth of a given area so :nat it becomes more advanced and stronger. He also viewed development as the process of producing or creating something new or more advanced in a given place. In support of this, Omeruah (1996) opined that development is a process associated with a continuous improvement in the capacity of the people and their society to control and manipulate and their physical environment as well as themselves for their own benefits and those of humanity. He further stressed that development does not entail massive importation of manufactured products from foreign countries, rather, it is a process initiated by a people and executed mainly by their own efforts for their own good as well as the good of humanity general.

According to Olewe (1995), Development is the rational process of organizing and carrying out wisely, conceived and satisfied programmes or projects as on would organize and carryout in medical, engineering or military operations for goal attainment.”

Eze (2006) views “development as any activity or project which people carry out with basic aims in mind and with certain amount of prudent planning and policy so as to bring about .

The theoretical framework which this research work adopt, is the classical approach. The researcher shall attempt a systematic approach of the classical management theory and the political sum games theory in the understanding of the role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

Meanwhile, the concept of “politics as the authoritative allocation of valued resources and the decisions of who gets, what, ‘when and how” will be in availability germane to this study. It will a so give us a leeway to the proper understanding of political influence on the management of community development in Nigeria at large.

Note that the logical application of this theory is that the role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government is on the premise that all the development roles in a given community should jointly be carried out by government, private sector, and individuals, irrespective of the sex.

The study will take a holistic view of the identification and examination of the actual role of women in community development.

**2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

It is pertinent to note that development is a multi-dimensional phenomenon. In addition, it is undoubtedly clear that human beings are the main catalysts of development in any given society. In view of this, it entails that a good knowledge of development, its theories and strategies adopted by different societies or communities is very important to enable us understand and cultivate the right attitudes toward the full realization of development Huma (2008), development has been viewed in different dimensions by various scholars based on their areas of specialization. Hormby (2000) defined development as “some positive alterations in a given society for the betterment of that society in relation to human and material needs”. Ituma (2010) opined that development is an aspect of change which people predict, plan and implement for the progress of a community.

**23 MEANING OF COMMUNITY**

“As community is a group of people in a prescribed locality who have certain views and ideas in common. “They engage in some forms of interaction aimed at improving their lives, (Egwu, 2008). In support of this, Alumode (2002) defined community as” a group of people made up of adults, children and non-social people living together in

certain territory where though they share all modes of life in common, but not all they are not conscious of its organization and purpose. In general, a community refers to a group of people living

a specific geographical setting and who share certain things including social institutions and aspirations in common. The usual common interests of a community, include; holding up a sense of oneness, space and unity, security, health care, political and economic activities, education, religious practice, government, social services, etc. “It is true that a community may be rural or urban. “As! Evidence has shown that government pays more attention to urban community development while individual community and organizations contribute immensely in developmental projects of their communities.

**2.4 CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Community development is “the processes by which people’s efforts are united with those of government authorities to improve the ‘economic, social, political and cultural conditions of communities so to integrate those communities into the life of the nation hence, enable them contribute meaningfully to the national progress”. In support of this, Oji (2004) stated that community development can seen in the light of establishing an organized systems of social services for the purpose of making the people self-reliant and capable of full participation in the overall development of the nation through complete integration.

Community development embraces the provision of social amenities such as pipe borne water, electricity, good roads, etc. that would significantly improve the quality of life of the people. omen are pace-setters in community development “which is a people’s oriented programme and process whereby the human and material resources of a given community are galvanized towards improving on the welfare of people” Odo, (2011), characterized community development as.

I) People’s initiative to find solution to their problems.

2) Reliance on their own resources as much as possible

3) Assistance from outside the community if necessary/available.

(4) Combine diligent efforts for full implementation of projects or programmes.

(5) Monitoring, inspection and evaluation of the projects implemented as designed.

25 REVIEW OF RELATED EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Ekong (2008) carried out a research on the contributions of women to National Development with reference to Akwa Ibom State. The total population for the study was 33,670 workers from 07 and above in civil service, school boards and political party offices. Out of the total number above, 19, 941 (59.23%) were women in different administrative capacities. It was a survey study and the instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire.

The findings of the research show that:

1. Women dominate in teaching and nursing professions in the state.

2. Women form more than 40% of workers in other professions.

3. Women are workers industrious by strive to better their lives.

The researcher made the following recommendations:

1. The future of the civil service, especially education and health in our society, seems to depend on women. In view of that, government and all well-meaning Nigerians should make a concerted efforts to encourage women for better performance.

2. Establishment of government intitutions to safeguard and facilitate the mobilization and involvement of women in National, State and Local Government affairs.

3. Emphasis in National policy of education (FRN, 1981, 1989,

1994 etc) on liberalizing professions for both males and females

4. Government should also encourage, through the media, the formation of voluntary organizations that would perfect and mobilize women for participation in National Development.

Jekayinfa (1999) carried out a study on the role of Nigerian women in culture and national development. It was a descriptive research and the researcher used structured questionnaire as instrument for data collection. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation statistics.

The following were that findings:

1. Women are at the heart of development due to their control of most of the non-monetary economy and play an important role in the monetary economy.

2. The role of Better life and Family Support programmes since their inception in the development of human and material resources in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized.

3. Woman is an agent of reproduction of life itself. This places her in the position of the life blood of the entire humanity. She is the first teacher, the sustained and maintainer of home, the peacemaker, the symbol of beauty and major molder of the characters of the children. In fact, she is a mother of the human race.

They play a remarkable role in agriculture and business.

The researcher made the following recommendations:

1. Ensure major policy interventions to bring women social status and economic opportunities at par with those of men.

2. Shift emphasis in community development efforts to the provision of infrastructure and location of production ventures in marginalized areas.

3. Identification and removal of all appearances of discrimination based on sex.

4. Special child care security! allowance should be put in place because a properly brought up child is an asset to the society not to the mother alone.

5. Concerted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in. all ventures, including political ones because the best advocates for women emancipation must be women.

Eze (2010) carried out a research on the role of women in community development on Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. It was a descriptive research and the researcher used structured questionnaire as instructed for data collection while the total population of the study was 320 people. The data collected were analyzed using simple statistics mean.

The findings of the research showed that:

1. Women are useful instruments in community and national development.

2. Women play vital roles in production processes.

3. They promote sanitation programmes in their different villages and communities for good health and decency.

4. They organize literacy classes in their various areas to combat illiteracy and ignorant among people.

5. Women participate fully in viable religious activities, politics, economic and social activities for proper community development in particular and the nation at large.

6. Some restrictions are imposed on women such as female genital mutilation, discrimination against women from participation in the sharing of their assets as well as other traditional rites.

The researcher made the following recommendations

1. Credit facilities that are commensurate with their properties within the population should be made easily accessible to women.

2. Integration of women’s participation fully in political and economic development in the community, as well as the nation should be encouraged, devoid of discrimination.

3. All proper plans, policy and programmes for the achievement of the goal of women’s development should be prudent and consciously designed and faithfully executed.

4. Women should be given equal opportunities with men in the sharing of parental assets and other traditional rites in our society.

5. General; mutilation and dangerous cultural practices should be stopped to avoid endangering the lives of innocent women. The factors that affect the role of women in community development.

It is very unfortunate to stress that political and economic instability has grossly affected the developmental pace negatively in our various communities in particular and the society at large. Our political condition is characterized by ranlour and acrimony due to selfish motive of our leaders.

In support of this, Obunda (1994) opined that the economy is the base and politics is the concentrated expression of economic

relations since undemocratic political retains exist on the bases of

relations,” skin or be skinned or everybody to himself, let the devil takes the hindmost.”

Eze (2007) cited Einstein that when discussion was going on concerning the atomic bomb in Europe Einstein was asked an important questions on who decides on atomic bomb production and its usage? He replied, “I did not know because politics is so much

more difficult than physics”. Einstein stressed on the developments Europe, Asia and Africa, which agreed that the world Court would

settle controversies. People settle their differences and allocate economic resources through institutionalization of conflict resolution the state.

Currently, politicians are already strategizing about the control -and retention of power in Local Government elections in Ebonyi State in November 2013 and Nigeria as a whole in 2015

respectively. To this end, inter and intra-political party conflicts have become rife in which politicians are deploying large resources to out-do each other, changing the rules and legislations of the political game, distorting laws and employing violence and political assassination to settle political scores, especially the two faction groups in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

A resort to violence including kidnapping, assassination, vandatization, brutal tortures among others, have somewhat suddenly become attractive to certain individuals in seeking to resolve issues that could have ordinarily been settled through due process. The end products of such misadventures have often been catastrophic (Ndhlokoh, 1994:7). They Thciude the taking of innocent lives, disruption of economic activities and destruction of properties etc

Economically based violence is another factor militating against the role of women in community development, especially in the study area. In the popular parlance, this thesis is also known as “political economy of violence.” Recent writings in the mass media across the state and Izzi community political divide have laid much emphasis on the role of resources in generating conflicts which is a major corner stone of economically based violent crises.

**2.6 SOCIAL FACTORS**

It is obvious that women were previously restricted from participation in many developmental and social issues/matters due to marginalization and imposition of cultural/traditional beliefs. This Odoaga and Heneval (1995) strongly belief that once married, girls become part of another family and the parental involvement is lost.

There is also a belief that women were inactive or passive in National Development. This background to women in National Development was perpetrated through various cultural, legal and institutional arrangements and was anchored on the belief that women were subordinate to men. Consequently, Anikpo (2000)

contended that various rights were denied them and their contributions to community and national development were either stifled. or ignored. Rural women according to Jeminiwa (1995) are getting poorer and further marginalized both in the utilization of available resources and access to development resources. Although, male chauvinists may be right in saying that women are affected by poverty, it is clear to the most simplistic analyst that women are far more disadvantaged and more vulnerable. The UNDP report (1990), claimed that majority of African women still work for between 14 and 18 hours, per day and produce between 50-80 percent of sub-

Sahara Africa’s food, fetch water, gather wood, and care for the family in Nigeria.

Ijere (1991) stated that women form over half of the rural population, and it is estimated that 80 percent of rural labour force is provided by women. Another estimate by the UNDP claims that about one third of all African households are headed by women.

Agriculture appears to be the occupation of 70.3 percent of Nigerian rural women. Yet, it is known that agriculture has the largest chunk of the poor for women. The poverty is compounded by the fact that only 8 percent of women hold title to the land they work. (UNFPA, 1992).

In education sector, women also fare worse than men. 46.3 percent of female worldWide are considered illiterate (UNFPA, 1993). In Nigeria, the percentage of women illiterates i.e 67 percent. Education is the main instrument for both human and national development.

Education brings benefits in form of access to information, and it can make women gain more authority in home and greater control over resources as a prelude to having more say in family decisions. Education is required for knowledge and skills acquisition and consequently to increase the competitiveness to women. Invariably, low education therefore generally limits the upward mobility of Nigerian women at large and the study area in particular. To be candId, women are grossly disadvantaged.

Removal of restrictions in customs and traditions against women should be the priority of government and the communities in the study area to enable women play their role in community development (Nwenyi, 2006). In addition, self — reliance and civic responsibility should be given urgent and serious attention by all women in the study area for developmental stride of the community.

Government should endeavor to help women financially and materially by giving them loans, subsidy and small scale aiding business (Eboh, 1996).

Women are the heart of development as they control most of the non-monetary and play an important role in the monetary economy as well as socio-political role (Olubi, 2002) Nigerian woman has proved to be more than a mere bench-warming spectator even in the midst of the male-dominated professional congregation. Three of such male-dominated profession are- the Nigerian Medical Association, the Nigerian Bar Association and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria. Have been led Olubi

(2002). 30

Firstly, leadership traits are not genetically acquired and have nothing to do with gender. Women can effectively participate, if given the chance. On difficult and stressful situations women can do as well, if not better than men. Secondly, men admire and respect women who wield power, whether it is 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 husbands, associates and communities.

(Eboti, 2002) She further emphasized that successful women need not spurn marital and filial commitments in search of sociopolitical advancement. In other words, women have options and possibilities for forging a workable communal, political, participatory programmes. Promotion of women-related issues and interests by Mrs. Marian Babangida, Formulation of the Better Life for Rural Women programme for the purpose of empowering women economically and socially, creation of the National Commission for Women and a ministerial portfolio for Women Affairs have helped women to advance. In Izzi communities of the study area, women formed many organizations to enable them play their important roles in the development of their communities such as.

1. Self-Help women organization.

2. Home and Abroad Women Organization.

3. Oganiru Women Organization.

4. Umu Ada (Daughters) Women Organization.

5. Inyimdi Women Development Association.

6. Catholic Women Organization among others.

Note that some other reliable organizations for women are.

7. Family Support Programme (FSP).

B. Family Economic Advancement programme (FEAP). Obviously, many of these organizations, both formaliz and non-formalize were inaugurated as the result of blood relationship such as Inyimdi Women Development Association, Umu Ada (Daughters) Development Association (Okigbo, 1992).

Other organizations such as Olu-Obi Women Development Association, Se1-Help Women Development Association-Home and Abroad and Oganiru Women Development Association formed to help to and individual members when in need and the entire Izzi communities to better their standard of living as well as development.

It is pertinent to note that many women in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State had acquired much western education and hence saw the need for community development. In view of this, they embarked on many developmental projects such as building of maternity homes, civic centres, and construction of culverts and bridges, provision of water bore holes, provision of grinding machines, health centres, immunization of children with collaboration of World Health organization and Ministry of Health, and building of community school in Amachara and Inyimagu communities in the study area. More so, they Embarked on enlightenment campaigns against female genital mutilation, early marriage among teenage girls and other obnoxious practices in the area while many clamored for sensitive political positions to better the lives of their people in all aspects. In support of this, Amab (1995) opined that women is voices are now being heard, clamoring for an improvement in their socio-economic and political status as well as recognition of their immense contributions to community and national development.

**2.7 THE AREAS THAT REQUIRE MORE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Afigbo (1991) recognized “with attainment of a new level of social consciousness, women have become a facilitating force in the revolutionary age, force that must be reckoned with the advocates of programmes of social improvement.” (P.115).

Ijere (1991) opined that women are the backbone of community development and proclaimed that they are found in agriculture and elsewhere. They attend to their children, husbands,

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relations, friend and visitors, hence their absence at any time is noticed with dismay. He concluded that any family and community transformation that ignores the women is totally at risk.

When considering the prevailing circumstances in our society in relation to gender discrimination why is it that there are limited roles for women in community development? This can be articulated and attributed to these reasons:

1. They are not consulted in community decision making process.

2. Women are not involved in community projects.

3. In leadership roles, they are not always allowed to take part, forgetting that women perform excellently, much better than men, thereby displaying their top qualities of leadership, accountability, pragmatism, honesty, and dynamism. Women are even discriminated against by commercial banks and co-operative societies in obtaining loans for community project development because they are alleged to be lacking of initiative and always relying on their husbands’ decisions before taking any meaningful action. Alas! This is a real blame on their part.

However, women should be given equal opportunities to participate in all developmental processes like men, devoid of gender discrimination in our communities in particular and the nation at large (Ekong, 2008). In support of this, Aronstein (1999)

in his popular ladder of citizen participation” has provided a useful tool. She identifies various steps of participation from forming and incorporating their needs into community and national developments programmes or are they in full control of their situations? “Development starts with people irrespective of sex and addresses the issues of the orientation, organization, values self- reliance, self- Esteem and discipline as well as proceeds to the production and utilization of material endowments for improved and sustainable quality of life” (Ebo, 2002).

In view of this, Igboke (2009) stated that the roles and participation of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State should include the following, among others.

1. Proper family planning and its implementation with their husbands.

2. Proper training of the children in areas of morality, academics, social, economic, cultural and political matters. The spirit of effective discipline should be inculcated in them at the tender ages to enable them develop as patriotic and responsible citizens of our society. They should not be allowed to indulge in any criminal tendencies such as armed robbery, raping

kidnapping, drug abuse and trafficking, hooliganism and all sorts of social vices.

3. They should introduce and embark fully on the sensitization against female genital mutilation, Osu-system, dedication of females to shines, early marriage and other obnoxious cultural practices in the study area.

4. They should also be crusaders of educational upliftment of women and the need to clamor for viable positions in our society in various areas such as politics, economic and social aspects. Peace and unity should be restored.

5. Women should unite themselves to set development projects in their various communities such as construction of culverts, track roads, schools, health centres, pipe born water etc.

In line with this, Mabogunje (1991) identified eight cardinal elements of sustainable development as they affect women. For instance, education, health, culture/politics, economy, agriculture, enhanced environment, quality and peaceful co-existence and ways in which women contribute in the provision of funds for the effective implementation of community development projects.

**2.8 THE WAY WOMEN CONTRIBUTED IN THE PROVISION OF FUNDS**

The ways in which women in the study area contribute to the provision of funds for the effective implementation of community development projects are enormous.

“It is emphatically clear that finance is an index that determines the fortune of any business.” (Ndhioko, 1994:7) in view of this, finance for community developmental projects should be given an urgent attention and priority for goal attainment. Some of the ways to actual age these laudable projects are

Free donations: Many women in the study area had on general occasions donated huge amounts of money to commercial projects in their areas, while others did same to offset the debts accumulated through project implementations.

The Better Life Programme, which was launched in 1987, as well as the Family Support Programme of the Abacha administration did a lot to enhance women’s participation in development process, in some specific achievements can be attributed to the programmes in some parts of the country, including Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi state (Mabounje, 1991).

(a) Many women’s co-operative societies and unions were formed and registered. These societies and unions were for all aspects of multi-purpose co-operative endeavours: namely farming, fish smoking, garri process soya-drink production, thrift and credit, among others.

(b) Many women are deeply involved in.

• Production of black soap

• Production of honey

• Care and primary schools

• Organization of literacy classes

• Preservation of perishable food items

• Promotion of expanded programme of immunization (EPI)/ORT activities.

• Promotion of sanitation programmes.

Co-operative societies and unions in the study area donated huge amounts of money and materials for developmental projects in their areas such as building of health centres, schools, and provision of social amenities such as boreholes, electricity, and construction of culverts and track roads within their communities. Also, some intelligent pupils and students with outstanding performance were awarded scholarships to various institutions. In addition, some women’s development Associations in the study source funds from

banks, governments and well-meaningful individuals far and near for project completion. Some induced their husbands to donate fund, land and other relevant materials that can either be used directly on the projects or monetized. In fact, the roles of women in fund raising in Izzi Local Government area for developmental projects are so numerous to mention.

**2.9 SUMMARY REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

Ijere, (1991) women can dictate the pace and direction of the economy and society. Their numerical strength is enough to jolt cynics. Their contribution cannot be discountenanced in household, community and national economIcs. The current role of women in community and national development is considerable but the potential is far more Eboh, (2002) in order to identify, examine and tap these resources so as to ensure optimal performance in community and national development, efforts should be made for holistic development of women along the following lines according to Ekong (2008)

(1) Ensure major policy interventions to bring women’s social status and economic opportunities at par with those of men.

2) Shift emphasis in regional development efforts to the provision of infrastructures and location ventures in marginalized areas/communities.

3) Identification and removal of all appearances of discrimination of based on sex or gender.

(4) Special, child care security/allowance should be put it place because a properly brought up child is an asset to the society and not to the mother alone.

(5) Concerted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seem and involved in all ventures, including political because the best advocate for women emancipation must be women themselves.

(6) Credit facilities that are commensurate with their population should make easily accessible to women.

(7) Cottage economic activities that are socially acceptable and economically viable should be identified and concerted efforts should be made to integrate such activities into the burden system to carry the women along with development process.

(8) All plans for the achievement of the objectives of women’s development progress in the study area and elsewhere should be prudently designed and faithfully executed (Jeminwa, 1995).

Finally, the theoretical framework which this research work shall adopt is classical approach theory and the political sum game theory. The reviews of empirical studies was also stated such as Ekong (2008) Eze (2010), and Jekayinfa (1999).

**CHAPTER THREE**

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter deals with the method or procedure adopted by the research in carrying out this research work.

This was discussed under the following sub-headings:

• Research design

Area of the study

Population of the study

Sample and sampling techniques

Instrument for data collection

Reliability of instrument

Method of data collection

Method of data analysis

**31 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The design adopted for this study was a descriptive survey. It is a survey research because the behavior and attitudes of human beings are sought. This descriptive survey is the one in which an investigation was carried out to determine the role of women in community development. A case study of Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State. A survey design seeks opinion on issues relating to a study to enable the researcher describe in a systematic manner and interpret the characteristic feature.

**3.2 AREA OFTHE STUDY**

This study was consulted in Izzi local Government Area of Ebonyi state. Izzi local Government is made of six communities, Igbeagu, Ezza Inyimagu, Agbaja, Mgbalukwu, Ndieze and Ndieze Echi. It is located at the located at the Northern part of Ebonyi state having boundaries with Cross River state, Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi state. It has an area of about 1,623,359km (NPC, 2006).

Izzi located Government Area is lightly populated with indigenes of mostly amiers tt poice ‘os ovps an animals in both subsistence and commercial purposes which contribute to giving the state the slogan, “Salt of the Nation”.

**3.3 POPULATION OF THE STUDY**

The total population for the study was people from the communities in the study area. The population is distributed as shown below:

Table A: Distribution of population according to communities.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S/n | Name of community | No of people |
| 1 | Igbeagu | 40 |
| 2 | Ezzainyang | 40 |
| 3 | Agbaja | 40 |
| 4 | Mgbalukwu | 40 |
| 5 | Ndieze | 40 |
| 6 | Ndi eze – Echi | 40 |
|  | Total | 240 |

**3.4 SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES**

A total number of 240 from the six (6) communities were used for the study. 240 people made up of men, women and students were selected through simple random sampling techniques to complete the questionnaire.

The sample was distributed as shown in the table below:

Table 2: Distribution of sample:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| S/n | Name of community | No of people |
| 1 | Ndieze | 30 |
| 2 | Ezzainyamagu | 35 |
| 3 | Agbaja | 40 |
| 4 | Mgbalukwu | 45 |
| 5 | Igbeagu | 50 |
| 6 | Ndi eze – Echi | 40 |
|  | Total | 240 |

The total numbers of questionnaires are 240 which are equally distributed to six communities in Izzi local Government Area.

**35 INSTRUMENT FOR DATACOLLECTION**

The instrument used for the data collection was a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher. The questionnaire contained 20 items based on the researcher’s questions. The structured questionnaire has two parts: Part A was designed to collect relevant background of the respondents while part B will discuss the set of actual research questions that elicited the expected responses from the respondents which were generated to guide the study.

The items of the questionnaire are rated using Likert 4 scales

as thus:

Strongly agree (SA)

Agree (A)

Disagree (D)

Strongly disagree (SD)

**3.6 VALIDATION OF THE INSTRUMENT**

The instrument used for data collection was validated by presenting them to three experts in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Management of Godfrey Okoye University Enugu for their necessary criticism and corrections and modifications.

**3.7 RELIABILITYOFTHE INSTRUMENT**

The test re-test approach was adopted to ascertain the reliability of the instrument. The questionnaire was administered to two hundred and forty (240) identified as respondents in Abakaliki Local Government Area of Ebonyl State. After a period of two weeks interval, it was repeated and the results obtained was compared and found to show consistency in responses made with the correlation co-efficient product moment of 0.86.

**3.8 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION**

The questionnaire was administered by the researcher with the help of two research assistants in the study area. Before the questionnaire was administered to the respondents, they were briefed on how to fill them immediately while others required consulting their records before completing the questions.

A total of two hundred and forty (240) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to the respondents but only two hundred and thirty (230) questionnaires were returned while others lost in transit.

**3.9 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

The data colleted from the questionnaire was analyzed and interpreted using mean (X) The analysis and interpretation of the researcher’s questions was based on a four (4) points Modified Likert Rating scale with assigned values as follows:

SA Strongly agree = 4 points

A Agree = 3 points

D Disagree 2 points

SD Strongly disagree = 1 point

The output was determined by finding the mean (5) of each number. It was summed and used to divide each number so as get the nominal value of each of the number.

For instance: 4x3x2x1 = 10 = 2.50

4 2

The cutoff point of mean() = 250

The formula for calculating the mean() for the raw scores is as follows:

Weighted mean ()= FX

N

Where =mean distribution

= Summation of scores X = Nominal value of options F = frequency of the scores

N = Numbers of respondents

**Decision Rule:**

A mean (xof 2.50 was used as a cut off point. This means that any item with a mean of 2.50 and above was accepted as significant while any item with a mean less than 2.50 was rejected.

**CHAPTER FOUR**

**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA**

**4.1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of the data collected with instrument.

**4.2 ANALYSIS OF THE DATA**

The data was analyzed in accordance with four research questions that guided this study, and these are presented in tables. The researcher distributed 240 questionnaires to men, women and students in the study area. Out of this number of questionnaires, only 230, representing 95.8% were returned while 10, representing 4.2% either lost on transit or not properly completed, hence, were not used The analysis of the data was presented using simple mean

•(x)

**4.3 THEMATIC ANALYSIS**

The analysis here deals with the results of the study. The results were based on each of the four questionnaires formulated.

Research question 1: what are the factors that affect the role of women in community development in Izzi local Government Area of Ebonyi State?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD | N | ∑FX | X | Dec rule |
| 1. | Political and economic instability militate against effective role of women in community development. | 200 | 20 | 8 | 2 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 400 | 60 | 16 | 2 |  | 878 | 3.8 | Agree |
| 2 | Inconsistent formulation of policies and programmes by various administrations in Nigeria without proper implementation militate against community development. | 198 | 15 | 10 | 7 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 792 | 45 | 20 | 7 |  | 864 | 3.7 | Agree |
| 3. | Unpurposeful leadership militate against management efficiency and proper resources allocation for effective women role on community development  | 220 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 880 | 60 | 0 | 0 |  | 940 | 4 | Strongly agree  |
| 4 | Social inequality, marginalization, discrimination, oppression and suppression of women by men militate against their role in community development | 185 | 25 | 15 | 5 |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 740 | 75 | 30 | 5 |  | 850 | 3.7 | Agree |
| 5 | Total emancipation of women will contribute immensely to the role of women in community development | 178 | 27 | 18 | 7 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 712 | 81 | 36 | 7 |  | 836 | 3.6 | Agree  |

Source research data:

From table 1 above, item 1 with a mean of 3.8 shows that the respondents agree that political and economic instability militates against the role of women in community development.

Item 2 of the same table with a mean of 3.7 shows that the respondents agree that inconsistent formulation of policies and programmes by various regimes in Nigeria without proper implementation are the factors that affect the role of women in community development negatively. Item 3 with a mean of 4 show clearly that the respondents vehemently agree that unpurposeful leadership militates against management efficiency and proper resource allocation to different areas Where they are needed for effective women’s role on community development. Item 4 with a mean of 3.7 indicates that the respondents are of the view that social inequality, discrimination, marginalization, oppression, and suppression of women by men militates against their role in community development. In item 5, the respondents with a mean of 3.6 agree that total emancipation of women will contribute immensely to effective role of women in community development.

**RESEARCH QUESTION 2:**

What are the contributions of women and to what extent in the level of community development in Izzi Local Government Area through the role of women?

Table 2: Mean responses on the contributions of women and the extent in the level of community development through their role in the study area.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD | N | ∑FX | X | Dec rule |
| 6 | Effective and conscious management of homes/families by women even with scare resources | 210 | 18 | 2 | 0 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 840 | 54 | 4 | 0 |  | 898 | 4 | Sternly agree |
| 7 | Women participate fully in political and economic affairs and support government projects for community development | 206 | 22 | 2 | 0 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 824 | 66 | 4 | 0 |  | 849 | 3.9 | Agree. |
| 8 | Stimulation of rural women towards achieving better standard of living | 195 | 21 | 10 | 4 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 780 | 63 | 20 | 4 |  | 867 | 3.8 | Agree  |
| 9 | Full participation of women in the improvement of the environmental sanitation and the health status of people especially women and children  | 219 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 976 | 33 | 0 | 0 |  | 909 | 4 | Strongly agree  |
| 10 | Provision of social amenities such as water bore holes, electricity, maternity homes/health centres, building of schools and construction of roads ands culverts in the community for development stride. | 208 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 36 | 36 | 12 | 4 | 884 | 884 | 3.8 | Agree |

Sources: Research Data

From table 2 above, item 6 with a mean of 4 shows that the respondents vehemently agree that there is effective and conscious management of homes/families by women even with scare resources available to them.

A look at item 7 of the same table above with a mean of 3.9 indicates that the respondents are of the opinion that women participate fully in political and economic affairs and support government projects for effective community development.

In item 8 with a mean of 3.9 shows that the respondents are of the view that women’s role involves the stimulation of rural women towards achieving better standard of living among the people in the study area and beyond.

In item 9 with a mean of 4, the respondents strongly accepted that women participate fully in the improvement of the environmental sanitation and the health status of people especially the women and children for effective community development.

Item 10 with a mean of 3.8 shows that the respondents agree that women provide social amenities such as water bore holes, electricity, maternity homes/health centres, building of schools, construction of roads and culvert in the community for development stride.

**Research Question 3**

 What are the areas that require more participation of women for community development in your area?

Table 3: mean responses on the areas that require more participation of women for community development.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD | N | ∑FX | X | Dec rule |
| 11 | Creation of more awareness and promotion of health status of people through health education | 225 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 900 | 15 | 0 | 0 |  | 915 | 4 | Strongly Agree  |
| 12. | Encouragement of parents to enroll and train their children in good schools to acquire sound education for community and personal development  | 228 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 912 | 6 | 0 | 0 |  | 918 | 4 | Strongly Agree  |
| 13. | Concreted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures, including political ones because the best advocates for women emancipation must be women themselves  | 204 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 816 | 60 | 8 | 2 |  | 886 | 3.9 | Agree  |
| 14 | Social mobilization of women to embark on more meaningful projects such as building of more schools, health centres, provision of electricity, water bore holes, culvert and road constructions, special skill acquisition centres and tourist centres to all the important areas in the community. | 189 | 36 | 3 | 2 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 756 | 108 | 6 | 2 |  | 872 | 3.8 | Agree  |
| 15. | To ensure the elimination of all barbaric and primitive cultures that affect mostly women negatively such as female genital mutilation/circumcision, early marriage, dedication of females to shrines, females’ trafficking, among others s | 175 | 45 | 6 | 4 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 700 | 135 | 12 | 4 |  | 851 | 3.7 | Agree  |

**Sources: Research data**

In table 3, item 11 above, with a mean of 4, shows that the respondents strongly agree that creation of more awareness and promotion of health status of people through health education will enhance the role of women in community and personal development of a given area.

Item 12 of the same table with a mean of 4 indicates that the respondents vehemently agree that encouragement of parents to enroll and train their children in good schools to acquire sound education for personal and community development is a viable role of women.

In term 13, with a mean of 3.9 shows that the respondents are of the opinion that concerted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures, including political ones because the best advocates for women’s emancipation must be women themselves for community development.

In term 14, with a mean of 3.8 shows that the respondents agree that social mobilization of women to embark upon on more meaningful developmental projects such as building of more schools, health centres, provision of electricity, water boreholes, culvert and roads construction, special skill acquisition centres and tourist centres to all the important areas within the study will enhance the community development through the viable role of women.

Item 15, with a mean of 3.7 shows that the respondents agree that there is need for the elimination of barbaric and primitive cultures that affect most women negatively such as females’ genital mutilation/circumcision, early marriage, dedication of females to shrines, females’ trafficking among others for community development to prevail in the study area and beyond.

**Resear**ch **Question 4:**

How do women contribute in the provision of fund and other resources for the execution and implementation of community development projects in your area?

Table 4: Mean responses on how women source fund and other resources for the execution and implementation of community development projects.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/N | Items | SA | A | D | SD | N | ∑FX | X | Dec rule |
| 16 | Women donates freely some funds and other valuable resources for community development projects.  | 167 | 50 | 9 | 4 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 668 | 150 | 18 | 4 |  | 840 | 3.6 | Agree. |
| 17 | Women obtain loans, grants and subside from government and commercial banks for projects execution and implementation. | 213 | 10 | 4 | 5 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 852 | 30 | 8 | 3 |  | 893 | 3.9 | Agree  |
| 18 | Women borrow money from friends, thrifts and cooperative societies and even contribute among themselves for projects execution and implementation for community development | 202 | 15 | 8 | 5 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 808 | 45 | 16 | 5 |  | 874 | 3.8 | Agree  |
| 19 | Women organize launchings to raise funds for projects execution and implementation for community development | 176 | 39 | 10 | 5 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 704 | 117 | 20 | 5 |  | 846 | 3.7 | Agree  |
| 20 | Women’s organizations print appeal fund cards and distribute to people for the initiation of new projects and even complete the old ones for community development. | 156 | 59 | 11 | 4 | 230 |  |  |  |
|  |  | 625 | 177 | 22 | 4 |  | 827 | 3.6 | Agree  |

**Source: Research data**

From table 4, item 16 with a mean of 3.6 shows that the respondents agree that women donate some funds and other valuable resources freely for community development projects. In item, 17 of the same table, with a mean of 3.9 indicated that the respondents are of the opinion that women obtain loans, grants and get subsides from government and commercial banks for projects execution and implementation for community development.

**MAJOR FINDINGS**

From tables 1 to 4 (1-4), which were used to provide, the answers to the research questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 of this study, the following findings were discovered:

1. The study identified political and economic instability, inconsistent formulation of policies and programmes unpurposeful leadership, social inequality, discrimination, marginalization, oppression and suppression of women as the factors that militate against the effective role of women in community development in the study area while total emancipation of women contribute immensely to the effective role of women in community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

2. This study also identified effective and conscious management of homes/families by women in political and economic affairs and support of government projects, stimulation of rural women towards achieving better standard of living, full participation of women in the improvement of the environmental sanitation and health status of people and provision of social amenities for effective community development.

3. More so, the study identified creation of awareness and promotion of health status of people through health education, encouragement of parents to enroll and train their children in good schools to enable them acquire sound education for personal and community development, concerted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures including political ones due to the fact that the best advocates for women emancipation must be women themselves, social mobilization of women to embark on more meaningful and laudable developmental projects and to ensure the elimination all barbaric and primitive cultures that adversely affect females such as genital mutilation, engagement in early marriage and other obnoxious social norms that undermine the role of women in community development of the study area to be manifested properly.

4. It also identified that women source funds through free donations, obtaining of loans, grants and subsidies from government and commercial banks, borrow money from friends, thrifts and cooperative societies, organize launching and invite people to enable them raise funds and production and distribution appeal fund cards for projects execution and implementation for the developmental stride in the community development of the study area.

**4.4 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

The data collected on the political and economic instability as the factors militating against effective role of women for community development showed that the political trend in the area is characterized by rancor, acrimony as well as other negative tendencies while the economy is dwindling. In support of this,

Obanda (1991) opined that the economy is the base, and politics is

the concentrated expression of economic relations since undemocratic political relations breeds’ economic problems as

people exist on the basis of, ‘you skin or be skinned” or everybody to himself, let the devil take the hindmost. Such economic system must therefore breed antagonistic social economic classes as a result of the struggle to survive in such a society or community. Politics must mean antagonistic struggle and therefore resort to the use of force to dictatorship.

In support of this, Eze (2005) stated that political and economic instability in Nigeria at large and the Izzi community breeds antagonism among some political classes, hence, throws the economy into crisis of dwindling and at times, stagnation; invariably, affect the role of women in community development. However, the respondents agreed that political and economic stability will boost the community development because equitable distribution of valuable resources to all the sectors, ministries, parastals, corporations, communities and proper management as well as the returns of peace and unity will promote the role of women in effective community development.

Inconsistent policy formulation and programmes by various

administrations in Nigeria:

The research carried out revealed that the respondents agreed that there have been inconsistent formulation of policies and programmes for different sectors in Nigeria which drastically militated against the effective role of women in community development with reference to the study area with a mean of 3.7 in table 1. In support of this, Onu (2004) stated that one of the principal challenges facing all deeply divided societies or communities is how to design, adopt and implement acceptable policy framework for achieving harmony, peace and stability in the face of diversity. However, policy formulation and programmes should be prudently and properly designed, adopted and implemented to suit the whole populace within a given period of time for societal/community development in relation to the role of women and others.

Unpurposeful leadership: This factor seriously militates against the role of women in effective community development as revealed by the agreement of the respondents with a mean of 4. The confirmation showed that good leadership promotes. Societal/community development while unpurposeful leadership undermines growth and development of a given society in all ramifications. In support of this, Eze (2005) stated that purposeful ‘leadership triggers community development while unpurposeful one leads to disunity and controversies which drastically hinder that growth and development of a given community.

Social inequality, discrimination, marginalization, oppression and suppression of women: The study revealed that the above factors drastically militate against the role of women in community development. It was confirmed with the agreement of the respondents with a mean of 17 that women are socially discriminated, against marginalized, oppressed and suppressed by men in our society, thereby preventing them from being involved in many things. In support of this, Jeminwa (1995) asserted that women are getting poorer and are further marginalized both in the utilization of available resources and access to development resources. He further stressed that women are more disadvantaged and more vulnerable. In spite of the imposed constraints on the Nigerian women, there is overwhelming evidence that they are formidable productive force and a store of human resources which are required for community and national development. They dictate the pace and direction of the economy and society. It therefore entails that if women are completely emancipated, their contributions in household, community and national economies cannot be discountenanced. Therefore, the current various roles of women in community development in particular and the nation at large is considerable, but the potential is far more (Jekayinfa (1999).

In answering research question two, evidence from table 2 showed that the respondents agree that effective and conscious management of homes/families, full participation of women in political and economic affairs as well as support of projects towards achieving better standard of living, full participation of women in the improvement of environmental sanitation and health status of people and provision of social amenities are the effective roles of women in community development.

In support of this, Mgbogunje (1991) identified the eight cardinal elements of sustainable development as they affect women. For instance, health, education, polities, culture, economy, agriculture, enhanced environment, quality and peaceful coexistence while Eze (2005) asserted that women fully play roles in politics and economic affairs, support of government projects, stimulation of rural women towards achieving better standard of living and improvement in both environmental and health status of the people as well as provision of social amenities to the community for development.

Table 3: in research question 3, results from the table revealed that women create awareness and promote health status of people through health education, encouragement of parents to enroll and train their children in good schools for holistic education, concerted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures, including political affairs because the best advocates for women is emancipation must be women themselves. The table 3 also revealed that women should ensure that all barbaric and primitive cultured practices that adversely affect them should be eliminated while encouragement in the social mobilization of rural women and others to embark on laudable projects should be their watch words. In line with this, Udu (2010) stressed that life’s greatest treasures on the earth planet is good health. Whatever a man’s age or means, most of us may enjoy a fuller degree of physical and mental health. Every one holds the key while education is a vital instrument for growth and national development. This is acknowledged by the Federal Government of Nigeria when she stated in her National Policy on Education that education fosters the worth and development of an individual for each individual is sake and for the general development of the society (FRN 1989:7).

Table 4: In research question 4, the results obtained from the items revealed that women source funds through free donations, obtaining loans and grants from government and commercial banks, borrow money from thrift and co-operative societies as well as organize launching for fund raising. They also make use of appeal fund cards to raise fund. The funds and other valuable resources sourced will be used for project execution and implementation for development of the community in the study area and elsewhere. In line with this, Ndhiokoh (1994) asserted that finance is the major index that determines the fortunes of any business or development in any geographical setting, hence, must be carefully planned, raised and controlled for goal attainment.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AREAS**

**FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

The following sub-headings will be discussed in this chapter.

5.1 Introduction

5.2 Summary

5.3 Conclusion

5.4 Recommendations

5.5 Area for further Research

**51 INTRODUCTION**

In this study, the researcher examined the role of women in

community development in Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi

State. The researcher made some findings from her research work

based on the results obtained.

**52 SUMMARY OF RESEARCH FINDINGS**

The instrument used for data collection was structured questionnaire. It was divided into four sections in accordance with the four research questions. Three experts in my department validated the instrument and found it to be good. The instrument was administered personally by the researcher and two assistants to the respondents and was later collected after completion. The sampling techniques used were simple random sampling techniques.

The data collected in the study was analyzed and interpreted using simple mean (x). The cut—off mean was 2.50. Any score of 2.50 and above was accepted while any mean score below 2.50 was rejected.

From the data analyzed and interpreted, the summaries of findings are as follows:

1. The respondents agreed that political and economic instability are factors militating against the effective role of women in community development in the study area and beyond. They

confirmed that valued resources are not properly allocated to the appropriate quarters by political leaders while the

economic situation is dwindling. However, if concerted efforts are made by patriotic Nigerians, our political and economic

situation will be stabilized while the community and national development, especially through the role of women will be improved.

2. The respondents also agreed and confirmed that there are inconsistent policy formulations and programmes which are not properly implemented which undermine the role of women in community development. Notwithstanding, proper formulation of policies and design of programmes characterized with effective implementation will enhance the role of women in community development.

3. The respondents accepted that social discrimination, marginalization, oppression and suppression are imposed on women in our society which invariably undermine their role in community development. however, increase of women in politics, economic, social and all aspects of life devoid of restrictions will accelerate development; hence, achieve the complete emancipation of women since there is belief that women have more potential than men.

4. The respondents accepted and confirmed that women have made tremendous contributions and achievements in the study area and beyond, especially in areas of agriculture, home management, education, provision of social amenities and politics. They should therefore, be encouraged.

5. The respondents also agreed that women support government projects for full execution and implementation. They stimulate rural woman towards achieving better standard of living of the masses and participate fully in environmental sanitation and health status in the community bearing in minds that a healthy nation is a wealthy nation.

6. The respondents also agreed and affirmed that women contribute financially for project initiation, execution and implementation for effective community development.

**5.3 CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of this research study, the following conclusions were drawn.

1. Political and economic instability negatively affect the effective role of women in community development due to disunity, abuse of valued resources and their distribution to the appropriate quarters. However, women are formidable productive force and required for community and national development. In view of this, stabilization of the political and economic conditions of any society will help to boost community development.

2. Purposeful leadership, prudent policy formulation and programme implementation will contribute immensely to community development in the study area and the whole Ebonyl state.

3. The social discrimination, marginalization, suppression and imposing of authorities against women are observed in the study. Notwithstanding, the emancipation of women should be the priority of the community including women themselves for the effective role in community development. Women should be active in all the roles they are required to play for societal development.

It was discovered that women source funds and other valued resources from different areas to carry out projects in their various communities for development. Therefore, they should not relent their efforts in achieving the laudable objectives.

In spite of the imposed constraints on the Izzi women in the study area, there is evidence that women can dictate the pace and direction of the economy and community. Their sheer numerical strength is enough.

Gender analysis should be made a standard tool of economic analysis or project design and monitoring (Ayu, 1992).

**5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the finding of this research work, the following recommendations were made:

The political and economic condition of Nigeria as a whole and Izzi Local Government Area in particular should be properly and prudently reformed.

Major policy interventions to bring women’s status and economic chances at par with those of men should be ensured.

3. Emphasis should be shifted on regional development efforts to the provision of social amenities, infrastructures and location of production ventures in marginalized areas.

4. There should be identification and elimination of all appearances of discrimination based on sex or gender.

5. Special child care/security allowance should be put in place because a properly brought up child is an asset to the society in general and community in particular and not to the mother alone.

6. Concerted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures, including politics and economy, the best advocates for women emancipation must be women themselves.

7. Credit facilities that are commensurate with their properties within the population of the community should be made easily accessible to women.

8. All the economic activities that are socially acceptable and economically viable should be identified and concerted efforts should be made for the integration of such activities.

9. All plans for the achievements of the goals of women in community development progress should be carefully designed and faithfully executed and implemented with the time frame.

**5.5 AREA FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

Owing to the above limitations in this research, the researcher suggests that further researcher should be conducted in the following areas.

1. Roles of women in National Development in Enugu State.

2. The impacts of women’s contributions in community development in Isikwato Local Government Area in Abia State.

3. The factors militating against the effective role of women in Abakaliki Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

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**APPENDIX I**

Department of Sociology

Godfrey Okoye University

Ugwuomt— Nike, Enugu.

16th February, 2013.

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year student of the above institution embarking on a research work on the topic: The Role of Women in Community Development. A case study of Izzi Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

This questionnaire is designed to enable the researcher obtain adequate and reliable information from the people in the study area. You are therefore requested to give responses, to the items provided as they relate to your experience as people within the study area and perhaps, participants of the laudable programmes.

Please tick (V) to only one correct response on the space provided to indicate your views on the questions.

I assure you that all the information obtained shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and solely be used for the purpose of pure academic work.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Ojike, Chioma J.

**APPENDIX II**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**SECTION A**

Respondent’s personal information

1. Department……………………………………….

2. Sex: (a) Male (b) Female

3. Age: (a) below 20 years (b) 21-30 years (c) 31-40 years (d) 41-50 years (c) 51 years and above

4. Position /Rank…………………………………

5. Highest qualification: (a) WAEC/SSCE and below (b) OND (C)

NCE (d) HND/B.Sc (e) M.Sc (f) Ph.D

6. Marital status: (a) Single (b) Married (c) Divorce (d)

Widowed

7. Years of experience and participation: (a) less than 2years

(b) 3-5 years (c) 6-10 years (d) 11-25 years (e) 26 years and above

**SECTION B**

Under listed are questionnaire related to the questions which the study intends to answer. There are four (4) responses available to each question:

Please tick (V) on any of the column

SA - Strongly agree

A - Agree

D - Disagree

SD - Strongly disagree

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| S/n | Items | SA | A | D | SD |
| 1 | Political and economic instability militate against effective role of women in community development |  |  |  |  |
| 2 | Inconsistent formulation of policies and programmes by various administrations in Nigeria without proper implementation militate against community development. |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | Unpurposeful leadership militate against management efficiency and proper resources allocation for effective women role on community development |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | social inequality, discrimination, oppression and suppression of women by men militate against their role in community development |  |  |  |  |
| 5. | Total emancipation of women will contribute immensely to the role of women in community development. |  |  |  |  |
| 6 | Effective and conscious management of home/families by women even with scare resources.  |  |  |  |  |
| 7 | Women participate fully in political and economic affairs and support government projects for community development |  |  |  |  |
| 8 | Stimulation of rural women towards achieving better standard of living |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Full participation of women in the improvement of the environmental sanitation and the health status of people especially women and children  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | Provision of social amenities such as water bore holes, electricity, maternity homes/health centres, building of schools and construction of roads ands culverts in the community for development stride. |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Creation of more awareness and promotion of health status of people through health education |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Encouragement of parents to enroll and train their children in good schools to acquire sound education for community and personal development |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Concreted efforts have to be made by women themselves to be heard, seen and involved in all ventures, including political ones because the best advocates for women emancipation must be women themselves |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | Social mobilization of women to embark on more meaningful projects such as building of more schools, health centres, provision of electricity, water bore holes, culvert and road constructions, special skill acquisition centres and tourist centres to all the important areas in the community |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | To ensure the elimination of all barbaric and primitive cultures that affect mostly women negatively such as female genital mutilation! circumcision early marriage, dedication of female to shrines, female trafficking, among others |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | Women donate freely some funds and other valuable resources for community development projects |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Women obtain loans grants and subsides from government and commercial banks for projects execution and implementation |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | Women borrow money from friends, thrifts and co-operative societies and even contribute among themselves for projects execution and implementation for community development |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Women organize launching to raise funds for projects execution and implementation for community development |  |  |  |  |