

Original Article

CAPACITY BUILDING DETERMINANT FOR AMON WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BIASE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

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Abstract

The study investigated capacity building as a determinant for Amon women participation in community development projects in Biase local government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. One research question was formulated. Descriptive survey research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 250 women drawn from the twenty four villages. There was no sampling because the population was manageable and used for the study. The instrument used for the study was 7 items capacity building and Amon women participation in community development projects Questionnaire” (CBAWPCDPQ). The modified four point likerts scale type questionnaire was used for data collection. The instrument was dully validated by experts and its reliability coefficient was 0.81. Data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation for answering research question. The findings from the study revealed that capacity building significantly affecting Amon women participation in community development projects. Based on the findings, it was recommended among others that there should be regular capacity building programmes among various communities by community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations.

Keywords: Amon, Women, Participation, Community Development, Capacity Building, Project.

Introduction

Capacity building is the task of creating and enhancing the skills, instincts, capacities, processes and resources required by communities. It involves the development of both human and institutional capacities. More than finance, capacity is an essential part of development. A weakness in capacity in a

multi-stakeholder’s initiative can easily criticizes the entire initiative to letdown. Therefore, capacity building is an important part of development yet remains the most challenging functions of development (Mbogori, 2014).

Capacity building is relevant to the highest government level as well as to the underprivileged

village. Its tools of trade vary from leadership courses of females to explanation of diagrams maintenance of water pump. Individual establishment for instance local community groups are important suppliers of capacity building programs although themselves usually not having the capacity for sustenance of their mission (Todes & Sithole, 2007). For many international donors that fund projects, lack of capacity among many recipient government is the major problem facing the successful implementation of the said projects (Todes & Sithole, 2007).

Similarly, capacity problems are even more applicable at local government levels, which are particularly bureaucratic and unsuccessful in developing nations. Because decentralization has gone to the mainstream of models of development in the past few years, there is continuous demand for effective templates of capacity building which can be stimulated over a number of settings (Mbogori, 2014). Restrictions of local government entities create the place often dominated by Community-Based Organizations (CBOS) which may be encouraged by local or countrywide or international non-government establishments.

The CBOS usually has professional insight of the local people's needs and are best put to offer the feeling of community ownership and a mechanism of feedbacks so essential to development initiatives. These CBOs are unlikely not immune to the lack of capacity themselves they are highly reliant on external funding and wind up when projects come to an end. Sustainability of capacity building therefore becomes a challenge. For women in local communities the acquisition of capacity to participate in community development projects could be turn around. This was to enable women understand and articulate better the needs of their communities and therefore greatly participate in effort of community development (Todes & Sithole, 2007). Similarly, Oboqua (2021) stated women are not only looking for liberation from

the men oppression and dominion in leadership but also looking for acceptable respect and recognition in the society.

Progressive improvement through women has been a critical issue of concern over since the United Nation arranged the first woman forum in Mexico in 1975 (Brid, Obura, Gherardi, Wallace & Banos-Smith, 2015). Gender inequality evidenced by the marginalization of women has mark the state of many countries in the world for years. The presentation of women participating in the leadership and management of both state and non-state institution has been poor over the years. This is an issue that has raise great concern not just among women right activities but also in regional and international organization causing pressure on interventions to be put in place in the form of policies and legislations.

Gender differences, in employment opportunities as well as patterns of economic investment has continually widened in every sector of the economy and at different development intervention levels. This tendency has been resulted into increase in unemployment, poverty, under employment and powerlessness among a number of women (Njenga, 2013). Adequate controls on gender discrimination in the work force do not exist. Several have been provided on low involvement of woman in community development projects and this consists of lack of equal education and skill training compare to their male counterparts, cultural approaches regarding working by women, or obligation to family (Bird et al., 2015).

Entirely over the world, the power relation that shape social, political, economic and cultural life prevent women from participating fully in all areas of their live, whether it is in home or in the public area (Zanhi, 2016). Despite the progress, worries continue pertaining the subject of women participation and employment segregation, the significance of women work an unbalance of division of labour. Women

remain restricted in their participation in development project and, in many cases, are forced to make a choice between a successful career and family life. Njenga, 2013 asserts that women's situation is affected by government policies, administrative structures, societal culture and development planning.

Globally, various bodies including the United Nations formed in 1945 are working to eliminate obstacles that hinder the active participation of women in every domain of public and private life by way of equally sharing economic, social cultural as well as political decision making platforms (Muyomi, 2014). In relation to women participation there are sustainable development goals 2030 constructed by United Nations (UN), goal number five states they empower every female gender. More than a decade after the fourth UN women conference at Beijing in 1995, the police of gender equality has been endorsed by government through the commitment to its implementation is still very low (Njenga, 2013).

Most countries have not fully committed to gender equality. They still face challenges in assessing the successes or weakness of gender quality policies and legislations which in turn has limited their ability to draw lessons from the future in various fields such as the fields of education and employment (Nyachiengia, 2011). In Africa, gender equality is being taken into account in the areas of education, remuneration, representation, employment, opinion and family. The whole society, including the government and other organizations are taking up the responsibility of reducing gender base discrimination (Wamoto, 2016). Many African countries have therefore made deliberate effort towards the inclusion of women participation in leadership politically and in institutions both in government and cooperate world. In recent years, gender equality in Africa is going through a process of mobilization through involvement of various state and non-state actors. Through empowerment people are beginning to

realise that for gender equality to be effective, collective action is needed (Oboqua & Odenigbo, 2022). States are trying hard to eliminate cultural factors that hinder gender equality. This is being done with the aim of encouraging and increasing the involvement of woman in social economic as well as political sectors.

Nigeria has very few women participating in politics. Only 7 out of 109 senators and 22 of 360 House of Representatives members are women. The country has never had state woman governor to create gender balance. Nigeria ranked 139 positions out of 153 countries, the worst ranking since 2006 (Oboqua & Odenigbo, 2022). Nevertheless, the gender parity in Nigeria society is still a mirage. There is still limited education, no equal job opportunities, and representation in politics and decision making is still at low level and a challenge to the country (Oboqua & Odenigbo, 2022).

Despite the widely endorsed by various countries legislative being termed as a “victory for the women” it does not really address the plight of the Nigerian women. The practicability of the legislations and policies is yet to be seen. In the development sector women continue to take the back seats. Their involvement in community development projects remains limited registering a percentage much lower than that of their male counter parts.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study was to investigate the capacity building as a determinant factor for Amon women participation in community development projects in Biase local government area of Cross River State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Determine the capacity building factor affect Amon women participation in community development projects in Biase local government area of Cross River State.

Research Question

1. How does capacity building affect Amon women participation in community development projects in Biase local government area of Cross River State

Method

The study adopted descriptive research design. The population of the study was 280 Amon women drawn from the twenty four communities who are involved in community development projects. They was no sampling technique because the population was manageable. And used for the study. A self developed questionnaire was used as an instrument for data collection titled: Capacity Building and Amon Women Participation in Community Development Questionnaire (CBAWPCDPQ) designed by the researcher. The instrument had two sections, A and B. Section A contained respondents demographic information, while section B contained seven items on research questions. The instrument was dully validated by three experts, two from the department of Continuing Education and Development Studies while one from the department of mathematics and computer (measurement and evaluation) unit in

Enugu State University of Science and Technology. A reliability coefficient of .81 was deduced as a measure of internal consistency through the use of Cronbach Alpha Statistic. Two hundred and ninety (290) copies of the questionnaire were administered to the subjects with three research assistance briefed. The respondents were assured that completed questionnaire were confidential. A total 290 copies of the questionnaire were sent out, only 280 questionnaire were retrieved and filled proper, making approximately 94% returned. Data collected were analysed using mean and standard deviation was used to answer research question while t-test statistics was used in testing hypothesis at .05 level of significance. Here, the mean score of 2.50 was used as criterion for accepting and rejecting items. Items with mean score below 2.50 were rejected while mean score above 2.50 were accepted.

Results

Table 1: Summary of mean and standard deviation scores of responses on capacity building factor and Amon women participation in community development projects in Biase local government area of Cross River State.

S/n	Items statement	Mean	SD	Decision
1	Capacity building strengthens the instincts that communities need hence enhancing the participation of women in community development projects	3.82	0.83	Agree
2	Capacity building strengthens the skills that communities need hence enhancing the participation of women in community development projects	3.13	0.75	Agree
3	Lack of capacity building among women is the major problem facing the successful implementation of the community projects and participation of women in community development.	3.50	0.89	Agree
4	Capacity building strengthens the processes that communities need hence enhancing the participation of women in community development.	3.21	0.53	Agree

5	Capacity building strengthens the resources that communities need hence enhancing the participation of women in community development projects	3.52	0.61	Agree
6	Gender stereotyping adversely affects the participation of women in community development projects as women are socialized to take a back seat and be less concern.	3.53	0.67	Agree
7	Sex-differentiated behaviour between men and women within a society created by division of labour lead to gendered social behaviour that limit women participation in community development projects.	2.85	0.86	Agree
	Grand mean	3.36	0.73	Agree

The result presented in the table above revealed that respondents agreed that the listed items above is determinant factor for Amon women participation in community development projects in Biase local government area of Cross River State. Also, the grand mean indicated total agreement of the respondents, this implying that all the identified items affecting Amon women participation in community development projects with mean and standard deviation score of 3.35 and 0.72 respectively.

Discussion

From the findings of research question indicate that capacity building is a determinant factor that limit Amon women ability to participate in community development projects. The findings is in agreement with the view of Muyomi (2014) who stated that women are not involved in fund-raising activities which can help in community development. Women are hindered by limited access to resources such as credit and small-scale income generating activities. Also, the findings is in consonant with Oboqua (2022) who stated that Amon women are limited by resources for active participation in community development projects many women work voluntarily on the grand and use their own resources to support community development activities.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the findings it was observed that capacity building as a determinant factor affect Amon women participation in community development projects. The researchers observed that capacity building limit among women participation in community development projects due to gender stereotyping, conflicts at home, lack of moral framework that would give women a strong say in community development matters.

Recommendation

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study the following recommendations were made.

1. There should be regular capacity building programmes among various communities by community-based organizations
2. Workshops and seminars should be organized among the Amon rural women in order to allow them involved in community development projects.

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