




## ARTICLE

# The Impacts of Women's Empowerment on Reducing Rural Poverty in Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State, Nigeria

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**ABSTRACT | Objective:** This study investigates the impact of women's empowerment on reducing rural poverty in Shongom Local Government Area, Gombe State, Nigeria. **Methodology:** The research utilized both primary and secondary data, employing systematic sampling to select respondents across ten wards. Data collection methods included questionnaires and focus group discussions. Descriptive statistics and Pearson's Chi-Square Test were used to analyze the data and test the hypothesis regarding the relationship between women's empowerment and poverty reduction. **Results:** Findings indicate a significant relationship between women's empowerment and poverty reduction. Empowered women reported higher average annual incomes and greater capacity to support their families financially. The study also revealed that education and skills training have substantial impacts on empowering women, thereby enhancing their economic contributions. **Conclusions:** Empowering women is crucial for reducing rural poverty, as it improves their economic status and enables them to fulfill vital family roles. Policies should focus on education, skills training, and the abolition of discriminatory cultural practices to achieve sustainable empowerment and poverty alleviation.

**Keywords |** Women's Empowerment, Rural Poverty, Economic Development, Education, Gombe State

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## INTRODUCTION

The role of women in the national development cannot be overestimated. Giving their active roles from home at the initial stage and their respective places of work. However, despite all efforts and roles perform by the Nigerian women, especially in the rural areas there are lots of inequality given to them. The rural women in Nigeria engage in all forms of hard labour in Nigeria to cater for their households. The responsibilities of clothing, feeding and providing of some house necessities are being shift to women increasingly in the rural areas. Despite all these roles the Nigerian women suffer high rates of poverty which is not far from most developing nation. Kemi and Jenyo (2016) pointed out that over 70% of the rural poor are women which is resulted from the unequal access of economic opportunities. With all the roles of women being denied to equal access to empowerment or employment opportunities only increases the rate of poor people in the world. However, African Development Bank (2012) reinstated that the important of increasing women participation in the work force and human capital development goes beyond household reduction of poverty but will improve national security also. The women have proved in several ways that despite all hardships posed on them by the men counterparts, they still attend to their family needs at the best they can offer. This really signifies how important a woman can be in training and building her family with the little available resources she has. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development National Report (2004) figured out that women perform not less than 40% of the activities in agricultural production and 85% of agricultural produce processing and marketing. This made (Egbugara, 1990) described women as a homogeneous group distinguished only by their gender owing to the predicaments of most of the women who their roles are regarded as part of their domestic responsibilities, they also made up the highest number of the illiterate and the poor in both rural areas and urban centres in Nigeria. Despite the women roles and contribution of up to 60 to 80% of the agricultural workforce and production of the two-third of the food crops, the men occupy the vital management decisions in the family (Ogunlela and Muktar, 2009). (Ogunlela and Muktar, 2009) further stressed that women are often underestimated, ignored and considered voiceless in management and production decisions even at their households' levels. Also, adding to the discrimination of women International center for research on women (2013), pointed out that women are mostly restricted from accessing credits, access to land, being members of farmers' organisations and also opportunity to enjoy extension services and these hinders women performances.

It is good to note that the possibility of reducing poverty will only be achieved if gender inequality is dealt with. As long as the women are discriminated in the workforce and capacity development programmes, the level of poverty will only keep growing in Nigeria. Despite all efforts by international organisation such as, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, USAID etc in empowering women, the level of poverty in women still increases. The empowerment of women should grow beyond financial supports but should include giving women equal access to education and employment opportunities as these will develop them into strong women that can emerge the roles of leaders and economic back bone of their family, community and the nation at large. Therefore, women empowerment should go beyond having access to source of income but rather should inculcate but physical and mental capacity in enhancing women skills and roles in their environment. Akomolofe (2006) elaborated on the definition of women empowerment as "*the development of mental and physical capacity, power and skills in women for them to operate meaningfully in their social milieu, thereby experiencing a more favourable level of social recognition and subsequently enhance their economic status*". Therefore, empowering women is a great way of developing every community especially the rural areas where their roles are not given priority and this will significantly reduce and enhance economic growth of the nation.

Like the International Organisations, Nigeria has several laws and policies aimed at gender inequality but however failed to provide any significant action to meet the needs of the women. Emansion (2012) revealed that the hindrance to national development is as a result of the exclusion of the skills, perspectives and dynamism



of half of the population that contributes to the productivity of the nation. For rural development programs to be relevant and sustainable both men and women should participate in the institution and should be allowed to express their prioritised needs in the decision-making processes (IFAD's Framework 2012). This should be considered both from rural, regional, national and international level. For any international organisation to fully address poverty issue, it must come down to rural level and women should be inclusive otherwise it will just be repeated programs where their impacts would less be felt.

There are several studies on women empowerment, gender equality and increased in women participation which addressed mostly issues at the national level. However, this paper focussed on the impact of empowering women taking it study from the rural area of Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe state. This definitely provided areas of direct intervention that ensures inclusiveness of rural women who suffer more discrimination amongst other women. The paper provides better understanding of the needs and empowerment of rural women with related relevant information for policy making at both regional, state, national and international level. The recommendation drawn directly from studying the poor rural women will contribute significantly to improving the living conditions of rural women, building their capacities and capabilities above local rural peasant farming and this definitely will achieve the goal of reducing or eradicating poverty of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nation.

## Poverty and Poverty Measurement

Poverty is referred to inability or deprivation from meeting ones' basic needs. This encompasses the basic identified needs of a human being; shelter, food and clothing. Odeh & Okoye (2014) opined that poverty is the inability to attain basic capabilities as health life, proper nourishment, lack of economics, social and political skills and being denied the opportunity to be involved in community activities. In it viewed in 1990, World Bank considered in ability to attain a minimum standard of living is poverty. This shows that the definition of poverty is dynamics and not limited on the amount of money one has but also the ability of the money to cater for individual basic needs.

Nigeria uses consumption expenditure in measuring poverty rather than the used of income. This measure is similar to many countries of the world. This is because it considers level of utility by a household as it contrasts the income measurement that represents the chance of achieving a particular level of well-being (National Bureau of Statistics, 2020). Poverty can either be absolute or relative. The World Bank considered as extreme poverty living on less than \$1.25 in a day while a moderate poverty on less than \$2 a day. The national poverty line in Nigeria is set at 137,430 Naira per person in a year. This means a household that per capita annual consumption expenditures fall below the stated amount are referred to as poor according to national standards. The level of poverty in Nigeria like many other developing countries is associated to corruption and mismanagement of public funds by authorities and social unrest.

## Concept of Empowerment/Women Empowerment

As defined in its report (1975:3) the World Bank termed empowerment as a strategy planned to improve the economic and social well-being of a giving group of people that are disempowered. This group of people includes the poor both in the rural and urban areas. However, in (2001) World Bank considered increase in freedom of choice, one's authority, control over resources and decision that affect his life as empowerment. This implies not only ability to have access to financial resources but also freedom in taking decisions that relates to one's life. This entails making the powerless, powerful and voiceless to have freedom to speak and air their views on issues affecting their life. The ability of individuals to involve in, add to and benefit from any growth and development processes that appreciate their values, respect their dignities and giving them the fairer benefits



of their contributions is termed economic empowerment (Eyben, *et al.* 2008). Therefore, women empowerment refers to the process of giving women the freedom to take decision that affect their life and the society. Kabeer (2001) viewed women's empowerment as ability of the women to gain control over ownership and control of their lives. This, therefore, has no limitation to financial supports but also includes education, capacity building and training that will rise women participation in the processes and decision-making that affect their lives and children. This requires given women access to economics opportunities and capacity development through skills training and education to meet up with their challenges. The increase in women power over economic decisions that affect their lives in the society is economic empowerment Schmitz (2009). Their what qualifies a woman to be considered empowered economically entails independent in making economic decisions. Once a woman is empowered it gives her more opportunities in the society like the men counterparts. These opportunities include jobs, properties, skills and business information without the interference of a man.

The role of women in the Nigerian economy is very vital to be ignored. This means that empowering a woman will go a long way in reducing poverty and ensuring economic growth in Nigeria. Despite their contribution, majority are found in agriculture with small holdings and other non-agricultural activities that has no significant to their growth (Dejene, 2014). The women are mostly subjected to so many responsibilities ranging from domestic chaos to productive activities on the farm and markets. Empowering women will not only reduce poverty but also bridge the gender inequality gap as a goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The popular saying that educating a woman is educating the world is not limited to knowledge benefits but also when a woman is economically empowered the benefits travel a long way. According to the United Nation (2010) investing in women and girls gives a multiples effects on productivity, efficiency and sustainable economic growth. This is derived from the women conscious efforts in investing in their families and communities than their men counterparts. When a mother controlled the household income it increases the livelihood of a child by 20% (Zoellick, 2010). The higher the woman income and bargaining power, the more investment into education, nutrition and health of children in the family and this in long run results to economic growth (DFID, 2010).

## Statement of the Problem

Despite all various efforts through the Nigerian federal government to eradicate poverty in Nigeria, there is nothing much to show on the poverty rate in the country. The poverty rate per population in Nigeria as of 2019 is 40.1percent where 52.1 percent of the total poor are in the rural areas (National Bureau of Statistics 2020). The ineffectiveness of the policies is associated with inadequate inclusion of the poor women in most of the decision-making, low level of education of the women and unequal opportunities between men and women that negate the smooth implementation of the poverty eradication programs in Nigeria. The inability of women to have access to loans without their husbands controls and attaching most core domestics roles to women hinders the possibility for many women to be empowered and have access to better education. The continues discrimination of women who are the pillars in rising and upbringing of children will continue in creating more numbers of poor people. However, if women are empowered, many opportunities will follow, that will significantly reduce or eradicate poverty in Nigeria and beyond.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the study is to examine the impact of empowering women in reducing poverty in Nigeria with strong focus on the Nigerian rural women as to increase their participation and access to opportunities like their men counterparts. The study focused on rural women of Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State, Nigeria. This will be achieved through the following specific objectives:

- To examine the socio-economic characteristics of the rural women in Shongom local government Area.
- To determine the effects of women empowerment on poverty reduction in the study area
- To ascertain the relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area.

## Research Questions

What is the level of poverty amongst women in Shongom Local Government Area?

Is there any relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area?

## Hypothesis

H0: There is no relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area.

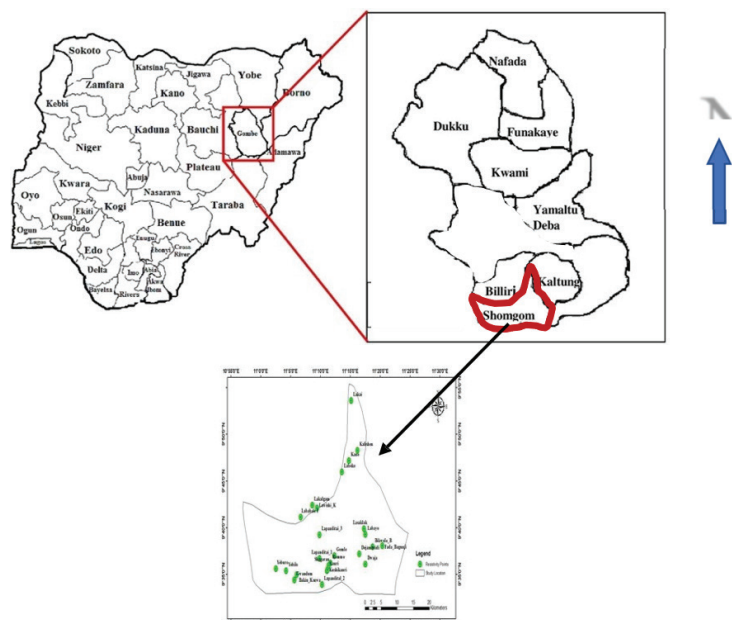
H1: There is a relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area.

## Scope of the Study

This researched was carried out using primary data on the impact of women empowerment on Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State. Due to time frame and cost, large population was avoided. The researched only focused on the study area for obtaining data and analysis but however the result from the analysis can represent the state and Northern Nigeria due to common cultural identities and values.

## MATERIALS AND METHOD THE STUDY AREA

Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State, Nigeria was created in 1996 out of the defunct Kaltungo Local Government Area with it headquarter in Boh.



**Figure 1.** Map of Nigeria Showing the Gombe State and Shongom Local Government Area

Source: Kolo et al. 2016 and Sani et al. (2019)



It shares borders with Kaltungo and Balanga Local Government Areas in the east, Billiri Local Government Area in the North, Kirfi and Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State to the west and Karim-lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State to the south.

It has the projected total population of 243,033 inhabitants with 49.40% females (National Population Commission, Boh Office 2021) and it covers a total land area of about 922 squares kilometres. It has 6 districts and 10 ward councils.

## Research Methods

This study employed the use of both primary and secondary data such as focus group discussion, questionnaires, journals, textbooks, etc. The research adopted systematic sampling method in selecting the respondents from the ten wards, in the Shongom Local Government Area.

A total of 200 questionnaires were administered in all the ten wards which enable the wide coverage of the study area. 195 questionnaires were retrieved and analysed.

The questionnaire obtained information on the socio-economic backgrounds of the respondents and related questions on women empowerment and poverty reduction from the respondents. Discussions were also conducted with some selected women.

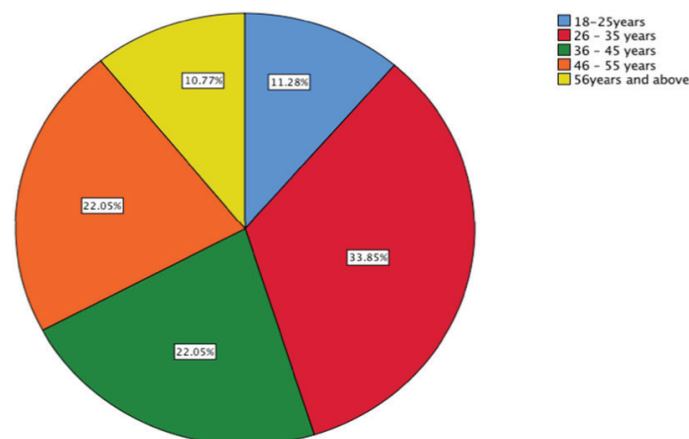
Data gathered from the respondents were edited, coded and analysed using SPSS. Descriptive statistical methods were used in the analysis of the data, mainly frequencies were calculated. Besides, cross-tabulation was used.

Hypothesis was set and used to test the relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area. Pearson's Chi Square Test was used in testing the hypothesis. Where if P value is less than 0.05, the result is considered to be significant. This shows that there exists relationship between the variables under consideration (95% true that the relationship was not came across accidental).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Characteristics of the Respondents

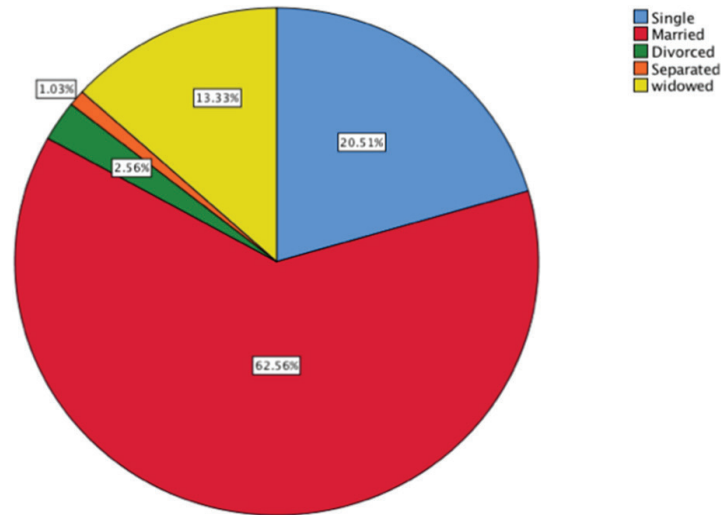
The characteristics of the sampled respondents revealed that 33.85% of the respondents are within the age group of 26 – 35years, 44.10% are shared equally between the age group 36- 45years and 46 – 55years, while 11.28% of the respondents are in the age category of 18 – 25years and 10.77% of the respondents are 56years and above.



**Figure 2.** Age of the Respondents

Based on questionnaire survey, 2021

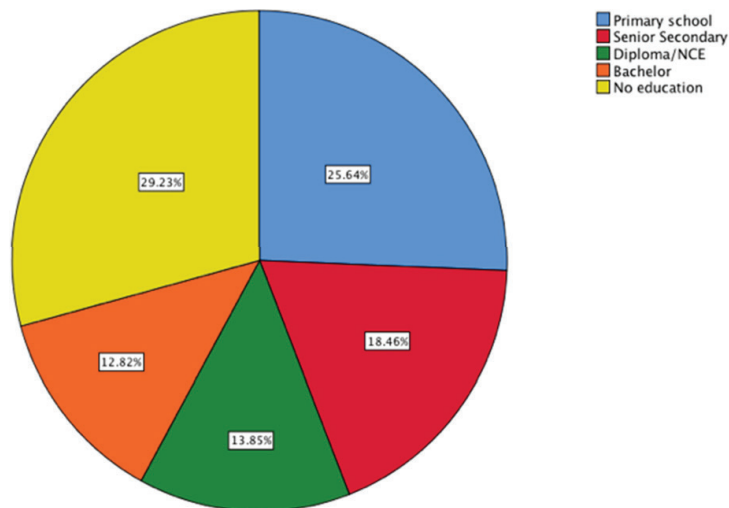
Figure 3 revealed the marital status of the respondents, where 62.56% of the respondents are married, 20.51% of the respondents are singles, 13.33% are widowed, 2.56% are divorced and 1.03% are separated according to the sampled analysed.



**Figure 3.** Marital Status

Based on questionnaire survey, 2021

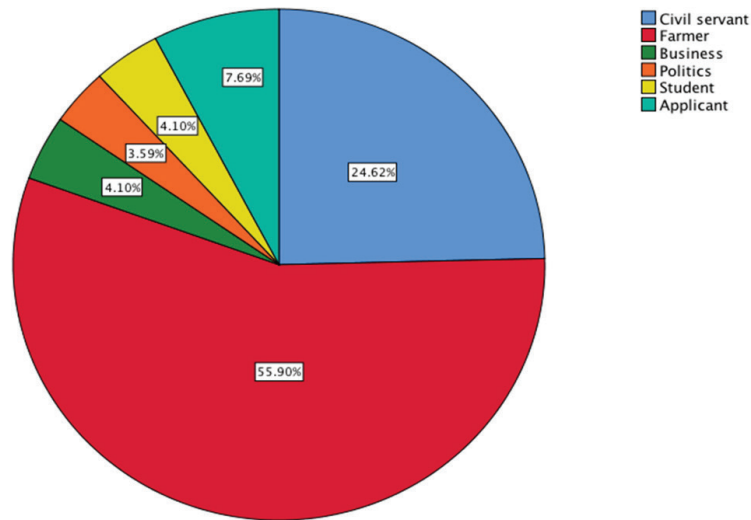
Looking at the analysis on figure 4, the educational background of most of the responded women are very low. This is just as a result of some cultural and local believe about supporting girls' education in the study area. The table shows that on 12.85% of the respondents have bachelor's degree education and 13.82% of the respondents attended only national diploma or certificate in education. However, 63.18% of the respondents are either stop at secondary school level, primary level or have never attended school at all. Those without education amounted the highest percentage with 29.23%.



**Figure 4.** Educational qualification

Based on questionnaire survey, 2021

The level of education actually affects occupation of individuals in the study area. The women occupations also are affected by level of education attained. Figure 5 revealed that 55.90% of the respondents engage in farming as their profession this relates to the highest numbers of the respondents who only attended secondary school or less that hardly give opportunities to be hired. 24.62% of the respondents are civil servants 19.48% of the respondents are either graduate looking for jobs, students, businesswomen or politicians.

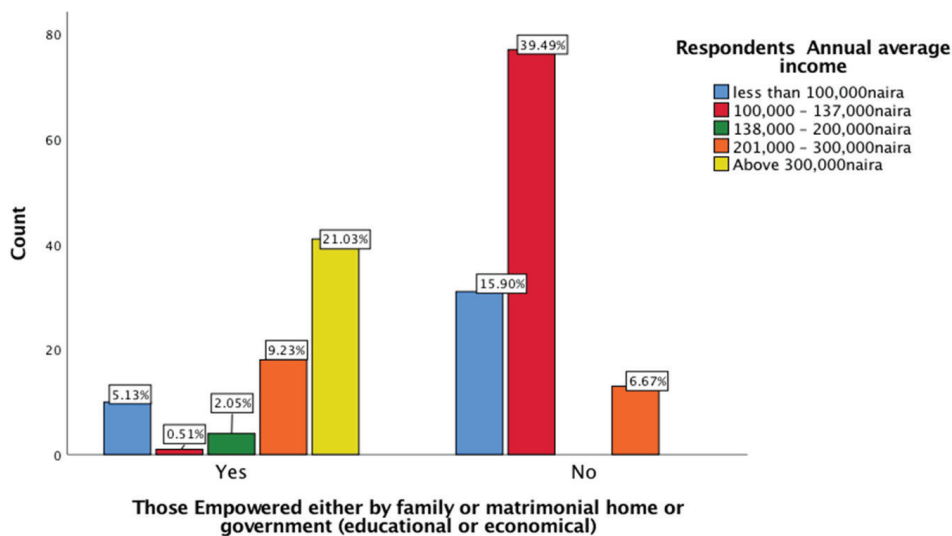


**Figure 5.** Occupation of the Respondents

Based on questionnaire survey, 2021

## Effects of Women Empowerment on Poverty Reduction in the Study Area

Setting up of an average annual group of income in naira it was revealed that empowerment of women either by their biological families, matrimonial home or government has a greater role in improving the annual income. Empowerment as earlier on defined is not limited to economic support only but training to have skills, education and freedom from domination of ones' decision.



**Figure 6.** Relationship Between Women Empowerment and their Income

Based on questionnaire survey, 2021



Figure 6 revealed that women that have enjoyed certain kinds of empowerment either from parents, spouses or government have better income compared to those without any empowerment supports. Majority of the respondents that do not have empowerment support live below the average annual income 100,000naira which is far below the national poverty line in Nigeria (137,430 Naira per person in a year). Whereas majority of the women that were empowered live above the national poverty line in Nigeria. In order to ascertain the relationship between women's empowerment and poverty reduction level, average annual incomes were used to check the relationship between women that were empowered and those that were not. The set hypothesis was tested to know the decision to be taking on the null hypothesis.

The Pearson's Chi-square was adopted in testing the hypothesis

**H0:** There is no relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area.

**H1:** There is a relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area.

Table 1 reveals the Pearson's chi-square test for the hypothesis; there is no relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area. The test shows that there is a significant relationship between women empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area. The P value is less than 0.05, which means the confident level is above 95%. This signifies that the empowered women have better annual average income than the unempowered in the study area. The null hypothesis is rejected.

**Table 1.** Pearson's chi-square test

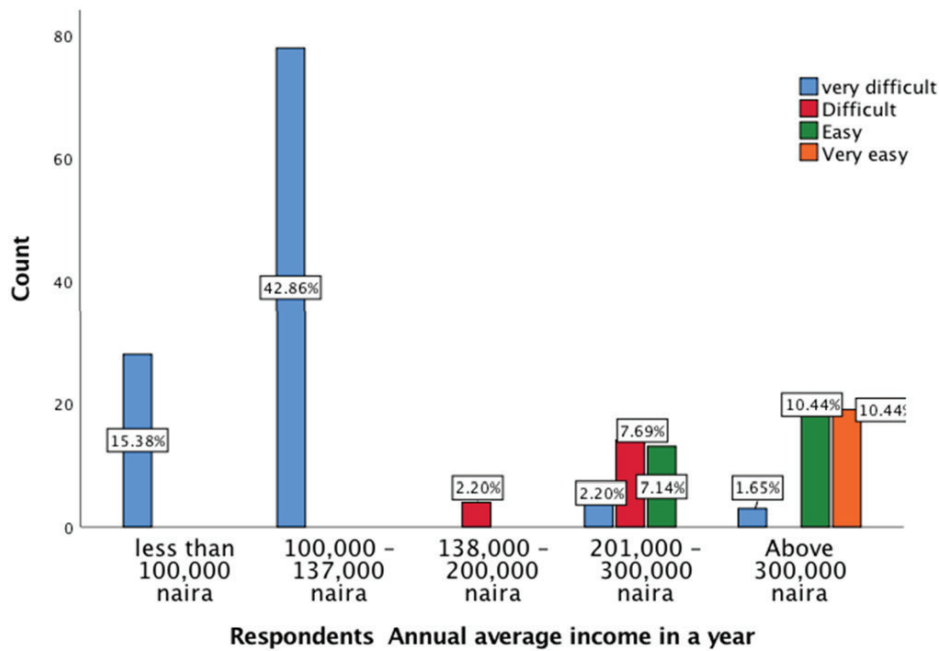
Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi- Square	126.643a	4	.000
Likelihood Ratio	160.467	4	.000
Linear-by- Linear Association	93.072	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	195		

a 2 cells (20.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.52.

This means that the higher the numbers of women empowered the better the women income in the study area and this will allow women to perform their roles easily and successfully.

### Impact of Income on Women's Support to their Family.

The sampled respondents' income directly affects their ability to support their families. The respondents with average annual earning less than 138,000naira found it very difficult to support their families and relatives.



**Figure 7.** How income affects women's family support

Based on questionnaire's survey, 2021

This resulted from the high level of their poverty as live below the Nigerian national poverty line. However, those that earn between 138 - 200,000naira also find it difficult in rendering financial support in their family, whereas those with earning above 200,000naira considered either easily or very easily to financially support their family. This implies that the ability of a woman to render financial support either at her biological home or matrimonial home lies with her earnings which relates to the level of her empowerment.

This implies that, the more women are empowered the easily they contribute to their families and this will result to empowering their communities. The increase in woman income increases her ability to give or support her family or community.

Table 2 sought information about the respondents thought on some family roles identified in the study area. It revealed that the women roles increase with empowerment and this significantly benefits their family. Almost all 100% of the respondents rank the effectiveness of empowerment of the women with either agreeing or strongly agreed, with the exception of investment roles for the family where 4.6% of the respondents disagreed that women's empowerment will bring about increase in family investment. This therefore surfaced empowerment of the women in Shongom area aid their respective families in schools' fees payment, contribution to medical bills and rents, provision of food in the family, carrying successfully all the house provision responsibilities in the event of death and also will help in investment for the family growth. All these roles when performed, they will actually shape the qualities of different household thereby building the young people capacities from homes through education and skills acquisition trainings.



**Table 2.** Ranking the impact of women's empowerment on their family roles

Roles	Strongly agreed (%)	Agreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Strongly disagreed (%)	Total (%)
1 Paying children school fees	67.2	32.8			100
2 Providing food in the family	56.5	43.5			100
3 Supporting parents	59.5	40.5			100
4 Paying medicals bills	50.8	49.2			100
5 Rent contributions	34.5	65.5%			100
6 Catering all house responsibilities in the event of dead	59.0	41.0			100
7 Investing in business for the growth of the family	49.7	45.6	4.6		100
<b>TOTAL</b>					100%

Based on questionnaire's survey, 2021

## Respondents' Views on Men Support for Women Empowerment

Table 3 shows the views of the respondents in regard to willingness of men to support the empowerment of their families. Only 6.2% of the respondents agreed that almost all men are willing to support their wives' empowerment, 3.1% person responded they do not know. However, 56.9% and 33.8% considered that only few men and very few men are willing to support the empowerment of their wives.

For the girl's child 1.5% of the responded agreed that almost all men like to support their girl's child empowerment and 37.8% also accepted that many men are willing to support their girl's child. This is in contrast to women support from their husbands, men prefer training their children to their wives. Whereas 56.4% stated that only few men are willing to support their girl's child empowerment and 4.6% considered very few men support their girls' child. This indicated that 61% which is more than half of the respondents considered girls' child support for empowerment comes from few men. For the male child 73.8% of the respondents agreed that almost all men are willing to support their male child, 18.5% also considered many men. This show that 92.3% of the respondents agreed that men are willing to support their male child than the girl child with 48.9%.

**Table 3.** Ranking Respondents' views on men support for relatives' empowerment

Relationship	Almost all men (%)	Many men (%)	Don't know (%)	Few men (%)	Very few men (%)	None (%)	Total (%)
1 Wives	6.2		3.1	56.9	33.8		100
2 Daughters	1.5	37.4		56.4	4.6		100
3 Sons	73.8	18.5		6.2	1.5		100
<b>TOTAL</b>							100%

Based on questionnaire's survey, 2021

## Respondents' Ranking of Why Men are Scared of Empowering Women

Table 4 ranks different possible reasons why men found it difficult to empower their women. 53.3% and 24.1% of the sample strongly agreed and agreed respectively that, men fear that empowered women may



abandoned her home roles, whereas 22.6% disagreed with this claimed as a reason. 49.7% strongly agreed, 36.9% agreed and 13.3% disagreed that men are in secured as to why they are afraid to empower their women.

Above all, poor cultural understanding of gender role is considered the highest reason why men are scared of women's empowerment as 72.8% strongly agreed to that while the remaining 27.2% also agreed. 35.4% strongly agreed that men fear being dominated by the empowered women, 46.7% also agreed to that, however 17.9% disagreed. Illiteracy and lack of exposure also has the second highest ranking where 61.5% strongly agreed to that and 24.6% agreed. However, only 8.7% disagreed and 5.1% strongly disagreed that illiteracy and lack of exposure affect men choices of empowering women.

**Table 4.** Ranking reasons why men are scared of empowering women

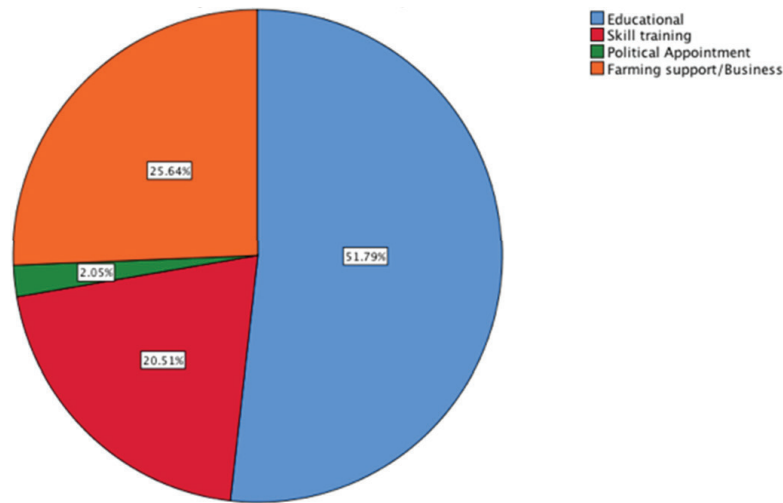
Reason	Strongly agreed (%)	Agreed (%)	Disagreed (%)	Strongly disagreed (%)	Total (%)
1 It makes women neglect their roles at home	53.3	24.1	22.6		100
2 Feeling in secured by men	49.7	36.9	13.3		100
3 Poor cultural understanding of gender roles	72.8	27.2			100
4 Fear of domination by empowered women	35.4	46.7	17.9		100
5 Illiteracy and lack of exposure	61.5	24.6	8.7	5.1	100
<b>Total</b>					100

Based on questionnaire's survey, 2021

This therefore signifies that poor understanding of culture, illiteracy and lack of exposures negative affect the decision of men to empower their women.

## Major Area that will Significantly Empowered Women

Empowering women entails lots of things, not limited to financial support as often stated but also includes skills acquisition and education. For the purpose of this study education, skills training, political appointment and farming supports and business were identified. The analysis was run to identify the area with more impact on women's empowerment. 59.71% of the respondents identified education performs more impact in women empowerment, 25.64% considered farming and business support has more impact, 20.51% identified skills training and 2.05% of the respondents considered appointment of women into some political offices plays will play a vital role in women empowerment.

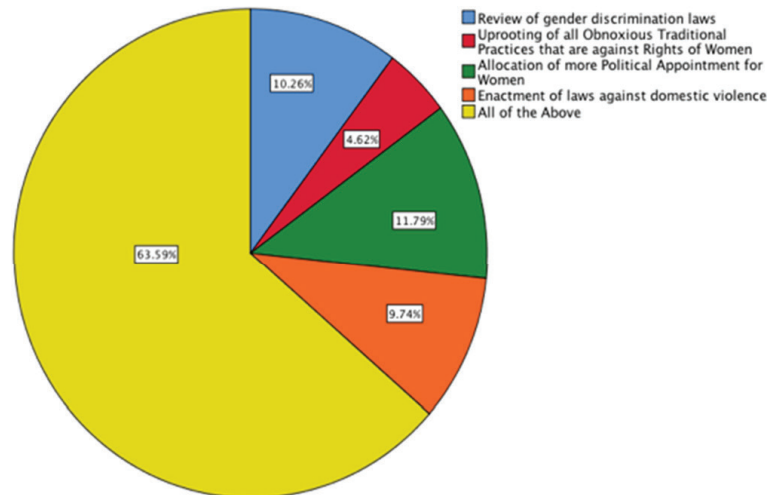


**Figure 8.** Areas that can make major impact in women empowerment

Based on questionnaire's survey, 2021

### Possible Ways of Achieving Sustainable Women Empowerment in Shongom Local Government Area

To achieve the better study results, discussions were held within the study area with groups and possible suggestion were collected as measure in achieving sustainable women's empowerment which is believed will possibly reduce poverty in the study area.



**Figure 9.** Suggested possible ways of Achieving women empowerment

Based on questionnaire's survey, 2021

4.62% of the respondents suggested the removal of all tradition practices that deny women's right, 9.74% of the respondents opines those laws against domestic violence should be established in these communities, whereas 10.26% suggests review of gender discrimination roles laws and 63.59% considered all the identified items as vital solutions to be followed in ensuring sustainable women's empowerment.



## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, it can be found out that women's empowerment significantly plays vital roles in reducing rural poverty in Shongom local government area where the studied is carried out. This is also applicable to most area of Nigeria that shares the same cultural attributes. The study revealed that majority of women in Shongom local government area stop their education pursuit at secondary level. As only 26.67% of the respondents have gone beyond secondary school. This actually a danger to empowerment of the women in the area. Financial empowerment without educational backup will not go a long way.

Also, empowerment significantly affect income level of most women and their ability to render supports in their families. It was revealed that majority of the women live below the Nigerian national poverty line. This so pathetic to the region and fight against poverty.

The study found out that women empowerment enables them to significantly perform the roles of paying children's school fees, provision of foods, payment of medicals bills, contribution to rents payments, investing into business for the family growth and above all ability to effectively carry out all the house responsibilities in the event of death of their spouse. The study also shows that there is a significant relationship between women's empowerment and poverty reduction in the study area. However, despites all these roles it is discovered that almost all men prefer to empower their sons and some their daughters while only few men are willing to support their wives. These are summarised as results of illiteracy, lack of exposure, poor tradition that opposes women right and low self-esteem of many rural men that feel insecure to their wives' empowerment.

Also, education is identified as the major tool in empowering women in the study area and this can possibly be achieved by abolishing all forms of tradition that bias women's rights and supports domestic violence.

## Recommendations

In order to achieve a good reduction at the poverty level in the study area, the study came out with the following recommendation which if carefully followed and adopted may have a greater impact on women's empowerment and poverty reduction level in the area. Adequate funding should be allocated for rural roads connections by the Nigerian government at all levels so as to ensure better rural connections.

- The local authority should take a strong measure in enhancing girls' child education beyond secondary school as this will massively affect their future lives and of the community.
- By-laws should be put in place that would eradicate all forms of bias attached to gender and domestic violence.
- All laws both national and international that protect women's right should be review and strictly implemented to eradicate all form assaults against women.
- More awareness should be created to the rural communities on the impact of women's empowerment on their family and the communities at large.
- More skills acquisition centres should be established to train the uneducated adult women and supports and more farming initiatives should be introduced to enhance the economics of the rural women.
- Government at both levels should fund more programs toward poverty eradications that involve the community in the decision-making processes and implementation and also women should be actively inclusive.



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