

Contributions of Women August Conferences to Community Development in Udenu Local Government Area, Enugu State

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Abstract: This study analyzed the contributions of women August conferences to community development in Udenu local government area, Enugu State. The broad objective was to examine the contribution of woman august conferences to community development. While the specific objectives were; to ascertain how women August conferences contribute to community development; to verify the challenges facing woman august conferences in their bid to contribute to community development; to proffer and/ or make recommendations on how to circumvent; these challenges facing them etc. to carryout this study, survey research design method was adopted and as such, data were collected through primary and secondary sources, such as interviews, questionnaire, books etc. copies of questionnaire were administered to the sample group of three hundred and eighteen (318) from a population of one thousand five hundred and forty (1540), through random sampling method. Tabular and percentage as well as chi-square evaluation were adopted in the analysis of data gathered from the respondents from the analysis, the following finding were made: that women from funds realized through launching ceremonies, donations from outside bodies, regular contributions etc. despite their fragile nature, are making concerted efforts in contributing to community development in the area evidenced in building of town halls, rehabilitations of dilapidated schools civic centers and markets etc; that women face certain challenges in their bid to contribute to community development such as lack of finance problem of land allocation, lack of cooperation between members and the society, lack of technical supports from the government.

Key words: Women • August conferences • Community development and Udenu L.G.A

INTRODUCTION

It is a truism the adage that says; behind every successful man is a woman. Women have been regarded as fragile and should be subordinate to the men, but can play very important roles for the betterment of the society. This fragile nature has proved them taking domineering influence on many occasions in the history of mankind. Going biblically, god in his infallible nature saw the need for a woman to be created in order to compliment the efforts of the man (Adam). Across the country, women have created innovative, comprehensive programs to meet the needs of their communities.

Taking into cognizance the Nigeria perspective, women such as late prop Dora Akunyili, Dr. Ngozi Okonji-Iwela, Dr. Mrs. Obiageli Ezekwesili to mention but few,

have as a question of fact and not opinion, contributed and/ or made impact tremendously to the development of their comminties. Women is said to be the strong neck of a man in the family, hence the man can stand with the head too tall [1]. In Enugu state of Nigeria, down to udenu local government area of enugu state, women have also made substantial contributions to the development of their communities.

The experience so far in Nigeria sine the transition to democracy in 1999 show that violent conflicts impacts negatively and democracy in 1999 show that violent conflicts impacts negatively on the rule of how state capacity and democratic political processes. Experiencing violent conflict can be extremely examatic especially to the vulnerable groups like children and women. Those that are residents in communities experiencing violent conflicts

suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, which contributes to poor mental and physical health reduced quality of life and in some cases increased violent behavior. These are always the feelings of humiliation and betrayal and the desire for revenge, can also perpetuate a cycle of violence which underlings rise to power, engage in extreme acts, inflicting indignities on those who had done the same to them. Each of the conflicts lead to wanton loss of human lives and property as well as human displacement [2].

Statement of the Problem: The cultural beliefs that the education of a woman ends in the kitchen, makes it almost impossible for males to see the immense contributions of women group' i.e. August conferences to the community development. For example, through picture books, girls are taught to have low aspirations because there are so few opportunities portrayed as available to them. It is believed that men's work is outside the home and women's work is inside home. For example we see women at home washing dishes, cooking, cleaning, yell at the children, take care of babies and do the shopping. While men are store keepers, house builders storytellers, monks, preachers, fishermen, policemen. Fighters, soldiers, adventurers, judges, farmers and pilots. They were also the king and the gods.

Within the traditional African society, women from almost all the ethnic groups were included from performing certain activities, especially those that concern leadership and other hand and significant activities like construction works and clergy roles, those were considered as men's domain. The exclusion of women from some of these activities is due to socio-cultural factors constraining them from participating in activities that were considered to be exclusively for men [3].

Furthermore gender inequality contributes to the low contribution of women to community development. Many a times we hear the men ask, "don't know you are a woman" this question is done to the systematic gender bias in customs, beliefs and attitudes that confine women mostly to the domestic sphere and not in certain matters expected to be in the men domain [4]. Also the economic and domestic workloads deprived women of time to contribute to community development.

Finally laws and customs also impede women's access to credit, productive inputs employment, education, information and politics. These factors affect women's ability and incentives to contribute in economic and social development activities in the community.

The purpose of this research is to find out the contribution of women August conferences or group to community development, since it is believed that "what a man can do a woman can do it better. The challenges facing them in their bid to contribute will also be renewed.

Objectives of the Study: The broad objective of this study is the contributions of women August conferences to community development in Enugu state focusing on Udeniu local government area.

The specific objectives include the following;

- To ascertain how women August conferences contribute to community development.
- To identify strategies for meaningful contribution of women August conferences to community development.
- To examine the extent women August conferences generate their income for community development project
- To verify the challenges facing women August conferences in their bid to contribute to community development
- To proffer and /or make recommendations on how to circumvent these challenges facing them.

Research Hypotheses: The following hypotheses were formulated for this research study.

Hypotheses One:

HO: There is no relationship between women August conferences to community.

HI: There is a relationship between women August conferences to community development.

Scope of the Study: This study on the contributions of women August conferences to community development is focused on Udeniu Local Government Area, Enugu State

Review of Related Literature: This study reviewed the following sub-headings;

- Concept of community development
- Assumption of community development
- Objectives of community development
- Overview of women organization.
- Women in community development in Nigeria

- The history of August meeting conferences in Igbo land
- The contribution of women august conference to community development.
- Challenges facing women august conferences in community development.

Research Design and Methodology: A research design is systematic plan to study a scientific problem. The design of study defines the study type (descriptive, correlation, semi-experimental, review, meta-analytic) and sub-type (e.g descriptive- longitudinal case study), research question, hypotheses, independent and dependent variables, experimental design and, if applicable, data collection methods and a statistical analysis plan [5]. The researcher therefore adopted sample survey for this study.

Area of the Study: This study was carried out in udenu local government area of Enugu state. It is located within longitude 6°59'N and latitude 7°27'E, in Enugu North Senatorial zone. It borders Kogi and Benue state of Nigeria. On the north is ikem, on the east is Ofante and Idoma, while the north-west Flank are Obollo Eke and Obollo Afor communities. To the south-west is Enugu Ezike, while the south-south is Amalla. To the south east are Obollo Afor Iheaka and Ovoko communities. Its headquarters is located in Obollo Afor autonomous community.

Population of the Study: The population of this study covered all the christen women i.e married, widows, from all the denominational churches in Udenu local government area of Enugu state. Meanwhile the total population of Udenu local government area is 300, 720. This figure is gotten from 2011 population projections as seen in local government area of Udenu, at the population commission office.

Research Instruments: The principal instrument used to gather information for this study was through questionnaires administered to the respondents.

The questionnaires were distributed personally to various respondents thereby giving the researcher ample opportunity of making first hand observation and independent judgment for the research project.

The statistical tools used in analyzing the questionnaires were based on simple and frequency distribution tables. The tests of hypotheses were done with the use of chi-square (X^2).

Summary of Findings: The researcher having completed the research work on the contributions of women august conferences to community development observed that out of the 318 questionnaires distribute, 300 were returned were analyzed with the aid of four research questions. The researcher made use of frequency distribution and chi-square tables in analyzing the data collected.

Summary of findings in the demographic variable on section a are as follows:

Women were the only sex used and those between the age brackets of 31-40 constituted the majority that completed the questionnaires. Also, catholic and Anglican were the denominational churches used.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion of this research work, the researcher wishes to say that having completed the research on the contributions of women august conferences are trying and/or making frantic efforts to contribute meaningfully to community development. their efforts could yield more dividends if the yet to be mentioned recommendations are put into work.

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