



## Involvement of Women Based Civil Society Organizations in Rural Development in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria

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**Abstract** – This study analyzed the involvement of women – based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in rural development of Hawul Local Government Area of Borno state. The data were collected through the use of structured questionnaires administered to 70 respondents randomly sampled across the eight (8) CSOs in the study area. The data collected were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools in forms of frequency, percentages and correlation analysis. The result of the study revealed that majority (68.6%) of members of CSOs are between middle (41-50 years) and old age (above 50 years) with high proportions (67.1%) being married. Majorities (82.9%) are educated only to post primary level and most (85.7%) were found to be indigenes of the study area. The result of paired correlation analysis between socioeconomic characteristics and length of membership of CSOs indicated a significant and positive relationship with age ( $r = 0.748$ ), educational qualification ( $r = 0.302$ ) and indigene ship ( $r = 0.711$ ) and was not significant with marital status ( $r = -0.067$ ) all at 1% level of significance. The respondents indicated insufficient funds as the major constraint of their CSOs. It was recommended that government should render support to CSOs in terms of creating enabling policies and provision of financial assistance to carry out their rural development projects also the youth and women should be encouraged to participate in CSOs.

**Keywords** – Involvement; Women Based Civil Organizations; Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); Rural Development; Hawul; Borno.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Civil Society Organizations can be defined as a stakeholding, non-governmental agencies, institutions and groups within a state having the ability to influence certain decisions, policies and activities of either the government or other groups within the state (Uche, 2006). Osaghae (1998), also opined that the poor economic condition of the Nigerian state has also led to the emergence of Civil Society Organizations that are state inclined because members of that group believes strongly that material resources are assured. CSOs are composed of the totality of many voluntary social relationships, civic and social organizations and institutions that form the basis of a functioning society as distinct from the force – backed structure of the society or state.

Women based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are women led grass-root development organizations which works among tribal communities. These civil societies include NGOs, trade Unions, Faith-based Organizations,

Indigenous peoples Movements, Foundations and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), etc. CSOs work to achieve similar and inter-related goals which are to positively influence women's perspective on their responsibility in rural development.

Lele (1975) defined rural development as improving the living standard of the mass of low income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self – sustaining. Women play a pivotal role in African agricultural and rural development. This is true not only of food production long recognized as a woman's activity but also of other agricultural activities such as cash cropping and livestock production. The international Labour Organization (ILO) (1986) estimated that 78% of women in Africa are active in agriculture. Rural communities are faced with many challenges that hinder development, such as lack of social infrastructure including health care and educational facilities, lack of access to resources including capital and credit, lack of opportunities to learn new skills and to acquire affordable technology and limited access to market for input, production and sales. In order to minimize and eliminate such challenges to rural development, CSOs such as Better Life Programme (BLP) for rural women have worked towards providing modern amenities, developing small scale industries and introductory new technology, encouraging the acquisition of skill, knowledge and positive effect in Agriculture, home management, health education, industrial sectors and cooperative society. Better Life Programme was founded in September 1989, with the vision to see that Africa is poverty-free and the living conditions of rural dwellers, particularly women, is significantly improved. Other association such as Women in Agriculture (WIA) and family support programmes (originated between the late 1970's and early 1980's and it replaced the BLP) have also contributed in linking women farmers to sources of credit, developing programmes for women farmers to collaborate with research institutes sensitize government on the need to produce adequate shelter for all Nigerians.

### II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main objective of this study is to determine the involvement of women based Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in rural development in Hawul Local Government Area of Borno State. The specific objectives were to:

- Identify the socioeconomic characteristics of members of CSOs in the study area
- Assess the involvement of women based CSOs in rural development activities in the study area
- Determine the source of funds for the women based CSOs in the study area
- Evaluate the performance of CSOs in the study area
- Determine the constraints limiting involvement of women based CSOs in rural economic activities in the study area

latitude 10°N 51°E and longitude 12°N 35°E of the equator (Ministry of land and survey, 2007). Hawul LGA has an estimated total population of about 120,314 of which 59,995 and 60,319 are men and women respectively (National Population Commission, 2006).

Using simple random sampling, eight (8) organizations were selected from the 35 registered CSOs in Hawul L.G.A. The number of respondents to be used for the study was selected using proportionate sampling since the memberships of the CSOs are not uniform. 25% of the members in each CSO were used.

### III. METHODOLOGY

The study area is Hawul Local Government, one of the 27 local government areas in Borno state. It lies between

### IV. SAMPLING FRAME

S/No	Name of CSO	Membership	Sample selected
1	Marama Women Fisheries Cooperative	43	10
2	MwankirShaffa Fad Farms Cooperative Society	60	15
3	Hawul Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Shaffa	28	7
4	Maram Women Multipurpose	40	10
5	YimirshikaGwanguli Women Multipurpose Cooperative Society	43	10
6	Mairi Farms Cooperative Society, Mbulatawiwi	32	8
7	Better – Life Women Cooperative Society, Mbulatawiwi	20	5
8	Yimirshika Multipurpose	21	5
	Total	287	70

Data was obtained from both primary and secondary source. Primary data was obtained using structured questionnaire and secondary data was gotten from the internet, journals and articles.

The analytical tools used are descriptive statistics (frequency, percentages and mean) and inferential statistics (Correlation analysis).

### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The socioeconomic characteristics such as membership of CSOs, age, marital status, educational qualification, length of membership and were presented.

**Table .1 CSO Membership Distribution by Respondents n=70**

Membership	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Ordinary	48	68.6
Official	22	31.4
Total	70	100
<b>Age(years)</b>		
21 – 30	3	4.3
31 – 40	19	27.1
41 – 50	27	38.6
51 – 60	17	24.3
Above 60	4	5.7
Total	70	100
<b>Marital status</b>		

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	2	2.9
Married	47	69.1
Divorced	2	2.9
Widowed	19	27.1
Total	70	100

#### Educational Qualification

Age (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	21	30.0
Post – Primary	37	52.9
Tertiary	8	11.4
Non – formal	4	5.7
Total	70	100

#### Length of Membership

Length of Membership (years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0 – 9	9	12.9
10 – 19	22	31.4
20 – 29	35	50.0
30 – 39	4	5.7
40 – 49	0	0.0
Above 50	0	0.0
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

**Table 2. Involvement of women – based CSOs in rural development activities**

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	12	17.1
No	58	82.9
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 2 shows that majority (82.9%) of the respondents have not been involved, while only 17.1% were involved as members of CSOs. This might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents are old people (above 40 years) who are less agile in carrying out task and have less favourable attitude towards participation. Therefore to encourage participation, youth development programme should be lunched for younger women and adult education programme should be made available for older members; which is not achieved may result in poor rural development of the area and low standard of living as the CSOs are interested in the welfare of the rural populace, this supports the claim by (Bzugu and Kwaghe, 1997), that the involvement of rural women in agricultural production has been significant to the country's economic development.

**Table 3. Distribution of Respondents based on Level of Involvement**

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Highly involved	3	4.3
Moderately involved	46	65.7
Not involved	21	30.0
Total	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 3 shows that most (65.7%) are moderately involved, 30% are not involved in rural development activity at all. This implies that majority (65.7%) are moderately involved. The low level of involvement of CSOs may be due to certain issues which may militate against the effective operation of civil society organizations in Nigeria, one of which according to Boadi (1995) is the issues of insufficient funds.

**Table 4. Distribution of Different forms of Personal Contribution of Respondents**

Forms	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Membership contribution	41	58.6
Special levy/tax	53	75.7
Donations	14	20.0
Total		154.3*

Source: Field Survey, 2012

\*Multiple response, hence % > 100

Table 4 shows that majority (58.6%) contributes through membership contribution, 75.7% covers special levy/tax form of contribution; donations are 20.0% of personal contribution of respondents. Contributions by special levy/tax were highest (75.7%) due to necessity, as donations from individual or organizations are low. This low donation however may lead to the running down of

CSOs or CSOs being state or politically inclined so as to source for fund, thereby showing loyalty to the incumbent government. This statement is supported by Boadi (1995) "Many of Nigeria's Civil Society Organizations has turned out to be nothing more than political action committees.

**Table 5. Distribution of Other Sources of Funds for Respondents**

Source	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Donations	30	42.9
Government assistance	2	2.9
Members contribution	39	5.7
Sales of goods and services	62	88.6
Total		140.1*

Source: Field Survey, 2012

\*Multiple response, hence % > 100

Table 5 shows that 42.9% of the respondents get funding from donations, 2.9% of the respondents get funding through government assistance, 5.7% get funding through members contribution, 88.6% through the sales of goods and services. This implies that funds are sourced mainly from the sales of goods and services, which may be due to the fact that the CSOs in the study area (Hawul) are involved more in agriculture (crop production) supporting the claim of Onokerhoraye, 1978, that the aspiration of the government and the people is to become self-sufficient in the production of goods and to increase the contribution of agriculture to the growth of the national economy.

**Table 6. Distribution of Respondents based on Constraint Relating to Funding (n= 70)**

Constraints	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Lack of credit	34	48.6
Low purchase of goods and services	38	54.3
Members willingness to contribute to the organization	38	54.3
Total		157.2

Source: Field Survey, 2012

\*Multiple responses, % > 100

Table 6 shows that from the option of constraint relating to funding for respondents 48.6% indicated lack of credit, 54.3% indicated low purchase of goods and services, 54.3% indicated member's unwillingness to contribute to the organization as constraint to funding of the CSOs. This implies that the major constraints relating to funding are low purchase of goods and services and unwillingness to contribute to the organization. The constraint of lack of credit may not be unconnected to the fact that of women do not get the same as men in their access to resources and services such as credit and sociological factors (Tanko, 1994). Special steps should be taken to include women and overcome constraints to their participation are usually needed (Rahman, 2004).

**Table 7. Distribution of Respondents based on the Extent of Performance in Agriculture (N=70)**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Crop production</b>		
Highly achieved	7	10.0
Moderately achieved	60	85.7
Not achieved	3	4.3
<b>Livestock production</b>		
Highly achieved	7	10.0
Moderately achieved	60	85.7
Not achieved	3	4.3
<b>Vegetable production</b>		
Highly achieved	2	2.9
Moderately achieved	25	35.7
Not achieved	43	64.1
<b>Orchard production</b>		
Not achieved	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 7 shows that agricultural crop production has been highly achieved by 10% of the respondents, moderately achieved by 85.7% of the respondents and not achieved by 4.3% of the respondents. It also shows that livestock production has been highly achieved by 1.4% of the respondents, moderately achieved by 15.7% of the respondents and not achieved by 82.9% of the respondents. And that vegetable production has 2.9% as highly achieved, 35.7%, moderately achieved in orchard production. This implies that crop production is the major agricultural development activity which the CSOs in the study area are involved in. This agrees with the findings of (Mgbada, 2002) that women make significant contribution to food production, they provide 60 – 80% of agricultural labour and are responsible for 80% food production.

**Table 8. Distribution of respondents based on performance in environmental activities (n = 70)**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Sanitation</b>		
Moderately achieved	1	1.4
Not achieved	69	98.6
<b>Tree planting</b>		
Moderately achieved	1	1.4
Not achieved	69	98.6
<b>Awareness campaign</b>		
Moderately achieved		
Not achieved		

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 8. Shows that an environmental activity under sanitation has 1.4% moderately achieved and 98.6 not achieved. Under tree planting, 1.4% moderately achieved and 98.6 not achieved under awareness campaign, 2.9% moderately achieved and 97.1% not achieved. From the survey, environmental related activities have not achieved by women based CSOs in Hawul local government. This implies that CSOs in the study area have not been involved in environmental related activities such as; sanitation, tree planning and awareness campaign as against the findings of the (EU-Nigeria cooperation); that CSOs are also instrumental in the implementation of

activities as part of the project in the two focal sector of rural and social development, water and sanitation sector. Therefore, CSOs in the study area should pay attention to other form of rural development instead of just agriculture.

**Table 9. Distribution of Respondents Based on Performance in Health (n = 70)**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Building clinics</b>		
Not achieved	70	100
<b>Maintenance of clinics</b>		
Not achieved	70	100

Source: Field Survey, 2012

Table 9 shows that 100% of the respondents have not achieved rural development in team of health (building of clinics and maintenance of clinics). As against the findings of Mabogunje (1991) who identified the eight cardinal element of sustainable development as they affect women, e.g. health, education, culture, politic, economy, agriculture, enhanced environment quality and peaceful co-existence.

**Table 10. Distribution of Respondents Based on the Extent of Performance in Housing (n=70)**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Estate management</b>		
Not achieved	70	100

Source: field survey, 2012

Table 10 show that development in team of housing has not been achieved (100%), this suggests that activities in form of housing (estate management ) has not been attempted which might be due to the constraint of funding faced by the CSOs in the study area ; as estate management is highly capital intensive.

**Table 11. Distributions of Respondents Based on the Extent of Performance in Education**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<b>Building of schools</b>		
Not achieved	70	100
<b>Purchase of items</b>		
Moderately achieved	1	1.4
Not achieved	69	98.6
<b>Scholarship</b>		
Not achieved	70	100

Source; field survey, 2012

Table 11 shows that building of school is 100% not achieved, purchase of items is moderately achieved by 1.4% of the respondents and not achieved 98.6%, also the table shows that scholarship is 100% not achieved. This implies that there is no development in the educational sector of the study area, which may be the reason of the relatively low level of education of the respondents. (Nelson *et al.* 1960) stated that educational level is highly significant in the extent, intensity and pattern participation, therefore if more educated individual (woman) in CSOs in the study area, the educational sector can be improved.

**Table 12. Distribution of Respondents Based on the Extent of Performance in the Road Infrastructure (n=70)**

Ratings	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Construction of roads		
Not achieved	70	100
Maintenance of roads		
Not achieved	70	100

Source; field survey, 2012

Table 12 shows that there is 100% non-achievement in the construction road, also 100% non-achievement in the maintenance of roads this may be due to the reason of poor road networks in the study area.

**Table 13. Constraints Limiting Involvement Of CSOs**

The constraints limiting the involvement of CSOs in rural development were considered.

Constraint	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Insufficient funds	66	94.3	1 <sup>st</sup>
Membership strength	48	68.6	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Technical inefficiency	36	51.4	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Membership level of participation	31	44.3	4 <sup>th</sup>
Gender biasness	30	42.9	5 <sup>th</sup>
Community cooperation	17	24.3	6 <sup>th</sup>
Poor management	6	12.9	7 <sup>th</sup>
Government policies	7	10.0	8 <sup>th</sup>
Environmental factors	4	5.7	9 <sup>th</sup>
Custom and tradition	1	1.4	10 <sup>th</sup>

Source: field survey, 2012

Table 13. shows that *insufficient fund* is ranked 1st (94.3%), *membership strength* is ranked 2nd having (68.6%) and *technical inefficiency* is ranked 3rd (51.4%) which are the major constraints. Funding is a general issue that draws back plans of people and organizations, this is true as it is the major setback for involvement of women in CSO's. The strength of CSO's lies on the membership and its activities, where the membership is poor, the organization will be weak and hence discourage others from getting involved. Technical inefficiency is another setback that limits CSO's functions.

**Table 14. Result of Correlation Analysis of the Relationship Between Some Socio-Economic Characteristics and Length of Membership**

Variables	P – value	Correlation coefficient (r)
Age	0.000	0.748**
Marital status	0.318	-0.067
Educational qualification	0.001	0.302**
Indigene ship	0.000	0.711**

Source: extract from correlation analysis

\*\*Significant at 1% (P<0.001) significant level

Table 14 shows that correlation analysis between then length of membership of CSOs and some socioeconomic characteristic such as; age, material status, educational qualification and indigene ship, Result of the paired correlation analysis between the length membership and socioeconomic characteristics indicate the significant and positive relationship with age ( $r = 0.711$ ) all at 1% level of significance ( $P < 0.01$ ), but the paired correlation analysis between the length of membership and material status as a socioeconomic characteristic was not sufficient ( $r = -0.067$ ) From the result of the analysis, it is apparent that the length of membership is significantly determined by age which could be probably due to the fact the majority (98.6%) of the respondent are above 40 years (Table 1) indicating that have been numbers of the CSOs which they belong. The result of the analysis also shows that educational qualification is significantly indicate by length of membership which could be as a result of the fact that most CSOs considers relatively educated individual to be members as indicated in table 4.14 where 52.9% of the respondent are educated to the point of post primary school. This agrees with Nelson et al. (1960), which stated that educational level are higher significant in the extent, intensity and pattern of participation. Also in the table 4.6 the analysis shows that the length of membership is significantly determined by indigene ship which be probably explain as due to the fact that the indigenes were more interested in being a members of CSOs in the study area. This is in line with the data in table 4.1.6 where 85.7% of the respondents were indigenes and 14.3% were non indigenes. This finding agrees with Ekong (2003), who stated that indigenes are less likely to participate fully in community development activities in locality that is not their birth place.

However, in contrast to the above result, the length membership is not significantly determined by marital status, this could be due to the fact that one's marital status does not influence or affect his/her participation (membership) (table 4) were majority of the respondents (67.1%) indicate being married.

## VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study analyzes the involvement of women – based CSOs in rural development in Hawul L.G.A. of Borno state. From the findings it is apparent that majority of the women – based CSOs are not involved in rural development of the study area. This might be due to some constraints such as insufficient fund membership strength and technical insufficiency.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. CSOs should liaise with other NGOs within and outside the L.G.A to provide more enlightenment to their members and community as a whole to understand the need for rural development and the importance of being involved in rural development activities.
2. The government should support civil society organizations in terms of creating enabling policies and

rendering financial assistance needed to carry out their rural development projects.

3. To improve the performance of CSOs in the study area and be involved in educating their members and organizing proper leadership trainings.
4. Awareness campaign should be embarked upon so as to encourage younger generations (women) to be part of CSOs.

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