



# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY ACTIVITIES IN ADAMAWA STATE OF NIGERIA

Maryam Gidado Halilu<sup>1</sup> Halimat Kamal Bello<sup>2</sup> Gana Joseph Shallagwa<sup>3</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

*This paper seeks to examine socio-economic benefits of participation in animal husbandry activities among women in Adamawa state of Nigeria. Women empowerment through animal husbandry activities which is the focus of this paper is a mechanism through which Northern Nigerian women are able to increase self-reliance in order to promote their well-being as it is believed agricultural development is a field that saddles its recipients with income generation. A sample of 154 women involved in the animal husbandry activities from the study area were selected from a study population of 255, through sample random from the seven local government areas of Adamawa State of Nigeria and a schedule was designed and administered among the respondents. The result revealed that respondents have opportunities through their participation in animal husbandry activities to enjoy some socio-economic benefits which include increase in their income, purchasing power and improved life. Most of the participants have no formal education which directly informed their participation in the programme. The study finds out that there is high rate of involvement of women in animal husbandry activities in the study area, hence most of the respondents emphasized positive changes in their socio-economic well-being. The paper therefore concludes that women involvement in animal husbandry activities is a mechanism for women empowerment and poverty alleviation in Northern Nigeria. It also concludes that the practice is a field that saddles on how to be employable and to be useful to themselves and the society.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Women all over the world are considered as an extremely pivotal point in the process of change in the rural areas and that is why today in most of the developing countries like Nigeria, more emphasis is laid on the need for the development of women and their greater volunteerism and active participation in the main stream of development process (Singh, 2009 & Rajamani & Julius, 2012).

Nigerian Women have limited access to socio-economic rights and privileges. They enjoy lower social status and are encumbered by traditional practices to exhibit their potentials. They suffer discrimination and marginalization through denials of rights, land ownership, access to credit facilities and farm input. Women are isolated and restricted at the community levels through traditional and religions practices which hamper their development.

Adamawa state is basically an agrarian federating unit of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The high level of poverty in this area has become a source of concern.

Women have been known to play important functions to the development of any nation. As such, there is an emerging need to improve women status which should start with socio-economic empowerment through animal husbandry activities. This would enable them to develop self-esteem, collective bargaining power and also improve their well-being and self-reliance. Thus, the increasing awareness and importance of women participation in animal husbandry activities and benefits drive calls for an in-depth study of women involved in animal husbandry activities in Adamawa state of Nigeria.

The aim of this paper therefore, is to understand and describe the socio-economic benefits accrued to women participating in animal husbandry activities in the study area.

## 1.1 Empowerment – A Theoretical Postulation

Empowerment had two interrelated aspects that can be summarized as individual empowerment and collective empowerment. Each aspect has its own component (Mann, 2006). Individual empowerment relates to the way people think about themselves as well as the knowledge, capacities, skills and mastery they actually possess (Stapple, 1999). A set of four components, including meaning, competence, self-determination and impact, were found in individual empowerment. The goal of individual empowerment is to achieve a state of liberation strong enough to impact one's power of life, community and society.

Empowerment therefore develops from individual and a critical consciousness to collective action (Boehn & Stapples, 2008). Individual empowerment develops when people attempt to develop the capabilities to overcome their psychological and intellectual obstacles and attain self-determination, self-sufficiency, self-confidence and decision-making abilities (Becker & Korach, 2004). While collective empowerment refers to the process by which individuals join together to break their solitude and silence, help one another, learn together, and develop skills for collective action (Boehn & Fatterson, 2004). Empowerment process is therefore not a constant, but rather a continuing development that involves many changes and



whereby an individual or group is able to strengthen and exercise the ability to act to gain control and mastery over life, community and society.

Empowerment thus is understood as a multi-dimensional process where people take control over their lives, gaining skills, building self-confidence and solving problems. Thus, women empowerment especially through animal husbandry activities would be able to develop self-esteem and confidence to improve their well-being. Therefore, the involvement of women in animal husbandry activities can lead to empowerment where they can gain control over their lives because agricultural development is a field that saddles its recipients with skills on how to be employable and useful to themselves and the society.

### 1.2 Aim and Objectives of Study

The aim of the paper was to examine the extent of women empowerment through participation in animal husbandry activities by women from Adamawa state of Nigeria.

The Specific Objectives are to:-

- i. Determine empowerment benefits (social and economic) through participation in animal husbandry practice
- ii. Identify the constraints mitigating against women participation in animal husbandry activities

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Adamawa state of Nigeria. The study is descriptive in nature as it has attempted to describe the socio-economic benefits derived through participation in animal husbandry activities among women in the study area. The sample size of this study came from a population of 255 women who are involved in animal husbandry activities from the study area. The sample size of 154 was selected for the

study. The research instrument for data collection for this study was through questionnaire. The suggest items in measuring socio-economic empowerment were originally developed by past researchers and reported high rating in validity and reliability (Mann 2006, Kabeer, 2010). The volume of each response in these items as measured with four-point Likert scale (1. Strongly Disagree 2. Disagree 3. Agree 4. Strongly Agree). Data obtained from the respondents were coded, computed and analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS Version 20).

## 3.0 RESULTS

While trying to examine the dynamic of women empowerment through participation in animal husbandry activities in the study area, socio-economic benefits derived from the practice as well as challenges faced by the respondents were identified important variables as the respondents of this study are women that would explain better what they felt about animal husbandry practice and this is shown in tables 1-3.

### 3.1 Economic Empowerment Derived through Animal Husbandry Practices

The main idea behind this section (Table 3.1) was to measure the level of economic benefits derived by the respondents through participation in animal husbandry activities.

The analysis showed that the overall score of women economic empowerment was 2.53 and majority of the respondents are really privileged to enjoy many economic benefits. These include increased purchasing power and improved living condition. The overall frequency thus indicated that women who participated in animal husbandry activities have moderate level of economic empowerment.

**Table 3.1 Items of Women Economic Empowerment (N154) Mean 2.53**

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Low (1 – 2)	Mod (2 – 3)	High (3 – 4)
1	I can solve my financial problems	3.77	0.51	1.2%	31.0%	70.2%
2	My living condition has improved	3.67	0.49	1.1%	38.8%	65.2%
3	My income has increased	3.52	0.47	1.2%	40.2%	59.4%
4	I can manage my resources	3.32	0.29	1.5%	80.4%	72.1%
5	I can save money now	3.30	0.27	1.4%	85.2%	70.2%
6	I have access to assets	2.99	0.32	9.2%	83.2%	1.4%
7	I can assist others financially	2.89	0.42	12.8%	84.0%	3.2%
8	I solve personal issues	2.60	0.62	43.3%	51.1%	5.7%
9	I have access to credit facilities	2.07	0.38	88.7%	11.3%	0.7%
10	I have gained more experience	1.80	0.50	95.0%	2.5%	1.4%

Source: Field Work 2022

### 3.2 Social Empowerment Derived Through Animal Husbandry Activities

This section (table 3.2) was used to measure respondents' level of social empowerment through their involvement in animal husbandry practices. The analysis showed that the overall mean was 2.62 and that most of the respondents of this

study who participate in animal husbandry have got a lot of social benefits. Based on the analysis in table 3.2 below, respondents got social benefits such as access to children education and better decision-making ability among others. Thus, the result showed that respondents who participate in animal husbandry activities from this study area generally have moderate empowerment.

**Table 3.2 Analysis of Women Social Empowerment (N154) Mean 2.62**

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Low (1 – 2)	Mod (2 – 3)	High (3 – 4)
1	My life has improved	3.80	0.61	1.2%	38.5%	65.2%
2	I know much about the society	3.63	0.60	1.2%	39.2%	58.2%
3	I can act on my own	3.40	0.42	3.4%	70.2%	19.2%
4	I have access to children education	3.04	0.44	7.8%	80.1%	15.2%
5	I perform my social responsibilities	2.92	0.52	9.3%	78%	9.2%
6	I am happy now	2.76	0.50	12.2%	70.3%	6.7%
7	I feel better making decisions	2.75	0.49	7.8%	69.2%	5.2%
8	I have access of information	2.68	0.48	6.7%	66.3%	5.0%
9	I have friends now	2.52	0.45	3.5%	58.2%	4.0%
10	I learn many things now	2.50	0.60	46.6%	48.2%	2.8%

Source: Field Work 2022

### 3.3 Women Constraints in Animal Husbandry

The main idea behind this section (table 3.3) was to measure women obstacles in animal husbandry activities. The

analysis showed that majority of respondents of this study has faced some challenges. Some of these challenges include lack of enough initial capital, lack of financial support from the government and lack of enabling environment.

**Table 3.3: Items of Analysis of Women Constraints (N154) Mean 1.90**

S/N	Items	Mean	SD	Low (1 – 2)	Mod (2 – 3)	High (3 – 4)
1	I have enough capital	1.31	0.58	86.5%	12.4%	1.1%
2	I have support from others	2.31	0.63	65.5%	31.2%	3.2%
3	I have good market	1.70	0.61	96.0%	2.5%	1.5%
4	Government provide good environment	1.59	0.60	97.0%	2.5%	1.5%
5	I have access to tools	1.58	0.59	98.0%	1.0%	1.0%
6	I have support from government	1.57	0.57	96.0%	1.0%	1.0%
7	I have loan	1.58	0.59	97%	2.5%	1.5%
8	I have customers	1.70	0.61	96.05%	2.5%	1.5%
9	Some people work with me	2.36	0.67	61.05%	3.4%	3.2%
10	I have other facilities	1.70	0.60	68.02%	1.2%	3.1%

Source: Field Work, 2022.

## 4.0 DISCUSSION

The study was designed to understand the socio-economic impact of animal husbandry activities on members. The result obtained from this study has shown the benefits and changes that respondents of this study have experienced in their lives as a result of their animal husbandry practice. The outcome of this study showed that most of the respondents of this study have benefitted considerably in terms of socio-economic empowerment. It is evident that economically, the respondent has opportunities through their participation in animal husbandry activities to enjoy some economic benefits which include increase in their income. Most of them felt strong enough to meet unexpected financial challenges as a result of the increase in their purchasing power, secondly, the outcome indicated that the respondents have got a lot of social benefits; most of them felt that there is improved life and access to new skills of income generation. To this end, respondents are able to make good decisions about themselves. They are able to articulate own strategy for change.

The findings of this study are consistent with previous studies (Pretty 1995, Bharathi 2005 & Ndas 2014) who observed that animal husbandry practice has the potential of establishing capacity building and self-efficiency among women in socio-economic development.

Although the respondents of this study faced some challenges in this practice. These includes lack of initial capital, lack of government support and many others, but the respondents were able to record moderate successes. It can be concluded that poverty and unemployment are the compelling forces for the women to participate in animal husbandry activities and the practice has proved to be a good strategy to alleviate poverty and women development. It is understood from this study that animal husbandry activities are playing a vital role in empowering northern Nigeria women as most of the respondents have emphasized changes in their well-being.



## 5.0 CONCLUSION

The outcome of this study indicated that women in the area of study sees animal husbandry practice as major means of livelihood and therefore, put high expectation of returns on the practice. And as such, have benefitted considerably in terms of socio-economic development. The practice has clearly created impact upon the life pattern of Nigerian women especially those from Adamawa State of Nigeria.

## 6.0 RECOMMENDATION

The paper recommends the following;

1. Federal government should come out with mass enlightenment programme through ministries of agriculture and women affairs on the need for active participation of women in animal husbandry activities irrespective of educational status
2. There is need for the three tiers of government to give support to women engaged in animal husbandry activities

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