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WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT: IMPACT OF KEEP IN BAUCHI STATE 2020-2023

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Abstract

The Kaura Economic Empowerment Program (KEEP) is a governmental initiative established in 2020 by Governor Bala Mohammed Abdulqadir with a specific focus on poverty and unemployment reduction among women and youth across the twenty local government areas of Bauchi state. The objectives behind KEEP are to initiate, design, and execute different types of empowerment programs for assisting women and youth with an outlook entirely informed by economic values and principles of self-help and mutual assistance to the weak, poor and needy especially women and youth. Recently, studies exist on women empowerment but limited to an academically well examination of the empirical impact of KEEP empowerment programs on the target beneficiaries in Bauchi state. Hence, this study examined KEEP's empowerment programmes in Bauchi and the extent to which KEEP empower women and youth in Bauchi. Moreover, it also examined the strategies employed in selecting the target beneficiaries and the challenges faced by the program. This study is a quantitative one which utilized questionnaires to collect data from both the beneficiaries of the program as well as from KEEP officials. Findings of the study revealed that KEEP uses economic resources such as grinding machines, sewing machines, motorcycle, groundnut processing equipment, buses, tricycles, commercial cars, goats to encourage animal husbandry, cash and starter packs worth 225 million Naira in the 20 local government areas of Bauchi to empower women and youth. The women and youth beneficiaries were selected via town hall meetings, seminars, workshop and awareness campaigns with the help of community and religious leaders. Although KEEP was successful but faces challenges comprising insufficient funding to sustain and reach out to more target beneficiaries, poor resource management and sustainability skills among its human resources. The study recommends that KEEP needs more skilled management team, and availability of sufficient resources, competent services, assistance and funding through a stable networking process from both governmental and nongovernmental organizations to ensure success and sustainability of women and youth economic empowerment in Bauchi.

Keywords: Women; Youth; Economic; Empowerment; Program; Bauchi.

Introduction

Women and youth empowerment initiatives triumph generally to lessen the sufferings of the vulnerable people in the society mostly women and youth for the inability of government to meet their basic needs. The idea for reduced government intervention, especially in providing goods and services to the citizens, revolves around the assumptions that because of their bureaucratic nature, excessive red-tapism, and propensity for corruption, governments are ill-equipped to effectively meet the demands of the citizens in an increasingly modernized world. As a result, all manner

of agencies and organizations, mostly non-governmental, are forming in order to fill this vacuum and serve as alternative service providers to the public. Some of these organizations are profit-driven while others are not-for-profit and community-based initiatives. Again, some have political, cultural, economic, or religious coloration and focus.

For developing countries like Nigeria that have challenges of weak governmental institutions and corruption in public service, the rise of non-governmental organizations provides an alternative to the government for millions of people. This explains

why organizations that seek to, for instance, empower the handicapped and physically challenged, combat youth violence and drug addiction, or promote literacy among rural dwellers, are not only becoming more numerous, but also more dependable as alternative providers of wide ranging goods and services in these countries. Various types of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are today into wide-ranging activities in Nigeria as varied as providing training in skill-acquisition to widows, literacy campaign among prisoners, religious preaching 4.5% in a survey conducted by Gani, Chiroma and Gana (2012) indicated that women dominated the total population of Bauchi metropolis with 50.6% (160,972). The total population size shows that women have the highest level of poverty and unemployment at the rate of 60%.

Therefore, in an attempt to address the socio-economic problems of women and youth in Bauchi state, (KEEP) was established. Currently, research on women and youth in Bauchi exist but is limited and deficient in providing an academically sound oriented assessment of the practical impact of KEEP particularly on the targeted beneficiaries. It is against this background that this research attempts to examine the impact of KEEP in Bauchi state from 2020-2023.

In Bauchi state, the Kaura Economic Empowerment Program (KEEP) is an example of a governmental initiative with a specific focus poverty reduction particularly among women and youth across the twenty local government areas of Bauchi state. Established in 2020 by Governor Bala Mohammed Abdulqadir, the objectives behind KEEP are to initiate, design, and execute different types of programs. Specifically for assisting women and youth in Bauchi, with an outlook entirely informed by economic values and principles of self-help and mutual assistance to the weak, poor and needy (The Sun, 2022). KEEP has, over the course of the past three years, become a typical example in governmental empowerment discourse in Bauchi state. Currently, KEEP symbolizes the proactive steps taken by the Bala Muhammed Administration in Bauchi to promote and provide self-help and mutual assistance among women and youth, especially in the areas of skill acquisition, education, health advocacy, and aimed at empowering women and youth.

In Bauchi state, women constituted 2,283,800 out of a total number of populations of 4.2 million in the state, and the majority of them lack access to control over resources and basic education (Census, 2006). According to the Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), Bauchi state ranks fourth with a poverty incidence of 86.3 per cent out of the 10 states in Nigeria with the highest poverty incidence. Poverty remains high among women. (Bauchi, Report on Gender, 2009). The number of women according to the 2006 census population in Bauchi metropolis was 318,038. In June, 2011, the national growth rate for urban centres which was 4.5% in a survey conducted by Gani, Chiroma and Gana (2012) indicated that women dominated the total population of Bauchi metropolis with 50.6% (160,972). The total population size shows that women and youth have the highest level of poverty and unemployment at the rate of 60%.

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Women and Youth Empowerment

Women's empowerment is one of the contemporary challenges worldwide. Quite a good number of scholars have written on conceptual and practical issues underlying the internationally recognized programme of women's empowerment. However, literature on women's empowerment in Nigeria is scant. Some of the related books and articles have been critically evaluated in this study. The first part of this literature review focuses on the conceptual discussions on the idea of women and youth empowerment, mainly from the feminist and Islamic perspectives? Few books were referred below to highlight the discussion.

Batilawa (1994) argues from the feminist perspective that, the patriarchal power relations within the society stands as a problem to women empowerment which denies them access to socio

economic resources. Similarly, Adebuseye (2006) observes that, early marriage limited the girl child access to education, social status, choice making, and to lack of awareness on health services. Lack of sex education, lack of prenatal and postnatal information are threats to the sexual and reproductive health of women and double up the risk of infant and maternal mortality and pave the way for vulnerability, and other sexually transmitted diseases: STDS, HIV and AIDS. Another Report conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that poverty remains high among the populace. The poverty rate increased from 54.7% in 2004 to 60.9% in 2010. Based on the report, the southern part of Nigeria has a high chance for human development and empowerment while the northern part has lower chances. The three geopolitical zones where the Transforming Education to Girl in Northern Nigeria and Tanzania (TEGNNT) project was materialized were characterized by heterogeneous variables such as religion, language, culture, and politics. The average poverty in the three northern zones was 73.8 % in comparison to 63.3 % in the southern parts of the country (British Council, Nigeria, 2012). Narayan (2005) cited in Isaac (2007) argues that women in developing countries remain very poor therefore they should be supported to cater for their socio- economic needs. Longwe (2002) points out the failure of NEPAD by neglecting important problems of women oppression. Thus, according to this assertion, NEPAD subscribed to World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) policies in Africa which are not beneficial to women resulting in unwanted burdens of poverty and depression among women. Gurumurthy (2003) observes that, information communication technology in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were seen as capable to helping socio- economic growth and development, considering the effort of government in the attempt to encourage the new ICT and made a reform from the old monopolistic and bureaucratic traditional public service to a more market oriented type. This brings about business opportunities. Several attempts have been made with regards to ICT to foster development in the region, but it lacked provisions for women's development. In a similar vein, Oloribe

(2002a) contends that denying West African Examination Council (WAEC) examinations is the most pronounced scenario that vividly indicates lack of care to girl child education. This shows failure of both the parents and government to provide encouragement as well as conducive and qualitative provision of education. . This was supported in a report conducted on girl child education in Nigeria which reveals that, girl's access to education in Sub Saharan Africa is low and from 121 million out of school children, 65 million are girls. Thus it can be seen that empowering women is constrained by variables such as culture, tradition, poverty, lack of education, and negligence by government in various communities.

However, women can be empowered using different methods and means. Straomoist (2000) contends that education through formal and informal means is another aspect of women empowerment because girl child's access to education particularly in third world countries remains low, and findings suggested that empowering should constitute both ways that will enable them to tackle sexual stereotypes and other important aspects of life such as reproductive health, domestic violence and others. Oleribe (2007) argues that girl child education is the key to women's empowerment globally; it could be achieved through formal training of girls and skills acquisition. In addition, Adeshida and Nafisatu (19:2008) ascertain that girls constitute the highest number of children in Nigeria and educating the girl child is very important for sound economic and social development. Because educating girls means producing educated mothers. Thus girl child education has a great benefit for the society in general. In another view, Oxaal and Badens (1997) assert that empowering women does not cut men's power. Empowering women enable women to get access to decision making and resource control particularly in socio economic development of the family. Also, empowering women serves as a medium where women join hands to help men in the sustainable development of the society in general. Kausar (2000 and 2007) defines women's empowerment from the Islamic perspective as the restoration of the rights of women as enshrined in the Shariah, (primary sources of

Shariah being the Quran and the Sunnah) which are otherwise denied to women by social, political and legal institutions or any other body of individuals or individuals as such. Islamic principles do not encourage empowerment of men against women, rather it stipulated divine ways on how both men and women were created to help one another, and based on the teachings of Islam, power belongs to Allah Alone and both men and women are His vicegerents. Hence both need to come together as partners in building up the development processes, empowerment of one another and for the benefit of the society in general.

To add more, Hafez (2003) contends that in an attempt to seek self-proximity to Allah, a group of Muslim women in Egypt agreed to collectively minimize depression and poverty among women. This group worked together to help poor women through skills acquisition training, and community services. These services were provided for the sake of Allah, without any intention to earn reward from anyone. Empowerment in this sense is a means towards Muslim ideal.

In another perspective, a report conducted by Sawo, Okuwa, Ajala, and Adeogbo (2011) point out that, some of the observed challenges to women economic participation are the female quality of life which can be improved by making provision for sound education as a key for change, formal or informal, such as vocational skill building, immediate economic generating activities especially for girls. Thus, there is the need to improve the economic participation of women in all states of the country by the Government, NGOs, civil society organizations, locally and internationally, through encouraging girl child education, political mobilization, market access, and skill acquisition in areas such as health, agriculture, economy and so on. Therefore in this sense, various methods or means can be employed to empower women be it through formal and non formal education, skills acquisition, micro credit finance, and many ways among others.

Women Empowerment Programmes in Nigeria

Better life for rural women programme (BLP)

This programme was initiated by Maryam Babangida in September 1987. Aikhomu (1999) points out that BLP was one of the comprehensive initiatives in Nigeria that provided and gave much attention to women empowerment programmes for sustainable development, especially in areas such as agriculture, crafts and arts, literacy, recreational activities, problems of widowhood and primary health care. Specifically, some of the objectives of the programme include: to stimulate and motivate rural women towards achieving better living and standards; and sensitize the rest of Nigerians to their problems; to educate rural women on simple hygiene, family planning, the importance of child-care and increase literacy rates; to mobilize women collectively in order to improve their general lot and for them to seek and archive leadership roles in all spheres of the society; to encourage recreation and enrich family life; to raise consciousness about their rights, the ability of opportunities and facilities, their social, political and economic responsibilities ; to inculcate the spirit of self-development, particularly in the field of education, business, arts, crafts, and agriculture. In education, BLP operated and sensitized rural women on literacy programmes such as education, home economics, nutrition and so on. The programme was then extended to all the then 21 states of the federation through the wives of the governors.

Family support programme (FSP) and family economic advancement programme (FEAP)

The programme was established by Maryam Abacha in order to alleviate poverty and to improve the living standard of the rural and urban people in Nigeria. General objectives of the programme are: to promote policies and programmes that will strengthen the observance and protection of human rights and advancement of social justice and human dignity; to improve and sustain family cohesion through the promotion of social and economic well being of the Nigerian family. Specific objectives:-To eradicate negative social and cultural factors affecting women and children. To assist rural families increase their

nutritional status to establish the promotion of the family cohesion, morality, and discipline through programmes such as Girls child education scheme, the boy drop out and children in distress; and to improve the welfare of most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the society, like the aged, children, destitute, disabled and women (FSP Blue Print, pg 5-7: 1997). In March 3, 1997, Maryam Abacha operated FEAP in order to motivate economic activities in various wards of each local government of the federation, which aimed to lift productivity and minimize rural poverty and cater for the needs of the Nigerians from the grassroots through vocational, formal and non-formal education.

Child care trust (CCT)

Akanbi and Jekayinfa (2011) further point out that Stella Obasanjo established the Child care trust (CCT) in 1999 because of the huge problems inherent within the Nigerian society such as poverty, nutritional health, unemployment and education among others. The programme identified educational problems of the Nigerian children as a great challenge to sustainable development, and a majority of these children still remained handicapped, as a result, the programme was extended to all the states in the country through the wives of their respective governors and priority was given to women and children. Akanbi and Jekayinfa (2011) further point out that Nigerian first ladies played commendable efforts at empowering rural women and children through a number of pet projects such as in education, formal or non-formal, with some achievements but most of these projects made some of the rural women felt discouraged because they felt they were being deceived through the pet project as a result of lack of continuity. The report, therefore, recommended that, first ladies should ensure continuity in their pet projects rather than changing names and content to ensure that it will foster solid achievement especially to the women and children.

Furthermore, the study contends that based on the report of the NCWD, government should introduce legislated budgetary allocation specifically in order to take good care of the facilities and salary of teachers, and awareness should be created through the mass

media on the relevance of women and children education. A study conducted on gender and growth assessment in Nigeria; Bauchi, Cross-River, Kano and Lagos, reveals that, women and children remained an essential part of the population of any given society and providing investment in children and women health will contribute immensely to poverty reduction, improve national development and realisation of fundamental human right of women and children, (UN,2010). The study noted that, about eight million children died from preventable causes and more than 350,000 women lost their lives from preventable complications related to pregnancy and child birth annually (UN, 2010). Therefore, more effort is required worldwide towards poverty eradication and improving the health well-being of the children and women.

In line with the above literatures reviewed, it can be seen that women and youth empowerment is constrained by the patriarchal nature of customs, traditions, beliefs, high level of poverty, lack of education, and failure of governmental organizations to effectively implement lasting policies for empowering women particularly in the third world. It can be seen that women empowerment remains a very important key to help in the building process and development of the family and the community as a whole and it is vividly understood that women can be empowered through means such as formal and informal education, skills acquisition, or micro credit finance among others. Moreover, it was proved by Akanbi and Jekayinfa (2011) that women empowerment programmes initiated by wives of some presidents and governors in Nigeria were helpful to some extent but remained without continuity, likewise the structural adjustment programme of the World Bank and IMF failed in Africa. Thus, the above literatures reviewed presented the structural constraints and variables, the methodological processes and the importance of women empowerment. Therefore, this study examined the extent to which KEEP has empowered women and youth in Bauchi state.

Women and Youth Empowerment Approaches

The Weberian analysis of power suggested by Adeniran (2007) is adapted in the study as a guiding framework

in analyzing how KEEP empowers women and youth in Bauchi. This is because it pointed out how an individual's capability, skills or expertise can influence his or her status within the society. Therefore, in order to realize his or her potentials, the following power resources are necessary:

1. Informational resources: This entails acquisition of knowledge by means of formal education and training
2. Moral resources: Legitimacy often accorded to decision makers, their roles or decision they make for example social approval given to non-state actors.
3. Economic resources: This means control over land, labour, or capital, and the goods and services produced.
4. Social resources: Social status or standing based on social roles or meeting socially valued criteria.
5. Political resources: Use of resources of state institutions to enforce authority and decisions.
6. Physical resources: Ability to coerce people to compel their cooperation or compliance.

This theory provides a suitable explanation on the possible ways to empower women and youth in a reliable pattern in any given society, through availability of necessary resources for women and youth benefits, thus it encourages women and youth empowerment (Adeniran, 2007)

Similarly, KaanTasli (2007) analysed various policy approaches of women empowerment and development, their central argument as well as their practical implications for women. These approaches included the Welfare approach, Women in development (WID) which consisted of three sub approaches: equity approach; anti-poverty approach; and the efficiency approach. Another approach is the Gender and Development Approach (GAD). This approach shifted the focus from 'women' to 'gender' it viewed and placed women and men in their relative positions within the socio-economic, political and cultural structures. It emphasized a gender sensitive transformation of these structures through top-down interventions.

The main concern of the (G.A.D.) approach as pointed out byKaanTasli (2007) is that of gender 'mainstreaming' which implies a higher priority to women's concern in the policy making and implementation of socio-economic and political interventions. One of the more relatively comprehensive explanations to women empowerment was provided by the Empowerment approach. KaanTasli (2007) argued that the empowerment approach urges a gender sensitive transformation of the structures in which women subordination is embedded. This transformation should begin at the bottom-up level, which is from the grass root which will give rise to women socio economic and political strength, power and the ability to increase in awareness. Political mobilization and networking are some of the instruments for the empowerment approach.

The empowerment approach suggested by KaanTasli (2007) provided a number of indicators that can be used to measure the results of women empowerment at the programme and project levels. Even though, the indicators cannot be generalized or regarded as universal indicators, due to the fact that, different people may have different needs, interests, indifferent countries and norms or values, the indicators can be used to make suggestions. These indicators are: The Canadian International Development Agency guide to gender sensitive indicators (CIDA) which is categorized into legal, political, economic and social empowerment. KaanTasli (2011) pointed out that the Rawlands model (1991:7) which differentiated three processes of empowerment: personal, collective, and empowerment within close relationships. KaanTasli identifies for each process of empowerment a set of 'core values' as products of empowerment. He opined that increase in the core values shows increase in empowerment processes. The core values for personal empowerment include: self-confidence, self-esteem, sense-of agency, dignity, etc. The core values for collective empowerment are: group identity, sense of collective agency, group dignity, and self-organization and management. Lastly, the core values for empowerment within close relationship include: ability to negotiate, ability to communicate, ability to get support, ability to

defend one's self and one's rights, sense of 'self' in relationship, and dignity. The Hashemi, S. M., Schuler, S. R., and Riley, A. P. (1996) "Rural Credit Programs and Women's Empowerment in Bangladesh, provided eight categories of women empowerment indicators such as: mobility, economic security, ability to make small purchase, ability to make large purchase, involvement in major decisions, relative freedom by domination from the family, political and legal awareness and participation in public protest and political campaigning. KaanTasli (2007) contends that, the study by the authors Mark M. Pitt, Shahidur R. Khandker, and Jennifer Cartwright (2003) evaluated the empowerment potential of different micro-credit programs in rural Bangladesh. The study developed ten different indicators which include: economic decision making, purchasing capacity, control over loans, control over income and savings, mobility, political awareness and activism, networking and friendships, family planning, attitudes and spousal abuse. Some of these indicators will be adapted to measure women and youth empowerment in this study because empowerment is a multidimensional phenomenon: political, socio-economic, cultural, collective personal and so on hence different indicators would be needed to measure different dimensions of the empowerment programs in the study.

Methodology

The primary data for this research was collected from a survey, while secondary data was collected from published sources such as books and journal articles. Data was also collected from KEEP archives on relevant historical backgrounds of its programmes, and other activities of women and youth empowerment in Bauchi. Women and youth in this study refer to adult female and male, ranging from 18 years and above. They constitute students, traders, business women, house wives, widows, and divorcees residing in Bauchi. Data generated from KEEP database points that, more than four thousand women and youth (4000) benefitted from their programmes and they were the population of this research. In order to draw a sample, the database was used as a sampling frame which consists of list of beneficiaries, their addresses, age and status. The

sample size for this study was 351 as representatives based on the calculation of sample size from a population by Krejcie and Morgan (1970). This was based on 95% confidence level and 5% margin error. Each element in the sample was selected using simple random number sampling method. Each element of the population has an equal chance of being selected. This will reduce the level of selection bias so that findings can be generalized on the larger population. The instrument of data collection was a questionnaire consisting of 38 questions administered to a convenient sample for this study. However, the questionnaire utilised the 5-point Likert scale ranging from '1' as strongly disagree to '5' as strongly agree. Data collected was analyzed in descriptive statistics using the Statistical Package for Social Science 20th edition

Findings of the Study

The findings revealed that KEEP uses economic resources such as grinding machines, sewing machines, motor cycle, groundnut processing equipment, commercial tricycles, cars, motorcycles buses, goats to encourage animal husbandry and cash and starter packs worth 225 million naira in the 20 local government areas to empower women and youth with a mean of 4.66 (SD = .431), informational resources such as vocational training in ICT in the 20 local government areas adequately with a mean of 4.67 (SD = .279), and moral resources with a mean of 4.72 (SD = .369) respectively, to empower women and youth in Bauchi state. This is done through provision of formal and non formal education, health awareness programmes, seminars, annual conferences, health awareness services ranging from sensitization, campaigns, health talk and workshops on food and nutrition, maternal and infant mortality, malnutrition, immunization against killer diseases education, humanitarian services, skills acquisition programmes, community services, and advocacy. In addition, the study revealed that women beneficiaries of KEEP are empowered because of the programmes provided by the Association which was shown in the findings of this study. This proves that informational, moral and economic resources lead to women empowerment. This corresponds to the findings

of Kaan Tasli (2007) which posits that, the central values for empowerment contain: ability to bargain; capacity to communicate; ability to get support; capability to defend one's self and one's rights; sense of 'self' in relationship; and dignity. Moreover, Adeniran (2007) contended that education and women's socio economic empowerment are essential for a well orchestrated gender mainstreaming policy. Findings of a study on "Women Empowerment" in India by Reecha Upadhya published by "The Asian Foundation" pointed out that woman, whether urban or rural that possesses some level of education are considered in decision making in both the household and the community. Also, the level of women's education has a straight implication on maternal mortality rates, nutrition and health indicators among children. Moreover, women from poorer class that have some level of education has revealed to have a positive impact on women empowerment indicators. To add more, Medel-Anonuevo and Bettina (1995) suggested that education can empower women through lessons on health and nutrition, information and lessons on politics, provision of planning and knitting skills. According to Medel-Anonuevo and Bettina these can be facilitated via the following: 1. Existence of women's organisations. 2. Availability of support systems for women. Availability of women-specific data and relevant information. 4. Availability of funds with favourable policy climate. 5. Securing equal access for boys and girls in education. 6. Holding workshops and seminars for teachers. 7. Implementing special programmes for women in the field of Adult Education. 8. Raising awareness on the necessity for health care. 9. Focusing on parents as role models. A study by Adetoun, Kenneth and Alice (2012) submits that Non Governmental Organizations played a significant role in using informational resources in women empowerment programmes, through slowly but gradually educating the women and creating awareness and making them to realize their potentials to improve, and defend their rights. Therefore, FOMWAN can be seen as an organization that significantly contributed to women empowerment in Bauchi state positively as indicated by the findings of this study.

Similarly, Findings of this study revealed that KEEP used town hall meetings, health talks, seminars,

workshops, awareness campaign, mass mobilization and compound meetings through the help of community and religious leaders to select its beneficiaries across Bauchi state. This is due to the fact that community and religious leaders remained fathers of the land. It is believed that such leaders will never collaborate with any attempt that may jeopardize the life and integrity of their subjects. Thus, KEEP has been known for the service it renders across Bauchi which is regarded by leaders as a welcome development through which the target beneficiaries will be accessed. This corresponds to the work of Lazo (1995) cited in Medel-Anonuevo (1995) in the project entitled Rural Women Workers in the Putting out System that is popularly known as home workers project. The project aimed to improve the employment and promote the working welfare of home based women workers, particularly those in the rural areas, which has covered three Southeast Asian countries funded by DANIDA Denmark Government. Similarly, Lazo (1995) further opined that empowerment method constitutes building up the women's arsenal of physical, economic, social and psychological resources. Thus selection of the target group was through Awareness-raising, Workshops, Meetings and Dialogues, Education and Training, mobilization Creation of Legal Awareness, Organising and Networking Consultations meetings, workshops and Media campaigns in order to achieve the ultimate aim of the project.

In addition, findings of this study shows that KEEP faces challenges various dimensions with a mean of 4.80 (SD =.342) which includes funding, inadequate resource management and employees' administrative skills This relates to the findings of Medel-Anonuevo and Bettina and Bettina (1995) which indicated that, lack of fund, internal friction, and unstructured adjustment policies are constraining elements and challenges to women empowerment programmes and organizations. According to the report of the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) on Women empowerment in Iraq (2011) funding remained the most difficult problem to expand the scope, and quality of women's economic empowerment programmes at both the individual and organizational levels especially where initiators are unable to train and accommodate

more participants. This in turn breeds limitation to access experts and professional trainers. Findings of a study by Adetoun, Kenneth and Alice (2012) shows that some of the challenges the Women empowerment NGO's suffer are mostly funding and getting enough materials, and equipment. In addition, Lazo and Medel-Anonuevo (1995) pointed out that, women empowerment organizations need maximum collectivisation because a reasonable sense of organizing is an essential part within the organization therefore weakness can be minimized by complementation. Individually, woman's strength may be another woman's weakness and vice versa. Thus, strength can be put in place to minimize individual weakness collectively. Hence, to be successful, an organization needs the skill, technical management, training, and availability of resources, competent services, assistance and fund. But in most cases, the above mentioned are problems inherent within some organizations but can be addressed with the support of Non Governmental organizations, civil society organizations and Governmental organizations. Lazo (1995) cited the Katipunang Bagong Pilipinas as an initiator that has significant involvement in human resource and community development to help rural women. But in order to deliver its services efficiently, the KaBaPa advocates the contribution of and seeks support from other Governmental and Non Governmental organizations through a stable networking process. This revealed that funding remains one of the major challenges most organizations face.

Conclusion

Many women and youth empowerment programmes have been initiated by different organizations in Bauchi state and Nigeria in general, sadly most of these programmes faced problems such as poor implementation, corruption, mismanagement, funding and lack of continuity. Akanbi and Jekayinfa (2011) pointed out that, Nigerian first ladies (wives of presidents and governors) played credible efforts in empowering rural women and children through a number of pet projects, such as formal and non formal education, with some achievements but most of these projects made some of the rural women depressed due to lack of continuity. Therefore, this research concludes that informational, moral, and economic resources enhance women and youth empowerment, especially in a setting where women and youth are very poor and lack access to resources. In Bauchi state, women and youth need to be empowered because of the importance of informational, moral and economic resources to women and youth which will contribute to the development of the family, community, and the state as a whole. The findings of this study show that KEEP plays a significant role in women and youth empowerment but faces challenges of funding, and resource mismanagement. However, KEEP's women and youth empowerment programme can still be regarded as a success story especially looking at the success and achievements recorded from 2020 to 2023 in economic, information and moral resources such as humanitarian services, advocacy, educational, health, and skills acquisition for women and youth. Hence, for more success to be recorded, the challenges facing KEEP such as funding, resource management and administrative skills need to be addressed.

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