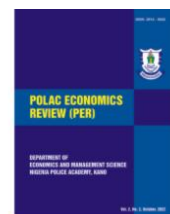




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EFFECT OF GOVERNMENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME ON POVERTY REDUCTION AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN AREA COUNCIL OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

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Abstract

Governments of Africa and other international development organizations has reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment as essential to development, peace and security. Women empowerment is one of the crucial elements in social and economic development as it enhances the quality of lives. This study examined the effect of Government empowerment programmes on poverty reduction among rural women in Area Council of Federal Capital Territory. The study adopted Women's Empowerment model developed by Longwe (1990) for theoretical analysis. The study adopted survey and documentary research design. Both primary and secondary method of data collection was utilized. The finding from the study revealed that, Government empowerment through the provision of basic social amenities to some extent has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory. The study also revealed that, Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools to some extent has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory. The study therefore concludes that, Government empowerment programmes to some extent have reduced poverty among rural women in Area Council of Federal Capital Territory. The study recommends that, Government should ensure that, more basic social amenities are provided to empower more rural women for poverty alleviation in Area Councils. Government should also ensure that more vocational tools are made available for rural women in order to make them self-reliance and as well alleviate poverty. Many challenges to poverty alleviation programmes among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja such as inadequate funding, nepotism, corruption, and embezzlement of funds should be addressed.

Keyword: Governments, Empowerment, Women's Empowerment, Governments, Empowerment

1. Introduction

The increased focus on gender and development debate as a means of reducing poverty has been an important development in the last three decades. The global realization that failure to pay closer attention to the differentiated positions of women and men in society in terms of resource allocation, rights, and opportunities in formulating policies and designing projects can have impact on development outcomes. With this understanding, the consensus around the Beijing Platform for Action was endorsed by 189 governments and leaders of key international institutions at the 4th UN International Conference on women in 1995 held in Beijing.

The centrality of gender equality as one of the prerequisites for poverty reduction was further

recognized as the world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals and targets, called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs, 2015) and now it is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for halving poverty and hunger, and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. At the World Summit in 2005, Governments of Africa and other regions and international development organizations, reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment as essential to development, peace and security. Women empowerment is one of the crucial elements in social and economic development as it enhances the quality of lives.

Rural Women's empowerment is one of the concerns of Federal, State and Local government as well as regional and international community. This concern is

manifested in the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Goal five (5) of Sustainable Development Goals is related to women empowerment i.e. to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls of these goals. Poverty is one of the major reasons of women's disempowerment.

The Federal Government and the six area councils of Federal Capital Territory have implemented some poverty alleviation programme aimed at bringing the poverty rate down and improving the lives of women. Some of these programmes include skills training, and economic opportunities created for women through the institution of micro-credit/financial schemes, thus giving financial assistance to women. All these interventions are aimed at empowering women by making them economically vibrant and socially recognized but as to whether these interventions have really empowered women in the rural communities' remains to be seen. The question this study seeks to answer is to what extent have these poverty reduction programme helped to improve the socio-economic development and empowered women economically in the rural communities from the six area councils that constitute Federal Capital Territory Abuja-Nigeria?

Different micro and macro level empowerment strategies are adopted by government to alleviate poverty among women in the selected six area council of Federal Capital Territory Abuja. But despite government effort over years to empower rural women in rural communities of Federal Capital Territory, the poverty level among women still persist, why? The research problem which this study seeks to investigate is whether the empowerment programmes adopted by Government have any significant impact on Poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja. This study will attempt to examine whether government empowerment programme has effect on poverty alleviation among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja

Against this background and the problem of investigation, this study seeks to answer the following questions: To what extent has Government empowerment through the provision of basic social service reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory? To what extent has Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital

Territory? And what are some of the challenges to poverty alleviation programme among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja?

The general objective of this study is to evaluate the extent to which Government empowerment programme has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory with the hope of identifying critic and rebased the various empowerment programme in line its manifest goals. The specific objectives are as follows;

- i. To find out whether Government empowerment through the provision of basic social service has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory.
- ii. To ascertain whether Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory
- iii. To identify challenges to poverty alleviation programme among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study;

- Ho: There is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of basic social service and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory.
- Ho: There is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory.
- Ho: There are many challenges to poverty alleviation programme among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Conceptualization

Concept of Empowerment: McClelland (2005) defined Empowerment as an ability to acquire Power in order to change the environment. He suggested that in order for people to take power, they need to gain information about themselves and their environment and be willing to identify and work with others for change.

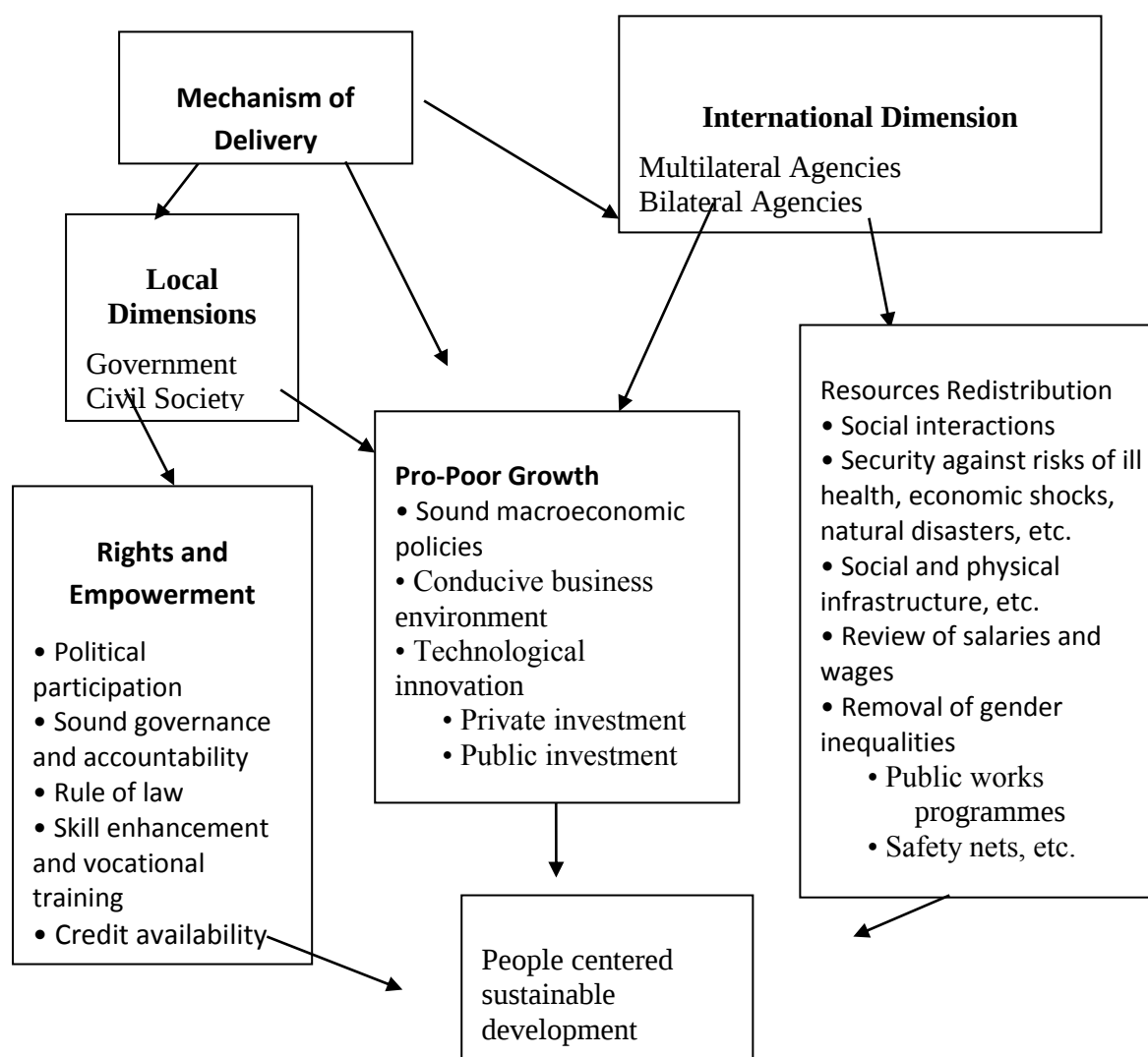
Concept of Women Empowerment: The Human Development Report (2015) expounds that women empowerment is about participation in the sense that development must be by people, not only for the people, and that women must participate fully in the decisions and processes that shape their lives.

Concept of Poverty: According to Anikpo (1995), poverty is the history process of individuals or groups being forcefully eliminated from control of the decision-making machinery that determines the production and distribution of resources in a society. He further explains that poverty manifest in various forms such as hunger, lack of food, good drinking water, clothes, shelter, good health, poor education and

distribution of resources coupled with monopoly of the machinery of decision-making through coercive state apparatus.

Poverty Reduction IFAD (2011) states that increasing access to assets is crucial for broad-based growth and poverty reduction, Assets take many forms—human and social (education, health, organizations), natural (land, water and forests), technological (farm production, processing and marketing methods), infrastructural (roads, communications, health and education facilities, housing) and financial (crop sales and off-farm revenue, investment and working capital, ‘savings’ in the form of livestock and stored commodities).

A Schema for Analyzing Poverty Reduction Strategies



Source: Adapted from Gerster (2000)

Programme initiated by the government to empower women in Area Councils of Federal Capital Territory Abuja

- i. Federal Ministry of women Affairs Micro Credit and Cooperative Development Programme for women
- ii. Federal Ministry of women Affairs Skills Development and Enterprise Development for women.
- iii. Federal Ministry of women Affairs social welfare related NGOs, provision of vocational empowerment tools, ex-juvenile offenders, provide aids, appliances and material reliefs for older persons, families in distress/IDPs, family tracing/re-union, provide psycho-social support for victims of disasters, trafficked and people affected by HIV/AIDS for women
- iv. National Directorate Employment (NDE) programme on women Small Scale Enterprise, Special Public Work and the Rural Enterprise Promotion Programmes for women
- v. National Directorate Employment (NDE) Micro-Enterprise Enhancement Scheme for women
- vi. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Programmes on Capacity Acquisition Programme (CAP).
- vii. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Programmes on Multi-Partner Micro finance for women
- viii. National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Programmes on Community based Organizations (CBOs) for women
- ix. National Centre for Women Development Vocational Training Programme for women
- x. Central Bank of Nigeria's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Fund for Women.

2.2 Empirical Review

Study conducted by Manuere, (2018) only Reviewed Literatures on Women Empowerment and Development in Zimbabwe where he asserted that, the concept of "Women empowerment" has received much attention from researchers, government and captains of industry. There are several meanings attached to the concept of women empowerment. The study explores the origin of the term "women empowerment" as it is related to

gender and equality. The literature review also looks at four power perspectives that are used to explain the increasing need for women empowerment today. Finding from the study revealed that, the related concepts of power, agency, resources and achievements are used to explain and describe the problems associated with women empowerment globally.

Bello, (2016) Assessed Women's Accessibility to Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Kano State, Nigeria. The aim of the study was to identify the poverty alleviation programmes and assess the difference that exists between rural and urban women's access to them. The results revealed that there was no significant difference between the accessibility of rural and urban women to Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Kano State (Chi-square value = 9.196 (df) 1, $p = 0.002$). Consequently, it is recommended that the government should ensure proper periodical assessment and review of the administration and implementation of Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Kano State. This will make the accessibility of women to the programmes result oriented. This will enhance the achievement of proper awareness among women and increase their accessibility to Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Kano State, Nigeria.

Shettar, (2015) analyzes the status of Women Empowerment in India and highlights the Issues and Challenges of Women Empowerment. Today the empowerment of women has become one of the most important concerns of 21st century. But practically women empowerment is still an illusion of reality. We observe in our day to day life how women become victimized by various social evils. Women Empowerment is the vital instrument to expand women's ability to have resources and to make strategic life choices. Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It is the process of guarding them against all forms of violence. The study is based on purely from secondary sources. The study reveals that women of India are relatively disempowered and they enjoy somewhat lower status than that of men in spite of many efforts undertaken by Government. It is found that acceptance of unequal gender norms by women are still prevailing in the society. The study concludes by an observation that access to Education, Employment

and Change in Social Structure are only the enabling factors to Women Empowerment.

Saqib, Aggarwal, and Rashid (2014) analyze the long-term relationship between women empowerment and economic growth in Saudi Arabia using a time series data for the period 1999- 2014. The results show that there exist a significant positive long-term relationship between women empowerment and economic growth. Thus our findings support the core idea that women empowerment stimulates long-term economic growth in the country. Economic growth is measured by the Female Employment.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

Women's Empowerment model was adopted in this study. This model was developed by Longwe (1990), a gender expert from Lusaka, Zambia. The aim of this model was to achieve women empowerment by enabling women to achieve equal control over the factors of production and participate equally in the development process. In her model, Longwe contends that poverty arises not from lack of productivity, but from oppression and exploitation and as a result of socio-cultural barriers.

Assumption of the theory

- i. The need for Balance of control,
- ii. The need for Participating fully in every decision making,
- iii. The need for Conscience,
- iv. The need for Accessibility and
- v. The need for Welfare

3. Methodology

Descriptive survey and documentary design was adopted in this study. This design was used because it involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or answer research questions concerning the current status of the subjects of the study. The target populations for this study are; women from rural communities in all the Six Area Councils of Federal Capital Territory Abuja. The women from rural communities in all the Six Area Councils were chosen as the population for this study because they have been part of the beneficiaries of the poverty reduction programmes implemented by the Federal Government.

The total number of Population for this study is 373,365 women drawn from three Area Councils of Abaji, Kwali and Gwagwalada out of the Six Area Councils in Federal Capital Territory. Simple sampling technique

was used to select the sample population for this study. The total population of 373,067 was narrowed down using Taro Yamane statistical technique.

The statistical formula is given as follows

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n=sample size

N=total population size

1 is constant

e = the assume error margin or tolerable error which is taken as 5% (0.05)

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2} = \frac{373,067}{1 + 373,067(0.05)^2} = \frac{373,067}{1 + 673,067(0.0025)} = \frac{373,067}{32.6675} = 400$$

(sample size)

Therefore, the Sample size of the rural women in the Six Area Council is 400

Two method of data collection was utilized in this study: primary method and secondary method. The data are derived from primary and secondary sources. Primary data was collected using oral interview due to the educational level of the respondent. The interview were structured in closed ended questions that allows the respondents to give straight answer either "Yes, No and Undecided.

Interviews were conducted on rural-women in the selected Area Councils using three research assistants. The reason is to cover at least 80% of the respondents as well as obtaining factual information on women empowerment programme and its effect on poverty reduction. Secondary data were sourced from published journal materials on Empowerment, Women Empowerment, Social Empowerment, Economic Empowerment, Social Intervention Programme, Poverty Reduction; Data were sourced from Text books on Women Empowerment and Poverty Alleviation, Data were sourced from magazines pages on women empowerment and development, Data were also sourced from newspapers on gender development and other from internet.

For the purpose of this study, two statistical techniques of data analysis were utilized; they are descriptive and statistical techniques: The descriptive statistics was used to present and interpret quantitative data. Descriptive statistics are; frequency table, percentage

and figure. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was used to present and analyze the data.

Chi-square score was used to analyze the research hypothesis. The hypothesis was tested at 5% level of significance. Data from the questionnaire and interview were collected and analyzed with techniques that enable the hypothesis to be tested and a descriptive analysis was made. In testing the hypothesis, the chi-square (X^2) statistical formula was used. The chi-square computation formula is presented as:

$$X^2 = (fo-fe)^2/Fe$$

Where

X^2 = Chi – square

fo = Observed frequencies

fe = Expected frequencies

The test was made at 5% error or level of significance. If the computed X^2 , is less than the critical X^2 the null hypothesis (H_o) is accepted. If otherwise, H_o is rejected while the alternative Hypothesis (H_i) is accepted.

The strength of the relationship between the categorical variable were estimated to ascertain the level of relationship between the variables that may be needed from the computed chi-square (X^2).

4. Data Analysis and Discussion of Results

Out of four hundred (400) respondents schedule for interview, only three hundred and seventy four (374) were successful while twenty six (26) were not successful.

1. Did government provided with social amenities in your community?

Table 1: Respondent's View on social amenities provided by the government in Areas Council of FCT

Variable	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	206	55.1
No	154	41.1
Undecided	14	3.8
Total	374	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 1 above shows that 206 respondents representing 55.1% agreed that, government has provided them with social amenities in your communities. 154 respondents representing 41.1% disagreed while, 14 respondents representing 3.8%

could not ascertain whether government has provided them with social amenities in your communities.

2. Did government provided with vocational empowerment tools for self-reliance?

Table 2: Respondent's View on vocational empowerment tools for self-reliance provided by the government in Areas Council of FCT.

Variable	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	182	48.7
No	174	46.5
Undecided	18	4.8
Total	374	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 2 above shows that, 182 respondents representing 48.7% agreed that, government has provided them with vocational empowerment tools for self-reliance. 174 respondents representing 46.5% disagreed while, 18 respondents representing 4.8%

could not ascertain whether government has provided them with vocational empowerment tools for self-reliance.

3. Did government provided with credit facilities to established or expand your business?

Table 3: Respondent's View on credit facilities to established or expands business provided by the government in Areas Council

Variable	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	147	39.3
No	214	57.2
Undecided	13	3.5
Total	374	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 3 above shows that 147 respondents representing 39.3% agreed that, government has provided them with credit facilities to established or expand your business. 174 respondents representing 46.5% disagreed while, 18 respondents representing 4.8% could not ascertain

whether government has provided them with credit facilities to established or expand your business.

4. Did government provided with farming aids, seedling and fertilizers for agricultural production?

Table 4: Respondent's View on farming aids, seedling and fertilizers for agricultural production as provided by the government in Areas Council

Variable	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	152	40.6
No	207	55.3
Undecided	15	4.1
Total	374	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 4 above shows 152 respondents representing 40.6% agreed that, government has provided them with farming aids, seedling and fertilizers for agricultural production. 207 respondents representing 46.5% disagreed while, 18 respondents representing 4.8%

could not ascertain whether government has provided them with farming aids, seedling and fertilizers for agricultural production.

5. Did government supports improve your standard of living?

Table 5: Respondent's View on government supports for improve standard of living

Variable	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Yes	151	40.4
No	212	56.7
Undecided	11	2.9
Total	374	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 5 above shows that, 151 respondents representing 40.4% agreed that, government supports has improved their standard of living. 212 respondents representing 56.7% disagreed while, 11 respondents

representing 2.9% could not ascertain whether government supports has improved their standard of living.

Table 6: Social Amenities provided by the government for rural Women in FCT

Social Amenities	Abaji	Kwali	Gwagwalada	Total
Health Clinic	2	3	5	9

Electricity Transformer	4	3	2	7
Pipe-borne water install	1	2	1	4
Functional Market	1	1	1	3
Boreholes	6	8	5	19
Wells	2	0	0	2
Total	16	17	14	47

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 6 above shows that, 47 social amenities were provided for rural women in the selected area council of Federal Capital Territory by the government. 16 of such

amenities were located in Abaji area council, 17 were located in Kwali Area council while, 14 were located in Gwagwalada area council.

Table 8: Vocational tools for Women

Empowerment Equipment	Abaji	Kwali	Gwagwalada	Total Beneficiaries
Farming Equipments	16	18	28	62
Seedling and Fertilizer	24	36	19	79
Sewing machines	7	11	8	26
Knitting machines	3	2	3	8
Grinding machines	12	9	7	28
Motor cycles	0	0	0	0
Total	62	76	65	203

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 5 above shows that 203 rural women from the selected area councils of Federal Capital Territory benefited from the vocational tools provided by the government. 62 of such beneficiaries were from Abaji area council, 76 were from Kwali Area council while, 65 were from Gwagwalada area council

4. Result and Discussion

Ho: There is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of basic social amenities and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory.

Ho: There is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory

Ho: There are many challenges to poverty alleviation programme among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja

Using the data extracted from the tables above to test the validity of the working hypothesis, we present thus;

Test of Hypothesis I

There is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of basic social service and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory.

Variables	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
X	206	154	14	374
Y	151	212	11	374
Total	357	366	25	748

Comparing the tabulated chi-square contingency table and the calculated chi-square to determine the goodness of the fit, we compute as follows:

$\chi^2 = \sum (O-E)^2/E$, given 5% significant level.

Degrees of freedom = $(C-1)(R-1)$ where

C = Column

R = Row

ρ = significance level = 0.05

df = the degrees of freedom = $(2-1)$ (3-1)

= (1) (2)

Therefore, degrees of freedom df = 2

To calculate the values of the expected frequencies, we state the formula below:

$$\text{Where } a = \frac{RT \times CT}{N}$$

RT = Row total

CT = Column total

N = Grand total

$$\frac{357 \times 374}{748} = \frac{133518}{748} = 179$$

$$\frac{366 \times 374}{748} = \frac{136884}{748} = 183$$

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \frac{25 \times 374}{748} = \frac{9350}{748} = 13 & & \frac{366 \times 374}{748} = \frac{136884}{748} = 183 \\ \frac{357 \times 374}{748} = \frac{133518}{748} = 179 & & \frac{25 \times 374}{748} = \frac{9350}{748} = 13 \end{array}$$

Table 10: Computation of the chi-square value

(O)	(E)	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E)/E
206	179	27	729	4.1
154	183	-29	841	4.6
14	13	1	1	0.1
151	179	-28	784	4.4
212	183	29	841	4.6
11	13	-2	4	0.3

$$\Sigma(O-E)^2/E = 18.1$$

$$df = 2, \rho = 0.05, X^2_{cal} = 18.1, X^2_{tab} = 5.99$$

The result of the analysis shows that, $X^2_{cal} = 18.1$, $X^2_{tab} = 5.99$. Since the calculated value of (X^2) is greater than the tabulated value of (X^2). We therefore reject the null hypothesis stating that, there is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of basic social amenities and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory and accept the alternative hypothesis, stating that, There is significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of basic social amenities and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory. We can deduce from the above analysis that, Government empowerment through the provision of basic social amenities to some extent has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory. This finding in line with the study conducted by Bello, (2016) who also revealed that, Women's Accessibility to Poverty Alleviation Programmes exists among different rural and urban women in Kano State. The results revealed that there was no significant difference between the accessibility of rural and urban women to Poverty Alleviation Programmes in Kano State.

Test of Hypothesis II

There is no significant relationship between

Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory

Variables	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
X	182	174	18	374
Y	151	212	11	374
Total	333	386	29	748

To calculate the values of the expected frequencies, we state the formula below:

$$\text{Where } a = \frac{RT \times CT}{N}$$

N

RT=Row total; CT = Column total; N = Grand total

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \frac{333 \times 374}{748} = \frac{124542}{748} = 167 & & \frac{386 \times 374}{748} = \frac{144364}{748} = 193 \\ \frac{29 \times 374}{748} = \frac{10846}{748} = 15 & & \frac{333 \times 374}{748} = \frac{124542}{748} = 167 \\ \frac{386 \times 374}{748} = \frac{144364}{748} = 193 & & \frac{29 \times 374}{748} = \frac{10846}{748} = 15 \end{array}$$

Table 11, Computation of the chi-square value

(O)	(E)	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E)/E
182	167	15	225	1.3
174	193	-19	361	1.9
18	15	3	1	0.1
151	167	-16	256	1.5
212	193	19	361	1.9
11	15	-4	16	1.1

$$\Sigma(O-E)^2/E = 7.8$$

$$df = 2, \rho = 0.05, X^2_{cal} = 7.8, X^2_{tab} = 5.99$$

The result of the analysis shows that, $X^2_{cal} = 7.8$, $X^2_{tab} = 5.99$. Since the calculated value of (X^2) is greater than the tabulated value of (X^2). We therefore reject the null hypothesis stating that, there is no significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory and accept the alternative hypothesis, stating that, There is significant relationship between Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools and poverty reduction among rural women in Federal Capital Territory. We can deduce from the above analysis that, Government empowerment through the provision of vocational tools to some extent has reduced poverty among rural women in Federal Capital Territory. The finding collaborated with the study conducted by Saqib, Aggarwal, and Rashid (2014) who also revealed that, there is long-term relationship between women empowerment and economic growth among women Saudi Arabia. The findings support the core idea that women empowerment stimulates long-term economic growth in the country. Economic growth is measured by the Female Employment.

Research Questions/Hypothesis III

Challenges militating against effective implementation of poverty reduction programme among women in Area council of FCT

These challenges include:

- i. Inadequate Funding: Poor funding of government empowerment programme has hampered poverty reduction among women in Area council of FCT. This has led to over reliance on funding from foreign partners have. Funding from abroad should be seen as a supplement and not a complement. Most of these programmes were grounded because the foreign donors never cooperated as used to before.
- ii. Implementation: Government empowerment programmes are most perfectly implemented on radios, when it comes to real implementation, it is poorly executed and records partiality in project execution. False propaganda about the implementation of the programme: The political class hijacks the programmes and the funds meant for it.
- iii. Nepotism, corruption, poor fund management, embezzlement of funds by those in charge of project implementation. In most cases, discrimination arises, and funds for the programme are disbursed to close pals and relatives under the guise of project execution.

- iv. Resources are disbursed using the wrong channels.
- v. Inadequate and untrained personnel resulting to improper guidance.
- vi. Improper evaluation of past programmes
- vii. Inadequate supervision of projects
- viii. The programme empowered the rich while the poor got poorer
- ix. Over-politicizing of government empowerment programmes.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

After evaluating the working hypothesis from the raw data gathered through oral interview, we conclude as follows:

The government at the federal level as initiated various empowerment programme that has empowered women in Area Councils of Federal Capital Territory Abuja. The awareness levels of government empowerment programmes among women in Area Councils of Federal Capital Territory Abuja are quite okay, but the implementation level remains very minimal.

Government empowerment programmes through the provision of social amenities has helped in improving the standard of living of rural-women. Few women actually beneficiaries Government empowerment programmes. Government empowerment programmes through the provision of vocational tools has helped in improving the standard of living of rural-women. Women that benefited from the programme have testified to the fact that, it has boosted their household income. Notwithstanding, there are problems encountered in the implementation of poverty eradication programmes in Area Councils of Federal Capital Territory Abuja.

The recommendations flows from the research findings

- i. Government should ensure that, more basic social amenities are provided to empower more rural women for poverty alleviation in Area Council of Federal Capital Territory.
- ii. Government should ensure that more vocational tools are made available for rural women in order to make them self-reliance and as well alleviate poverty.
- iii. Many challenges to poverty alleviation programme among rural women in Federal Capital Territory Abuja should be addressed. Government should provide adequate funding. All funds ear-marked for any empowerment programme should be effectively utilized, this is aimed at reducing the rate of abandoned programmes on the bases of inadequate funding. Challenges of Nepotism, corruption, poor fund management, embezzlement of funds should be addressed.

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