



Impact of Socio-Economic Empowerment Programmes on Participation of Women in Community Development Activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis of Rivers State

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the impact of socio-economic empowerment programmes on participation of women in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. To achieve the purpose of the study, the researcher developed 3 objectives of the study, research questions and hypotheses that guided the study. The study made use of descriptive survey design. The population of the study consists of 3,129 women of community Based organizations in Port Harcourt Metropolis. The sample size of the study was 936 women while the sampling techniques used was simple random sampling technique. The study made use of a self-structured questionnaire for the instrument for data collection. The data gathered were analyzed using mean and standard deviation for the research questions while the null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at 0.05 level of significance. Based on data analysis, the findings of the study revealed that fashion designing empowerment programme, catering service empowerment programme and agricultural farming empowerment programme. The study recommended that government should train women on fashion designing through skill acquisition programme and multinational companies should train women in their host communities on catering services socio-economic empowerment programme.

Keywords: Impact, Socio-Economic, Empowerment, Programmes, Participation, Women, Community Development, Activities,

INTRODUCTION

Community development is a very important aspect of social issues that deserves utmost attention; with all facets of the community taking active part. As a matter of fact, the development of a community, state or society requires equal participation of residents or beneficiaries which the women constitute greater percentage of. To achieve the required participation, the entire community must be equipped with knowledge and with action by empowering them through some adult education programmes like seminars, workshops, public lectures, free vocational framings etc. These things are called Socio-Economic Empowerment Programmes (Goodi, 2001).

Socio economic empowerment programmes are very essential tools in community development because these programmes provide opportunities for men and women to be trained in vocation through workshops, seminars and adult literacy education classes for those who could not have their education at early age. Socio-economic programmes reduces death rate and make them enjoy sound health because of health talks or seminars. It brings about good governance and improved life expectancy rate. It also ensures the sustainability of community development itself.

According to Kobani (2014), socio economic empowerment is the capacity of women and men to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways that recognizes the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make, if possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. It is a programme or project aims at increasing the economic productivity of women and youths in the community and improves their livelihoods through sustainable development. According to Onyeozu (2017), investing in women's economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.

Community participation is a process where every member of the community takes active part in the planning and execution of community projects. Paul in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2008), community participation is a process whereby, beneficiaries influence the direction and execution of development projects rather than merely receive a share of the project. These beneficiaries include the women or the female gender. Development on the other hand is the empowerment of people to control their own lives, expressing their demands and finding solution to their problems as noted by Kobani (2011). It is against this background that the researcher intends to examine the impact of socio-economic empowerment programmes on participation of women in community development activities in Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Conceptual Review

Concept of Socio-Economic Empowerment

This section looks at the socio-economic empowerment programmes for women available for Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt City Local Government Areas of Rivers State women, their implications and effect on the participation of women in community development. Other forms of social economic empowerment programmes include widow's micro-finance scheme, empowerment support initiative (ESI), ministry of health women support programme, ministry of women affairs empowerment programme and the mass literacy project. These ministry and departments have affected the women workshop, vocational and educational training that have impacted positively on the women and the entire society.

From the perspective of community development, empowerment means that people are trained and organized to the point of being able to exert change as a result of knowledge acquired socially, economically and politically in making decision implementing, monitoring and also to see that such empowerment projects are sustained in the society (Dale, 2014). Study has shown that a prerequisite for change at any level is the individual empowerment socially, economically and politically. These individuals can be induced to participate in the process of change which is the participation in community development, the bone of contention.

If a woman is empowered in these three levels, the society or community where such an individual comes from must be affected positively and that is participating the view of Sako in Kobani (2014). Empowerment means the process of strengthening existing capacities and capabilities of disadvantaged group in the society so as to enable them perform towards improving themselves, their families and the society as a whole. It involves the provision of enabling environment, for their productive and intellectual abilities to be realized.

Concept of Community Development

Development is a household issue and is versed in nature. It cuts across social, economic and political aspects of the community or individual's life. Development involves a lot of changes in tangible and intangible things resulting to positive change in a thing individual or community as the case may be. Onyeozu (2017), states that community development involves four major parts, initiation, planning, execution and evaluation by the people of the community themselves. UNO in Oyebamiji and Adekola (2018) defines community development as a process by which the effort of the people themselves are united with those of the economic, social and cultural conditions of the community to integrate those communities into the life of the national and to enable them contribute fully to national progress.

According to Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Amirize (2011), community development is the outcome of series of qualitative and quantitative, changes occurring among rural population. It is also a process by which a set of technical success are implemented with and for the inhabitants of the rural areas with the aim of improving the socio-economic conditions of the rural populace. The implication of this is that during this transformation, people's level of awareness and living conditions will be raised for a better life. Roland (2018); Oyebamiji and Adekola (2018) identified five basic tools or concepts that every good community development must enshrine or target. These include:

- (1) Participation
- (2) Empowerment
- (3) Self-help
- (4) Mobilization
- (5) Communication

The above five tools of community development as identified by the scholars are pre-requisites to a successful community development. It could be seen from the defines above that community development is very versed and complete, it seeks to ensure the wellbeing of people and encourages pulling of resources together to enhance healthy and better living condition.

Fashion Designing as Women Empowerment Programme

A well known fact, which we never should underestimate, is a great influence of fashion industry on modern world as well as our perception of reality, value and quality. Famous and established designers use their positions in fashion industry to promote and impose certain conceptions constructed through discourses that are shaped in the fashion world through various channels. These conceptions mostly regard to identity questions, sexuality, distribution of power and formation of various social and cultural discourses (Amirize, in Kobani, 2014).

According to Oni and Bello (2017), In the last couple of years fashion industry entered the faze where androgens principle became pretty important. This time concepts overcame mixing male and female garments, female collections inspired by masculine principle as well as femininity in male designer's collections. Step beyond is made by Jean-Paul Gaultier, when he expressed his fascination for androgyny through his creative work. He used fashion shows, advertising campaigns and certain kind of public speech and behavior to promote certain discourses and identities.

Jean Paul Gaultier's ways to blur lines of gender identities and produce something innovative and new, what is essential in fashion world, are evident. Meanwhile, in this way, he consciously promotes alternative sexual identities. The biggest problem regarding this theme is the huge influence fashion industry and media campaigns have on young people and teenagers. It can be very negative because of manipulation and imposition of taste and attitude of powerful people in media and fashion industry. They create certain discourse that becomes the rule that is followed, and can affect young people's choices, future, identity and relation to others and themselves. That is why it is so important always to requestion and critically observe everything what fashion industry and global media impose to us. This is a reductive reaction, and one that is founded more in ignorance than reality. Just like how some people write-off sports as silly 'games' with no meaningful impact on the world, fashion falls victim to the same attitude (Adekola, 2018).

Empowering women through fashion

According to Sen (1999), Women's economic empowerment and fashion took centre stage at the United Nations' New York headquarters on 22 September during a luncheon hosted and chaired by the Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC). The Women Empowering Women luncheon was an opportunity to showcase the work of participants attached to ITC's Women and Trade Programme. Women designers from Ethiopia, India, Mongolia, Palestine, Papua New Guinea and Peru had collaborated with London College of Design, and Parson The New School of Design to prepare their collections. These were showcased during a catwalk, which first blended the work of the women designers with the work of students, followed by the women's own creations.

The event was part of the opening of these LDNY Festivals, a month-long series of events in London and New York. More than 250 people attended the event, which was co-chaired by Gina Casar, Associated Administrator of UNDP, and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women. Other prominent guests at the lunch event included Cherie Blair, Ban Soon-taek, wife of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and Cameron Russell, supermodel and leading supporter of ITC's women empowerment initiatives.

Catering Services and Women Empowerment

Concept of Catering and Services: Food has always been an indispensable part of entertainment right from the early days. Hardly can people travel, be accommodated or housed and be entertained without food playing a major role. Besides social setting, food plays significant role in business, political, cultural and religious ceremonial settings. It is the duty of the caterer to take good care of people by providing sumptuous nourishing foods and drinks. Catering is the business of providing food services at site such as a hotels, hospitals, aircrafts, cruising ships, parks, filming sites or studios, entertainment sites or event venues. Madu (2016) stated that catering business flourishes very well in rural and urban centres and satisfactory profit is made through it. Catering services involve food preparation and services for various occasions and to various classes of people. Uzoka (2013) opined that caterers prepare and cook food for boarding institutions, hotels, hospitals, parties or other entertaining occasions.

Eating out is no longer an occasional event but a way of life and the dependency on the caterer to provide the day's supply of nutrients has increased. Many businesses, office workers, factory workers, students and other people who spend part of their days away from home each day, eat at least one meal and several snacks outside the house and homes. Caterers work in hospitality industries preparing meals and drinks. There are joints established to cater for people especially travelers who eat while they embark on journeys. Fast food joints are in all nook and crannies in both rural and urban areas being marred by caterers who make brisk business.

Anozie (2019) stated that fast foods are convenience foods which help homemakers or single persons to save fuel, money, time and energy. Hospitality industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world today. The broad meaning of the term hospitality industry refer to any group that is engaged in travel and tourism, lodging, food services, meetings, conventions and expositions, leisure and recreation, (Nwokocha, 2012).

Catering Services: Opportunities Open to Women for Wealth Creation

Ochonogor (2019) noted that catering services or entrepreneurship involves an individual or woman creating business or enterprises and undertaking specific functions to provide consumers food supply services. It provides an expanding market for business of providing varied quality food services to feed large number of people demanding such services. Catering job can provide the family with economic empowerment and sustainability. The self-employment sustains the family economically. Money earned should be spent with wisdom. There are varieties of entrepreneurship opportunities where women play active roles at micro level to make profit. Catering entrepreneurship in rural, semi-rural and urban settings can provide fertile ground for growth of various self-reliance opportunities for women. The involvement in catering ventures creates wealth for the family by eradicating hunger and poverty, thereby creating job opportunities for others. No one person can do the work of cooking and services all alone as it is a taskful exercise that needs the services of others.

According to Ochonogor (2019) investment opportunities open to women in catering business which create wealth are as follows:

1. **Special Party Meal Planning:** Women caterers can team up and be hired to prepare and serve meals at special occasions. Celebrants hire caterers who are known for quality cookery skills and services in special dishes like fried, jollof, coconut and white rice dishes, moi-moi, barbecued meats, fish, local and foreign salads, ethnic and cultural dishes and soups as accompaniments.
2. **Bread Production:** Freshly baked bread such as plain, wheat, buttered, dinner rolls can be baked and sold to consumers at affordable prices. Bread is eaten any time of the day and almost all

families can afford it irrespective of their social economic status as they are produced in different sizes.

3. **Confectionary Making:** cakes and pastries made into meat and fish pies, doughnuts, chin-chin, puff-puffs, buns, eggs rolls, sausage are produced from flour for consumers. These are snacks eaten at work and on journeys to sustain hunger. They are cheap and affordable.
4. **Beverages Services:** A variety of drinks can be prepared with local ingredients that are nourishing and refreshing and are in high demand today. The drinks are not only nourishing and refreshing but also energizing, medicinal and delicious especially when sparingly chilled. Such drinks are zobo, kunu-zaki, soya milk, herbal teas, tiger nut drinks etc. Women entrepreneurs are now into the production of some of these drinks that are sold in parks, markets, fast food joints, in events for the generation of income for the family.
5. **Fast Food Production:** Some caterers operate on small scale eateries where customers come to eat. Some consumers buy their foods and take them away for consumption in their homes and offices. This is a very lucrative business venture as travelers also eat as they journey. The foods include rice of all kinds, pounded yam, amala, akpu, eba, starch with accompanying soups such as egusi, ogbono, bitter leaf, okro, edikiako, ewedu depending on the locations. Pap and akara, pepper soups, beans and moi-moi are also sold. Noodles, shawama are becoming popular especially in semi-urban and urban areas for youths. At these joints, some consumers prefer to eat, drink and go away.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors and Women's Empowerment

Annie-Mumba (2018) sees empowering women as integral to food and nutrition security and believes that improving opportunities for women will have far-reaching benefits for communities. Increasing access to aquaculture and fisheries for women could reduce gender-based violence cases as there will be less dependence on males to provide for families; increase access to fish proteins, which provide micronutrients in the first 1,000 days of human life; and improve women's participation and decision making in the sector. A fisheries technician in Zambia's Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock Department of Fisheries, Mumba supervises extension activities related to fisheries and aquaculture in her district. My job is to transfer skills and knowledge to fishers and fish farmers through extension visits, demonstrations, and consultation for the sustainable development of the sector.

In connection with Jeo (2014), work in agricultural extension, Mumba assists the Fish Innovation Lab's Fish for Zambia team by collecting data related to gender inclusion and family nutritional practices in the Lake Bangweulu fishing camps. This and other research indicate that when women have more access to income-generating activities in the agriculture value chain, their families fare better in the long run. With more access to income in the sector, women are better able to take care of their families, both financially and nutritionally. Increasing access to fisheries and aquaculture for women will provide many benefits in Zambia, including increased household income, especially in female-headed households. Mumba envisions a Zambia that is economically and nutritionally secure and that promotes inclusion and equity, and she sees women as a key component to that growth. My hope is to have 60% of women in the district engaged in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains in the next five years, she said. "I want to have more women and children accessing fish protein in order to reduce stunting, to see Zambia a top producer and exporter of fish, and to have a food and nutrition secured district."

Statement of the Problem

The social economic activities like skill acquisition programmes empower people (women) for their future and provides a means of economic empowerment that can be sustained for long time. The main reasons for this programmes is to improve quality of life of the people (women). Despite the efforts of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Health, wife of governors, Non-Governmental Organizations, etc. to provide socio-economic empowerment programmes like free vocational training, skill acquisition programmes like catering services, catfish farming, fashion and designing, akara tying, capital formation entrepreneurship business, health seminars, workshops, providing loan to widows for their small scale

business at low or no interest rate, adult literacy classes, to alleviate poverty, improved literacy level thereby increasing employment rate, reduce death rate, better their standard of living which will transient to better level of participating in community development, it is still observed that women in these local government areas are backwards in community development. To find out the reasons for this is the need for this research. It is based on these problems that the researcher examined the impact of socio-economic empowerment programmes on participation of women in community development activities in Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt Local Government Areas of Rivers State.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of the study is to determine the impact of socio-economic empowerment programmes on participation of women in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis, Rivers State. Specifically, the objectives of the study will:

1. Determine the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.
2. Determine the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.
3. Ascertain the impact of agricultural farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Research Questions

The following research questions were used for this study.

1. What is the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis?
2. What is the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis?
3. What is the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested in the study.

1. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and members of women organizations on the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and members of women organizations on the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.
3. There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of executive and members of women organizations on the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. Descriptive survey research is designed only to solve the existing condition but also it can be used for comparing features of a group. According to Nzeneri (2010), descriptive survey deals with what is happening at present and it handles situational problems as they are without manipulation of variables and also allows the research to make recommendations based on findings from the data collected and analysed. The population of this study comprised all members of the registered Community Base Women Organization Executive (CBWOE) and Community Base Women Organization Executive (CBWOM) in Port Harcourt Metropolis with total population size of 1,200. Community Based Women Organization Executive (CBWOE) are women organizations registered in the communities of the Local Government Areas of study which address local needs of their members and the entire community; like the men, wives of the community, daughters of the community etc. In this study, all the members of these organizations within the communities of study from participants and non-participants of the socio-economic empowerment programmes designed to improve their social status which enhances their participation in community development. Proportionate

sampling technique was used to select 30% of the population in each of the Community Based Association (CBA) used for the study. In other words, the sample size of the study was 360 Community Base Women Organization Executive (CBWOE) and Community Base Women Organization Member (CBWOM) representing 30% of the entire population. A simple random sampling technique was therefore used in selecting the Community Base Women Organization Executive (CBWOE) and Community Base Women Organization Member (CBWOM) by chance during their association meetings. A structured questionnaire was used for the study. This instrument titled: “Socio-Economic Empowerment Programmes on Women Participation in Community Development Questionnaire (SEPWPCDQ)” was made up of 2 sections. Section “A” sought responses on the personal data of the respondents while section “B” elicited responses on impact of socio-economic empowerment on women participation in community development activities. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the research questions. Decision was based on a criterion mean of 2.50 to be accepted or otherwise would be rejected. The null hypotheses were tested using z-test statistical tool at a significance level of 0.05.

RESULTS

Data Presentation

Research Question 1: *What is the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis?*

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics on the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

S/No.	Statement	CBWOE = 110			CBWOM = 250		
		\bar{X}	SD	D	\bar{X}	SD	D
1	Fashion designing create job opportunities for the women thereby empowering them to be active in community activities.	3.12	1.01	Agreed	3.08	0.93	Agreed
2	Fashion designing empowerment programme helps in building the skills and talents of the women thereby making them to participate in community development.	3.04	0.81	Agreed	3.11	1.04	Agreed
3	Women acquire the knowledge needed to succeed in life through the help of fashion designing thereby making them to be independent in the society.	2.96	0.73	Agreed	3.10	0.91	Agreed
4	Fashion designing has made the women to build peaceful and prosperous societies thereby making the women to contribute or participate positively to community development.	3.25	0.67	Agreed	3.17	0.73	Agreed
5	Fashion designing strengthen women’s capacities as trust, leadership and freedom hence helping the women to participate actively on family meeting contribution.	2.89	1.12	Agreed	2.90	0.82	Agreed
6	Fashion designing empowerment programme makes the women to be self-reliance thereby helping them to be independent in family contribution.	2.89	1.12	Agreed	2.90	0.82	Agreed
Grand Mean/ Standard Deviation		3.05			3.07		

Table 1 presents that items 1 to 6 have means of 3.12, 3.04, 2.96, 3.25, 2.89 and 2.89 for CBO Women Executives with standard deviations ranging from 0.67 to 1.12; and means of 3.08, 3.11, 3.10, 3.17, 2.90 and 2.90 for CBO Women Members with standard deviations ranging from 0.73 to 1.04 which indicate “Agreed” on the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. Also, the grand means for CBO Women Executives and CBO Women Members are 3.05 and 3.07 respectively, further confirming “Agreed” on the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. The above results imply that there is positive impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities.

Research Question 2: *What is the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities?*

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics on the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities

S/No.	Statement	CBWOE = 110			CBWOM = 250		
		\bar{X}	SD	D	\bar{X}	SD	D
7	Catering services involves an individual creating business or enterprises thereby empowering the women to be active in community development	3.17	0.93	Agreed	3.19	0.79	Agreed
8	Catering empowerment programme provide an expanding market for business of providing varied quality food services thereby empowering the women economically for participation in community project activities.	3.23	1.13	Agreed	3.18	1.08	Agreed
9	Catering service empowerment programme empowered the women economically for sustainability of community projects.	3.11	0.88	Agreed	3.10	0.91	Agreed
10	Catering service empowerment programme has made the women to be self-employed thereby creating peace in their families for participation in community projects.	3.27	0.79	Agreed	3.20	0.73	Agreed
11	Catering service empowerment programme creates wealth for the family by eradicating hunger and poverty, thereby enhancing participation in community project activities.	2.98	1.07	Agreed	2.94	0.82	Agreed
12	Catering services has promoted self-help programme in the society thereby helping the women to contribute and participate in community development projects.	2.98	1.07	Agreed	2.94	0.82	Agreed
Grand Mean/ Standard Deviation		3.15			3.12		

The information in table 2 shows that items 7 to 112 have means of 3.17, 3.23, 3.11, 3.27, 2.98 and 2.98 for CBO Women Executives with standard deviations ranging from 0.79 to 1.13; and means of 3.19, 3.18, 3.10, 3.20, 2.94 and 2.94 for CBO Women Members with standard deviations ranging from 0.73 to 1.08 indicating “Agreed” on the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities. The grand means for CBO Women Executives and CBO Women Members are, respectively, 3.15 and 3.12, which is a confirmation of Agreed on the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities. The above results imply that there is positive impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities.

Research Question 3: *What is the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities?*

Table 3: Descriptive Statistics on the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities

S/No.	Statement	CBWOE = 110			CBWOM = 250		
		\bar{X}	SD	D	\bar{X}	SD	D
13	Increasing access to aquaculture and fisheries for women could reduce gender. It base violence thereby creating conducive envired for participation.	3.15	1.11	Agreed	3.11	0.79	Agreed
14	Catfish farming empowerment programme for women increase their household income thereby making the women to participate in community development.	3.09	1.03	Agreed	3.01	1.08	Agreed
15	Agricultural farming empowerment programme empower the women nutritionally thereby making them to participate in community development activities	3.22	0.94	Agreed	3.18	0.91	Agreed
16	Agricultural farming empowerment programme provide employment opportunity for the women thereby making them satisfied for participation.	3.07	0.69	Agreed	3.03	0.74	Agreed
17	Food and nutrition security and economic empowerment are basic function of catfish farming thereby empowering the women to be active in community development.	3.13	0.83	Agreed	3.09	0.82	Agreed
18	Fish farming business is a lucrative business that promote the women financially thereby helping them to meet up their financial contribution in the community.	3.13	0.83	Agreed	3.09	0.82	Agreed
Grand Mean/ Standard Deviation		3.13			3.10		

Table 3 presents that items 13 to 18 have means of 3.15, 3.09, 3.22, 3.07, 3.13 and 3.13 for CBO Women Executives with standard deviations ranging from 0.69 to 1.11; and means of 3.11, 3.01, 3.18, 3.03, 3.09 and 3.09 for CBO Women Members with standard deviations ranging from 0.74 to 1.08 which indicate “Agreed” on the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities. Also, the grand means for CBO Women Executives and CBO Women Members are 3.13 and 3.10 respectively, further confirming “Agreed” on the impact of agricultural farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities. Thus, it is found that there is positive impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Table 4: Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Perception	N	Mean \bar{X}	Standard Deviation	Df	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
CBWOE	110	3.05	0.87	358	1.29	1.96	Accepted
CBWOM	250	3.07	0.89				

The analysis on Table 4 reveals that the z-cal of 1.29 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is smaller than the given critical value of z-ratio. So, the hypothesis 1 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Table 5: Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Perception	N	Mean \bar{X}	Standard Deviation	Df	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
CBWOE	110	3.15	0.96	358	1.24	1.96	Accepted
CBWOM	250	3.12	0.87				

The analysis on Table 5 indicates that the z-cal of 1.24 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is greater than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 2 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Table 6: Z-test Analysis of significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

Perception	N	Mean \bar{X}	Standard Deviation	Df	z-cal	z-crit	Decision
CBWOE	110	3.13	0.92	358	0.29	1.96	Accepted
CBWOM	250	3.10	0.87				

The analysis on Table 6 shows that the z-cal of 0.29 is less than the z-crit of 1.96. Therefore, the calculated z-ratio is not statistically significant at a 0.05 level of significance since it is greater than the given critical value of z-ratio. Therefore, the hypothesis 3 is thus accepted and the conclusion is that there is no significant difference in the mean ratings of the responses of the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study in research question one: What is the impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis revealed that there is positive impact of fashion designing empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. This finding is in collaboration with Akinade (2015), who observed that fashion designing creates job opportunities for the women and that fashion designing empowerment programme helps in building the skills and talents of the women. He also admitted that women acquire the knowledge needed to succeed in life through the help of fashion designing and that fashion designing has made the women to build peaceful and prosperous societies thereby making the women to contribute or participate actively in community development. The analysis also showed that fashion designing strengthen women's capacities as trust, leadership and freedom and that fashion designing empowerment programme makes the women to be self-reliance in the society.

The study in research question two: What is the impact of catering service empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis indicated that catering service empowerment programme has significant impact of on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. This study is in the same view with Nwankwo (2017), who admitted that catering services involves an individual creating business or enterprises and that catering empowerment programme provide an expanding market for business of providing varied quality food services. He still explained that catering service empowerment programme empowered the women economically for sustainability of community projects and that catering service empowerment programme has made the women to be self-employed thereby creating peace in their families for participating in community project. The analysis also revealed that catering services has promoted self-help programme in the society thereby helping the women to contribute and participate in community development projects.

The findings of the study in research question three: What is the impact of agricultural empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis showed that there is positive impact of catfish farming empowerment programme on women participation in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis. This finding is in the same line with Budi (2013), who reviewed that increasing access to aquaculture and fisheries for women could reduce gender biasness thereby creating conducive environment for women participating and that catfish farming empowerment programme for women increase their household income. He also confirmed that catfish farming empowerment programme empower the women nutritionally and that catfish empowerment programme provide employment opportunity for the women thereby making them satisfied for community participation. The analysis still showed that food and nutrition security and economic empowerment are basic function of catfish farming thereby empowering the women, and that fish farming business is a lucrative business that promotes the women financially through helping them to meet up their financial contributions in the community.

CONCLUSION

The impact of socio-economic empowerment programmes on participation of women in community development activities in Port Harcourt Metropolis cannot be over emphasized. However, the study concludes that the involvement of women in socio-economic empowerment programme that is the fashion designing empowerment programme, catering service empowerment programme, catfish farming

empowerment programme and capital formation entrepreneurship business enhance women participation in community development in Obio/Akpor and Port Harcourt City Government Areas of Rivers State is very low both in their provision and also in women's involvement resulting to low level of participation in community development. It also implies that these socio-economic empowerment programmes as listed has little or no impact on the behavior or participation of women in community development since both the provision is low and the rate of women involvement in them is also very low in these local government areas. The major constraints as observed in the study included illiteracy, poverty, cultural practices, religious beliefs and government policies, gender discrimination, lack of the fund, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are hereby put forward to ensure that this study achieve its objectives.

1. Government should train women on fashion designing through skill acquisition programme hence it has positive impact on the socio-economic empowerment of women in the society.
2. Multinational companies should train women in their host communities on catering services socio-economic empowerment programme hence it enhance women participation in community development.
3. Government and non-governmental organization programme for the women on the impact of catfish farming empowerment programme because of the importance on women participation in community development.

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