

**WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT IN
NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF
EDO STATE**

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SSC1909511

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.SC.) HONOURS DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE**

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MAY, 2024

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project was carried out by ANETOR OMUEKPENBHEN FRANCISCA in the Department of Political Science in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor Degree (B.SC.) in Political Science, University of Benin, Benin City.

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Date _____

Date: _____

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty, the Beginning and the End. The work is also dedicated to my wonderful parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anetor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to God Almighty for granting me the wisdom, strength, and perseverance to complete this research project.

I am deeply indebted to my esteemed supervisor, Dr. Charles Eghweree for his invaluable guidance and support throughout this journey. His insightful feedback and unwavering encouragement were instrumental in shaping this project.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my family, especially my siblings. Their unwavering love, understanding, and encouragement provided a constant source of strength during challenging times.

I am particularly grateful to my elder sister, Anne Anetor for being my financial support system. This project would not have been possible without the contributions of my remarkable friends.

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, there has been an increasing recognition of the pivotal role that women play in driving sustainable development at the grassroots level. Empowering women not only enhances their socioeconomic status but also fosters community development. However, despite numerous empowerment initiatives, women in Oredo local government area, Benin city, continue to face multifaceted challenges that hinder their full participation in development process.

This study investigated women empowerment and grassroots development in Nigeria: A case study of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The study adopted descriptive research survey design in building up this project work. The sample size was made up of 100 respondents. The data collected was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage.

The study revealed that some of the ways to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development include access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, legal reforms and protection and access to microfinance and credit facilities. It was concluded that there is a significant impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

The study recommends among others that that the government design and implement targeted capacity-building programmes focusing on providing women with relevant skills, knowledge, and resources to actively participate in economic, social, and political spheres within their communities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

For many years, women have been involved in community, social, and voluntary activities. They have assisted communities in meeting their needs through women's organizations. Women's participation in the development process is regarded as the only way and means for them to demonstrate their full potential to significantly affect the socioeconomic and political well-being of their immediate environment while also improving their standard of living (Ibrahim, 2020). Women play a crucial role in grassroots development activities in Nigeria, contributing significantly to community building and sustainable development. Women's participation in grassroots development activities in Nigeria is multifaceted, encompassing various dimensions that collectively contribute to community growth. The extent to which women participate in grassroots development greatly depends on the level of women empowerment.

Women empowerment encompasses the procedure of making women economically independent, self-sustained, having positive recognition, which allows them to face a challenging position and to play their vital role in different development activities. In the view of Imoni (2021), women empowerment entails the improvement of women's political, economic, and social conditions. This means women empowerment entails certain basic factors such as women's sense of worth; their right to control their

own lives, both within and outside the family premises; and their ability to influence the direction of social change in order to create a just social and economic order at regional, national, and international levels. Women empowerment is important for developing countries because women are an important part of the society and their participation in economic and social activities, and their status and decision making in social activities, are relevant.

Komonibo (2019) asserted that women's empowerment opportunities connotes the process in which women gain a greater share of control over resources-materials, human, and intellectual resources such as knowledge, information, and ideas, as well as financial resources such as money, access to money, and control over decision-making in the home, community, society, and nation. It is a process by which women take ownership and control of their lives through the articulation of their own aspirations and change strategies, as well as the expansion of choice among women. Agbro (2021) opined that women empowerment involves the distribution of social power and control of resources in favor of women. It involves creating an environment in which women can make independent decisions about their personal development while also shining as equals in society. Women empowerment plays a crucial roles in grassroots development.

Grassroots development according to Ajayi (2020) refers to initiatives and efforts that originate at the local level, driven by the community members themselves rather than external agencies. Grassroots development emphasizes bottom-up approaches,

empowering communities to identify and address their own needs. This form of development recognizes the unique strengths, culture, and context of each community, fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. To constitute grassroots development, women participation is essential. This involvement goes beyond mere consultation; it involves active engagement in decision-making processes, ensuring that the initiatives align with the genuine needs and aspirations of the community. Education and skill-building programs tailored to local requirements play a crucial role, empowering individuals to take ownership of their development journey. Moreover, fostering collaboration among community members, local organizations, and government entities strengthens the collective capacity for positive change.

The impact of women empowerment on grassroots development cannot be overemphasized. In the view of Nnamani (2019), women empowerment plays a pivotal role in fostering grassroots development, influencing social, economic, and cultural aspects of communities. When women are empowered, there is a direct correlation with improved economic conditions at the grassroots level. By providing women with education, skills, and opportunities, they become active contributors to local economies (Lawal, 2021). Women often invest a significant portion of their income in their families, leading to better healthcare, education, and overall well-being for the community. This economic empowerment creates a positive ripple effect, uplifting the entire grassroots environment. Women empowerment contributes to social development by challenging traditional gender roles and promoting inclusivity. As women gain confidence, they

actively participate in decision-making processes within their communities. This not only enhances the representation of diverse perspectives but also fosters a more equitable and just social structure. Moreover, empowered women often become catalysts for positive social change, advocating issues such as education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, thereby shaping the collective conscience of the grassroots society (Adamu, 2018).

The impact of women empowerment on grassroots development extends to cultural enrichment. When women are given the opportunity to express their creativity, knowledge, and traditions, it leads to a preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage. Empowered women often play a crucial role in passing down cultural values, practices, and rituals to younger generations. This preservation of cultural identity strengthens the fabric of grassroots communities, fostering a sense of pride and cohesion. In essence, women empowerment becomes a driving force for holistic development, addressing economic, social, and cultural dimensions at the grassroots level (Asike, 2020).

In Nigeria, the state of women empowerment remains alarmingly poor, characterized by deeply entrenched cultural, social, and economic barriers that limit women's access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and political participation. Despite constitutional provisions and international agreements advocating for gender equality, women in Nigeria still face systemic discrimination and marginalization at various levels of society (Oseni, 2020). Patriarchal norms and

traditional beliefs perpetuate gender stereotypes, relegating women to subordinate roles within the family and society at large. These norms dictate that women's primary roles are confined to household duties and caregiving responsibilities, while men are often seen as the primary breadwinners and decision-makers. As a result, women are often denied equal access to education and employment opportunities, limiting their economic independence and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The cultural beliefs that the education of a woman ends in the kitchen, makes it almost impossible for males to see the immense contributions of women to grassroots development. Within the traditional African society, women from almost all the ethnic group were excluded from performing certain activities, especially those that concern leadership. The exclusion of women from some of these activities is due to the socio-cultural factors constraining them from participating in activities that were considered to be exclusively for men.

The lamentable state of women empowerment casts a shadow over the potential progress of the nation especially when it comes to grassroots development. Despite strides in various sectors, women continue to face systemic barriers, hindering their empowerment and limiting their contribution to societal development. Discriminatory cultural norms, limited access to education, and gender-based violence persist as formidable challenges, impeding the realization of a truly empowered female populace.

The repercussions of this inadequate women empowerment are profoundly felt in grassroots development. Women, constituting a significant portion of the population, are essential agents of change at the community level. When hindered from fully participating in economic, political, and social spheres, the potential for holistic grassroots development is stifled. Empowered women bring diverse perspectives, innovative solutions, and invaluable skills to local initiatives. Therefore, the failure to address and rectify the disparities in women's empowerment not only perpetuates gender inequality but also hampers the overall progress and sustainability of grassroots development. The researcher is worried by these phenomenon and so wishes to carry out an investigation on women empowerment and grassroots development in Nigeria: A case study of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions were raised in order to guide the study:

1. What is the level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
2. What is the level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
3. To what extent do women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
4. What are the constraints to women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?
5. What is the impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

6. What are the ways we can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of the study is to investigate nexus between women empowerment and grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The specific objectives of the study are to:

1. Find out the level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
2. Ascertain the level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
3. Investigate the extent to which women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
4. Find out the constraints to women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
5. Examine the impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.
6. Establish the ways we can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study covers women empowerment and grassroots development in Nigeria: A case study of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The study will be limited to Oredo Local Government, Edo state.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study on women empowerment and grassroots development would be of significance to students as it will help provides valuable insights into the importance of empowering women at the grassroots level. It will helps students understand the challenges faced by women in these communities, and how their empowerment can lead to overall development. This knowledge can equips students with a deeper understanding of gender issues and social dynamics, empowering their own perspectives and encouraging empathy and support for women's rights. The study would also be of utmost significance to teachers as it will allows them to incorporate a gender-sensitive approach in their teaching. The study would help them incorporate examples and discussions around women empowerment in various subjects, fostering a more inclusive and well-rounded education. Furthermore, teachers can utilize the findings from this study to inspire and guide their students towards creating positive change in their communities.

The study would help add to the body of knowledge as it will adds to the growing body of literature on gender studies, community development, and social justice. Researchers can reference this study in their own work, expanding upon its findings and contributing to the overall understanding and advancement of these important themes. The general society will also benefits from this study as it will brings attention to the needs and rights of women in marginalized communities. It raises awareness about the importance of gender equality and grassroots development, fostering a more inclusive society. By understanding the significance of women empowerment, individuals can

actively participate in supporting initiatives that uplift women and promote gender equality.

The study would also be of significance to policy makers as it will help them address gender inequality and empower women at the grassroots level. This study will help provides evidence-based insights that guide policy makers in developing effective strategies for social and economic empowerment. It brings attention to the needs of marginalized women and acts as a catalyst for change at a systemic level. This study will help serves as a foundation for future research, allowing for a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances surrounding these important issues.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Development: Development involves the improvement of human capabilities, standards of living, and the overall quality of life.

Grassroots Development: Grassroots development refers to initiatives and efforts that originate at the local level, driven by the community members themselves rather than external agencies.

Women Empowerment: It is a process by which women take ownership and control of their lives through the articulation of their own aspirations and change strategies, as well as the expansion of choice among women.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.0 Introduction

This chapter dealt on the overview of development, grassroots development and women empowerment. The chapter also critically examined the constraints to women participation in grassroots development, impact of women empowerment on grassroots development and measures to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development.

2.1 Concept of Development

Development is a multidimensional concept that encompasses economic, social, political, and environmental dimensions, aiming at improving the quality of life and well-being of individuals and communities. Development denotes progress towards a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous society (Iweala, 2022). Economic development traditionally focuses on increasing GDP, promoting industrialization, and enhancing infrastructure. However, a broader understanding of development emphasizes human development, which encompasses health, education, gender equality, and social inclusion. Development also entails the importance of expanding individuals' freedoms and capabilities to live lives they value. Thus, development entails not only material progress but also empowerment, dignity, and human flourishing (Onotu, 2020).

The concept of development extends beyond mere economic growth to encompass social justice, environmental sustainability, and cultural enrichment. Sustainable development emphasizes the interdependence between economic progress, environmental protection, and social equity, advocating for policies that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Emeje, 2022). Moreover, development is intricately linked to issues of power, inequality, and governance. Ensuring inclusive and participatory decision-making processes, protecting human rights, and combating corruption are essential for fostering sustainable development outcomes. Additionally, development involves addressing structural inequalities and historical injustices that perpetuate poverty, marginalization, and exclusion.

Nigeria, once touted as the giant of Africa with vast potential, finds itself mired in a plethora of challenges that thwart its development aspirations (Inekpenah, 2020). Nigeria's poor state of development is characterized by systemic corruption, inadequate infrastructure, overreliance on oil revenue, and institutional dysfunction (Egueke, 2022). Corruption, deeply entrenched within the fabric of society, corrodes the nation's progress at every turn. From embezzlement in government offices to bribery on the streets, corruption permeates all levels of Nigerian society, diverting precious resources away from essential public services and infrastructure projects (Asuquo, 2021). The pervasive nature of corruption erodes public trust in institutions, discourages foreign investment, and perpetuates a cycle of poverty and inequality.

Oredo Local Government Area (LGA) in Edo State mirrors many of the broader developmental challenges afflicting Nigeria. Despite its strategic location and historical significance, Oredo Oredo Local Government Area grapples with a myriad of obstacles that hinder its progress and development (Obokhae, 2020). Inadequate infrastructure serves as a primary impediment to economic growth and social development within the region. The state of the road networks is deplorable, hindering transportation and access to markets for goods and services. Furthermore, the erratic electricity supply disrupts business operations and everyday life, stifling productivity and economic potential.

Additionally, the underinvestment in essential services such as education and healthcare exacerbates the plight of Oredo Oredo Local Government Area residents. Many schools lack basic amenities and qualified teachers, compromising the quality of education and limiting opportunities for the youth. Similarly, healthcare facilities are often ill-equipped and understaffed, leaving residents vulnerable to preventable diseases and health emergencies. The lack of access to quality education and healthcare perpetuates cycles of poverty and hampers human capital development in the region. Unemployment and underemployment pose significant challenges to Oredo LGA, particularly among its youth population. Limited job opportunities force many young people into informal and precarious employment, exacerbating poverty and social instability.

2.2 Overview of Grassroots Development

Grassroots development according to Ajayi (2020) refers to initiatives and efforts that originate at the local level, driven by the community members themselves rather than external agencies. Grassroots development emphasizes bottom-up approaches, empowering communities to identify and address their own needs. This form of development recognizes the unique strengths, culture, and context of each community, fostering sustainable and inclusive growth. To constitute grassroots development, women participation is essential. This involvement goes beyond mere consultation; it involves active engagement in decision-making processes, ensuring that the initiatives align with the genuine needs and aspirations of the community (Aina, 2018). Education and skill-building programs tailored to local requirements play a crucial role, empowering individuals to take ownership of their development journey. Moreover, fostering collaboration among community members, local organizations, and government entities strengthens the collective capacity for positive change.

According to Agbonifo (2022), grassroots development embodies a profound philosophy that seeks to catalyze change from the bottom up, empowering local communities to take charge of their own destinies. At its essence, grassroots development acknowledges the inherent agency and resilience of individuals and communities, recognizing that sustainable progress can only be achieved when it emerges organically from within. Unlike traditional top-down approaches, which often impose external agendas and solutions, grassroots development places primacy on local knowledge,

values, and aspirations. It operates on the fundamental principle that those closest to the challenges are often best positioned to identify solutions that are contextually relevant and culturally appropriate (Okoro, 2019).

Okonkwo (2019) in view opined that in practical terms, grassroots development involves a participatory and inclusive process whereby community members actively engage in decision-making, planning, and implementation of development initiatives. Through community-driven processes, individuals are empowered to articulate their needs, priorities, and visions for the future, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to collective action (Ajaero, 2020). This participatory ethos not only ensures that interventions are responsive to local contexts but also cultivates a culture of democracy, accountability, and social cohesion within communities. By democratizing development processes, grassroots initiatives pave the way for more inclusive and equitable outcomes, where marginalized voices are heard, respected, and valued.

In his contribution, Aliyu (2021) opined that grassroots development is deeply rooted in principles of social justice, human rights, and environmental sustainability. It recognizes that development cannot be divorced from broader structural inequalities, power dynamics, and environmental challenges that shape people's lives. Thus, grassroots development advocates for approaches that address the root causes of poverty, discrimination, and ecological degradation, seeking to build more resilient and equitable societies (Ezeani, 2021). By centering the needs and rights of marginalized groups, such

as women, youth, indigenous peoples, and ethnic minorities, grassroots development endeavors to dismantle systemic barriers and create opportunities for all to thrive.

Furthermore, Audu (2019) averred that grassroots development emphasizes the importance of capacity building, leadership development, and institutional strengthening at the local level. It recognizes that sustainable development hinges on the ability of communities to mobilize resources, harness collective action, and effectively manage change. Therefore, grassroots initiatives invest in building the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to navigate complex social, economic, and political landscapes. Through participatory learning processes, communities develop their capacities to analyze problems, mobilize resources, and implement solutions autonomously, thereby fostering a culture of self-reliance and resilience (Anyanwu, 2020). Moreover, grassroots development fosters partnerships, alliances, and collaborations across diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, and private sector entities, to leverage resources, share expertise, and advocate for policy reforms that support bottom-up approaches to development. By fostering a culture of solidarity and collaboration, grassroots development amplifies voices, scales impact, and catalyzes systemic change, laying the groundwork for a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

The level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area is a source of growing concern. The poor and stagnant level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State is a multifaceted issue stemming from various

challenges. The area faces significant infrastructural deficits, particularly in terms of roads, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions. Many roads are in deplorable conditions, hindering transportation and economic activities (Emovon, 2020). Additionally, healthcare services are inadequate, with a shortage of hospitals and medical personnel, resulting in poor health outcomes for residents. Educational facilities also suffer from neglect, with insufficient schools and resources, leading to a high rate of illiteracy and limited access to quality education for children in the area.

Furthermore, the economic landscape of Oredo Local Government Area is characterized by limited opportunities and underdeveloped sectors. Despite being situated in a resource-rich region, there is a lack of investment in key industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. This has contributed to high unemployment rates and widespread poverty among the population. The absence of viable economic activities perpetuates a cycle of underdevelopment, as residents struggle to access basic necessities and improve their living standards.

2.3 Concept of Women Empowerment

Women empowerment encompasses the procedure of making women economically independent, self-sustained, having positive recognition, which allows them to face a challenging position and to play their vital role in different development activities. In the view of Imoni (2021), women empowerment entails the improvement of women's political, economic, and social conditions. This means women empowerment

entails certain basic factors such as women's sense of worth; their right to control their own lives, both within and outside the family premises; and their ability to influence the direction of social change in order to create a just social and economic order at regional, national, and international levels. Women empowerment is important for developing countries because women are an important part of the society and their participation in economic and social activities, and their status and decision making in social activities, are relevant.

Komonibo (2019) asserted that women's empowerment opportunities connotes the process in which women gain a greater share of control over resources-materials, human, and intellectual resources such as knowledge, information, and ideas, as well as financial resources such as money, access to money, and control over decision-making in the home, community, society, and nation. It is a process by which women take ownership and control of their lives through the articulation of their own aspirations and change strategies, as well as the expansion of choice among women. Agbro (2021) opined that women empowerment involves the distribution of social power and control of resources in favor of women. It involves creating an environment in which women can make independent decisions about their personal development while also shining as equals in society.

Women empowerment is known as the procedure of making women economically independent, self-sustained, having positive recognition, which allows them to face a

challenging position and to play their vital role in different development activities. According to Imoni (2020), women empowerment entails the improvement of women's political, economic, and social conditions. This means women empowerment entails certain basic factors such as women's sense of worth; their right to control their own lives, both within and outside the family premises; and their ability to influence the direction of social change in order to create a just social and economic order at regional, national, and international levels.

Economic empowerment is a crucial aspect of women empowerment. When women are given economic opportunities, they become financially independent and have greater control over their lives. This leads to increased self-confidence, better decision-making, and improved well-being. Economic empowerment also has far-reaching benefits for society as a whole. Studies have shown that increasing women's economic participation leads to higher productivity, greater economic growth, and reduced poverty (Asike, 2022). In addition, women's economic empowerment can help to reduce the gender wage gap and promote gender equality in the workplace.

Social empowerment is another critical aspect of women empowerment. Women's social empowerment involves their ability to participate fully in social, cultural, and political life (Abike, 2021). This includes the ability to access healthcare, education, and other social services, participate in community activities, and have a voice in decision-making processes. Social empowerment is crucial as it helps to counter gender-based

discrimination and promotes gender equality. Studies have shown that women's social empowerment is closely linked to improvements in health, education, and overall well-being (Kabeer, 2020).

Political empowerment is also essential for women's empowerment. Political empowerment involves the ability of women to participate fully in political processes, including voting, running for office, and holding political positions. Political empowerment is crucial as it helps to ensure that women's voices are heard in decision-making processes and that their interests are represented in public policy (Edevwo, 2021). Political empowerment can also help to counter gender-based discrimination and promote gender equality in society.

The poor state of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State reflects a systemic failure to address gender disparities and promote inclusive development. Despite progress in some parts of Nigeria, Oredo remains plagued by deep-rooted cultural and socio-economic barriers that limit women's access to education, employment, healthcare, and decision-making roles. One of the primary challenges is the prevalence of traditional norms and practices that subordinate women, confining them to domestic roles and denying them equal opportunities. These norms perpetuate gender inequality, restrict women's autonomy, and undermine their socio-economic advancement.

Education is a fundamental pillar of women's empowerment, yet in Oredo, disparities in educational access and attainment persist. Gender-based discrimination

often leads to lower enrollment rates for girls, particularly in rural areas where cultural biases against female education are entrenched. Limited access to quality education perpetuates cycles of poverty and hinders women's ability to participate meaningfully in the workforce. Moreover, even when women receive education, they face barriers in accessing employment opportunities commensurate with their qualifications. Gender stereotypes and discriminatory hiring practices further marginalize women in the labor market, exacerbating economic disparities and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

2.4 Impact of Women Empowerment on Grassroots Development

The impact of women empowerment on grassroots development cannot be overemphasized. In the view of Nnamani (2019), women empowerment plays a pivotal role in fostering grassroots development, influencing social, economic, and cultural aspects of communities. When women are empowered, there is a direct correlation with improved economic conditions at the grassroots level. By providing women with education, skills, and opportunities, they become active contributors to local economies (Lawal, 2021). Women often invest a significant portion of their income in their families, leading to better healthcare, education, and overall well-being for the community. This economic empowerment creates a positive ripple effect, uplifting the entire grassroots environment.

Women empowerment contributes to social development by challenging traditional gender roles and promoting inclusivity. As women gain confidence and

agency, they actively participate in decision-making processes within their communities. This not only enhances the representation of diverse perspectives but also fosters a more equitable and just social structure. Moreover, empowered women often become catalysts for positive social change, advocating for issues such as education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, thereby shaping the collective conscience of the grassroots society (Adamu, 2018).

The impact of women empowerment on grassroots development extends to cultural enrichment. When women are given the opportunity to express their creativity, knowledge, and traditions, it leads to a preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage. Empowered women often play a crucial role in passing down cultural values, practices, and rituals to younger generations. This preservation of cultural identity strengthens the fabric of grassroots communities, fostering a sense of pride and cohesion. In essence, women empowerment becomes a driving force for holistic development, addressing economic, social, and cultural dimensions at the grassroots level (Asike, 2020).

Furthermore, women's empowerment serves as a catalyst for social change and community cohesion. Through initiatives promoting gender equality and women's rights awareness, deeply entrenched stereotypes and discriminatory practices are challenged and dismantled. Empowered women assert their rights and take on leadership roles in various spheres of society, including politics, education, and healthcare, thereby becoming agents of change within their communities (Ogunleye, 2019). This empowerment fosters

inclusive decision-making processes, ensuring that grassroots development initiatives address the diverse needs and perspectives of all community members, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

Moreover, women's empowerment plays a pivotal role in advancing healthcare outcomes at the grassroots level. Empowered women are more likely to prioritize family health, seek healthcare services, and advocate for improved healthcare infrastructure within their communities (Akpabio, 2018). With increased access to reproductive healthcare, maternal and child mortality rates decrease, and family planning practices become more widespread. As women are empowered to make informed decisions about their health and well-being, the overall health indicators of communities improve, laying a foundation for sustainable development (Onyia, 2018).

Dike (2020) asserted that women empowerment serves as a catalyst for educational advancement and human capital development in Nigeria's grassroots communities. By investing in girls' education and promoting equal access to learning opportunities, women are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue higher education and professional careers. Educated women serve as role models and mentors for future generations, inspiring young girls to aspire for academic and personal success. As the educational attainment of women increases, so does their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the social, economic, and political fabric of their communities (Okoye, 2019).

2.5 Constraints to Women Participation in Grassroots Development

Some of the constraints to women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State include cultural and societal norms, limited access to education, economic barriers, political marginalization, lack of infrastructure and resources.

Cultural and Societal Norms: In Oredo Local Government Area, the impact of cultural norms on women's participation in grassroots development initiatives is deeply entrenched within the fabric of society. A cornerstone of these cultural norms is the patriarchal structure that pervades Oredo Local Government Area communities, where power dynamics predominantly favor men. This hierarchical system often relegates women to subordinate roles within both the household and broader societal contexts, limiting their agency and decision-making authority (Agba, 2020). Women, from an early age, are socialized to conform to traditional gender roles that prioritize caregiving, household management, and child-rearing over pursuits outside the domestic sphere. As a result, their opportunities for active engagement in grassroots development projects are curtailed, as they are expected to prioritize family responsibilities above all else.

Akeju (2018) asserted that cultural beliefs regarding gender roles and responsibilities perpetuate the notion that women's contributions to development are secondary to those of men. The prevailing mindset dictates that men are the primary providers and decision-makers, while women are expected to defer to male authority

figures in matters concerning community affairs. Consequently, women encounter significant barriers when attempting to assert their presence and influence in grassroots development initiatives, as their voices are often marginalized or disregarded altogether. This cultural bias further perpetuates gender inequalities and reinforces the notion that women's participation in public spheres, including grassroots development, is not only unnecessary but also unwelcome (Akinwande, 2021).

In Oredo Local Government Area, societal norms exert a profound influence on women's ability to participate meaningfully in grassroots development initiatives, shaping the contours of their social, economic, and political engagement. Central to these societal norms is the pervasive belief in women's inferiority and their exclusion from decision-making processes across various spheres of life. This societal attitude reflects and reinforces deeply entrenched gender biases, perpetuating the marginalization of women's voices and perspectives in community development efforts (Dauda, 2019). As a result, women often find themselves relegated to passive roles within grassroots development projects, with limited opportunities to contribute meaningfully to decision-making processes or project implementation.

Limited Access to Education: Limited access to education serves as a significant impediment to women's participation in grassroots development within Oredo Local Government Area. One critical aspect contributing to this constraint is the unequal distribution of educational resources, particularly in rural areas (Eze, 2020). Across the

country, rural communities often lack the necessary infrastructure, such as schools and transportation networks, to provide accessible education for all. As a result, girls living in these areas face formidable challenges in accessing educational opportunities. The shortage of schools means that many girls must travel long distances to attend classes, often encountering safety concerns along the way. Moreover, the lack of transportation options further compounds the issue, as families may be unable to afford transportation costs or find reliable means of travel. Consequently, girls from rural backgrounds are disproportionately affected by limited access to education, hindering their ability to participate actively in grassroots development initiatives aimed at improving their communities (Ibrahim, 2021).

Another dimension of the constraint of limited access to education for women in Oredo Local Government Area is the dearth of quality educational facilities and resources. Even in areas where schools exist, the quality of education provided may be substandard, compromising the learning outcomes for girls (Omokheni, 2020). Inadequate infrastructure, including poorly equipped classrooms and outdated teaching materials, undermines the educational experience and diminishes the potential for meaningful learning. Furthermore, the shortage of trained educators exacerbates the problem, as many schools struggle to attract and retain qualified teachers. Consequently, girls attending these schools may receive an inferior education, lacking the necessary skills and knowledge to engage effectively in grassroots development efforts (Ahmed, 2019). Without access to quality education, women are unable to acquire the tools and

competencies needed to address the socio-economic challenges facing their communities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment.

Socio-economic disparities further exacerbate the issue of limited access to education for women in Oredo Local Government Area. Poverty remains a pervasive issue, particularly in rural areas where access to basic necessities is often precarious. Families struggling to make ends meet may prioritize other expenses over education, especially for girls whose schooling is perceived as less essential than that of boys. As a result, many girls are forced to forego formal education in favor of contributing to household chores or generating income through informal labor (Lawal, 2021). The financial burden of schooling, including tuition fees, uniforms, and textbooks, presents a significant barrier to educational access for many families. Without the necessary financial resources, women and girls are unable to pursue educational opportunities, constraining their ability to participate in grassroots development initiatives aimed at addressing the underlying causes of poverty and inequality in their communities.

Economic Barriers: Women's participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area faces formidable economic barriers that hinder their ability to engage fully in community initiatives and decision-making processes. One of the primary economic obstacles is the limited access to financial resources experienced by women across various rural and urban areas in the country (Obodo, 2018). The dearth of accessible credit facilities, savings mechanisms, and investment opportunities restricts

women's capacity to mobilize resources for community development endeavors. In many instances, women lack the collateral or financial literacy required to access formal financial services, leaving them reliant on informal lending arrangements with exorbitant interest rates. Consequently, women find themselves marginalized from the economic mainstream, unable to access the capital necessary to initiate and sustain grassroots development projects (Mustapha, 2020).

Nwachukwu (2022) opined that the unequal distribution of economic resources perpetuates disparities in women's participation in grassroots development initiatives. Within Nigerian society, entrenched gender biases often favor men in terms of economic access and control. Men typically hold the reins of household finances and decision-making, relegating women to subordinate roles in economic matters. This power dynamic not only limits women's access to financial resources but also diminishes their influence in community development processes (Okafor, 2019). Despite women's significant contributions to household economies through unpaid care work and informal sector activities, their economic agency remains constrained by systemic barriers that undermine their ability to lead and participate effectively in grassroots development efforts.

Political Marginalization: Political marginalization serves as a formidable barrier that impedes women's active engagement in grassroots development initiatives across Oredo Local Government Area. Rooted in deep-seated patriarchal structures, this phenomenon

systematically sidelines women from political processes, constraining their capacity to contribute effectively to grassroots development efforts (Okoli, 2021). Within the intricate tapestry of Nigerian society, political marginalization manifests in multifaceted ways, perpetuating gender disparities and obstructing women's access to decision-making platforms critical for community development.

Political marginalization in Oredo Local Government Area is a reflection of entrenched historical and cultural norms that relegate women to subordinate roles within society. These norms, deeply rooted in patriarchal ideologies, perpetuate the belief that women's primary sphere of influence should be confined to domestic duties, while men assume leadership roles in the public domain. Consequently, women encounter formidable barriers when endeavoring to participate in political activities and grassroots development initiatives, facing marginalization and dismissal within male-dominated spheres of influence (Onuoha, 2020).

Moreover, Oredo Local Government Area's political landscape is marred by stark gender disparities, with men overwhelmingly dominating positions of power and influence. This disparity permeates various echelons of government, from local councils to national assemblies, where women remain grossly underrepresented (Orji, 2019). The glaring lack of gender parity in political representation not only underscores systemic biases but also perpetuates a cycle of marginalization wherein women's perspectives and interests are sidelined in policy formulation and decision-making processes. Furthermore,

political marginalization intersects with socio-economic disparities, exacerbating the exclusion of women from grassroots development initiatives. Women, particularly those hailing from rural and marginalized communities, encounter disproportionate barriers to accessing education, economic opportunities, and healthcare services. These structural inequalities curtail women's ability to participate actively in political processes, as they lack the requisite resources and support systems necessary to engage meaningfully in grassroots development endeavors (Sambo, 2018).

2.6 Measures to Improve Women Empowerment to Enhance Their Contribution to Grassroots Development

Some of the measures which could be taken to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area include access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, legal reforms and protection.

Access to Education: Access to education stands as a pivotal measure in enhancing women's empowerment, thereby catalyzing their contribution to grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area. Historically marginalized, Nigerian women face multifaceted barriers hindering their empowerment, with access to education serving as a linchpin for addressing these challenges. By focusing on expanding educational opportunities for women, Nigeria can unlock their potential and foster meaningful participation in societal progress (Adesina, 2020).

Education serves as the cornerstone of empowerment, offering women the tools to challenge entrenched gender norms and assert their rights within society. In Nigeria, cultural beliefs often relegate women to subordinate roles, limiting their access to education and perpetuating cycles of disempowerment. By prioritizing access to education, particularly at the grassroots level, Nigerian women can challenge these norms and transform societal perceptions of their roles and capabilities (Adeyemo, 2019). Education equips women with critical thinking skills, enabling them to navigate complex socio-political landscapes and advocate for their own interests, thereby fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

Overcoming socioeconomic barriers is paramount to ensuring equal access to education for Oredo Local Government Area women. Socioeconomic disparities exacerbate the challenges faced by women, as families often prioritize the education of male children due to limited resources and traditional beliefs. As a result, girls are disproportionately affected, denied opportunities for educational advancement and economic empowerment. By addressing these disparities and expanding access to quality education, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, Nigeria can empower women to break the cycle of poverty and contribute meaningfully to grassroots development initiatives (Afolabi, 2018).

Economic Empowerment: Economic empowerment stands as a pivotal strategy in bolstering women's empowerment and fostering their meaningful contribution to

grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area. Economic empowerment encompasses the provision of opportunities, resources, and agency necessary for individuals, particularly women, to exercise control over their economic destinies. In Nigeria, where traditional gender norms and systemic barriers often relegate women to subordinate roles within the household and society, economic empowerment initiatives serve as transformative mechanisms to challenge and dismantle these entrenched disparities (Yusuf, 2020).

Ajayi (2018) opined that economic empowerment liberates women from the shackles of financial dependence and empowers them to actively participate in economic activities, decision-making processes, and community development initiatives. Through access to credit, vocational training, entrepreneurship programs, and market linkages, women gain the tools and knowledge needed to establish and sustain viable enterprises. These initiatives not only enhance women's income-generating capacities but also cultivate their entrepreneurial spirit, leadership skills, and resilience in the face of adversity.

Moreover, economic empowerment initiatives tailored to Nigerian women hold the potential to address multifaceted challenges stemming from gender-based discrimination, poverty, and social exclusion. By prioritizing women's access to productive resources, including land, capital, technology, and information, these initiatives bridge the existing gender gaps and foster inclusive economic growth (Akande,

2019). As women accumulate financial resources and assets, they become more assertive in negotiating their rights, accessing essential services, and challenging discriminatory practices within their households and communities.

Political Participation: Political participation stands as a crucial measure in enhancing women's empowerment and fostering grassroots development in Nigeria. As a country with diverse cultural and societal norms, Nigeria faces challenges in achieving gender equality and ensuring women's meaningful participation in decision-making processes. However, by promoting and facilitating women's engagement in politics, Nigeria can unlock the potential for transformative change at the grassroots level (Aliyu, 2018).

In the view of Babatunde (2021), political participation provides women with a platform to advocate for policies and initiatives that address the unique needs and challenges faced by women and girls in their communities. By actively participating in political processes, women can influence the formulation and implementation of laws and policies that promote gender equality, expand access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, and combat gender-based violence and discrimination. Through their representation in legislative bodies, women can amplify the voices of marginalized groups and champion inclusive development agendas that prioritize the well-being and empowerment of all citizens.

Increased women's political participation fosters the emergence of role models and leaders who inspire and empower other women to engage in civic and political

activities. When women occupy positions of power and leadership, they serve as catalysts for change, challenging stereotypes and societal norms that limit women's roles and contributions. By breaking barriers and defying expectations, women leaders pave the way for future generations of women to pursue their aspirations and participate fully in shaping the future of their communities and nation (Danjuma, 2019). Moreover, women's presence in political institutions enhances the legitimacy and effectiveness of governance structures, fostering transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the needs and concerns of all citizens, especially those at the grassroots level.

Eze (2020) opined that political participation serves as a pathway for women to access resources, networks, and opportunities that are essential for their empowerment and socio-economic development. Through their involvement in political campaigns, advocacy efforts, and community mobilization initiatives, women build alliances, forge partnerships, and gain visibility and recognition within their communities and beyond. As they navigate the political landscape, women acquire valuable skills in negotiation, communication, leadership, and consensus-building, which are instrumental in advancing their personal and professional aspirations. Additionally, women's participation in electoral processes and governance structures strengthens democratic institutions and promotes the principles of inclusivity, pluralism, and respect for human rights, laying the foundation for a more just, equitable, and prosperous society (Umeadi, 2019).

Legal Reforms and Protection: In Nigeria, women's empowerment serves as a cornerstone for fostering grassroots development, yet it remains impeded by a myriad of entrenched social, cultural, and legal barriers. Legal reforms coupled with enhanced protection mechanisms stand out as indispensable tools to dismantle these barriers and uplift the status of women in society (Jibrin, 2018).

Legal reforms carry the potential to address discriminatory laws and policies that perpetuate gender inequalities. Enacting legislation that guarantees equal rights and opportunities for women across various spheres of life, including education, employment, property ownership, and political participation, lays the groundwork for creating a conducive environment where women can thrive economically and socially (Adamu, 2020). For instance, reforming inheritance laws to ensure the equitable distribution of property among heirs, irrespective of gender, can significantly empower women economically. With secure access to property, women gain the financial independence necessary to invest in education, healthcare, and entrepreneurial ventures, thereby catalyzing grassroots development and fostering economic stability within communities.

Robust legal protections serve as bulwarks safeguarding women's rights and dignity. Strengthening laws against gender-based violence, encompassing domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, stands as an imperative measure to create safer communities where women can actively participate in social and economic activities without fear or intimidation (Nwosu, 2019).

Moreover, effective enforcement of these laws through accessible judicial systems and law enforcement agencies is paramount. Such enforcement not only deters perpetrators from committing acts of violence but also ensures justice and redress for survivors, thereby fostering a culture of accountability and respect for women's rights within society. Furthermore, legal reforms should prioritize enhancing access to justice and legal resources for women, particularly those residing in rural and marginalized communities. Establishing legal aid programs, mobile courts, and community-based paralegal services can effectively bridge the gap between women and the formal justice system, empowering them to seek legal recourse for grievances and injustices they face (Musa, 2021).

2.7 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework for this study is hinged on the Structural Functionalism Theory. Structural functionalism theory provides a comprehensive lens through which to analyze the intricate relationships between social structures, functions, and processes within a given society. At its core, this theoretical framework posits that society operates as a system of interconnected parts, each with its own functions and contributions to the maintenance of stability and promotion of social order. When applied to the nexus between women empowerment and grassroots development, structural functionalism illuminates the multifaceted dynamics shaping the roles, opportunities, and challenges faced by women within communities.

One fundamental aspect of structural functionalism is its emphasis on social institutions and their roles in maintaining equilibrium and harmony within society. In the context of women empowerment and grassroots development, social institutions such as family, education, and governance serve as key determinants of women's agency and participation. For instance, the availability of educational opportunities for girls and women directly impacts their ability to acquire skills, knowledge, and resources necessary for active engagement in grassroots development initiatives. Moreover, the structure of family dynamics and community networks can either facilitate or hinder women's access to decision-making processes and resources, underscoring the need for structural changes that promote gender equality and inclusive development.

Furthermore, structural functionalism highlights the significance of social norms, values, and roles in regulating behavior and maintaining social cohesion. In many societies, entrenched gender norms and expectations often relegate women to subordinate roles within the household and community, limiting their ability to exercise agency and pursue opportunities for advancement. However, as communities evolve and undergo socio-cultural transformations, the renegotiation of gender roles and the recognition of women's contributions become increasingly pronounced. Structural functionalism underscores the importance of aligning societal norms with principles of gender equality.

Moreover, structural functionalism underscores the interconnectedness of various social subsystems and their contributions to overall societal functioning. In the context of

grassroots development, women's empowerment initiatives require coordinated efforts among multiple stakeholders, including governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local community groups. By recognizing the interdependence of these actors and their respective roles in promoting women's rights and participation, structural functionalism provides a holistic framework for understanding the dynamics of grassroots development efforts.

Structural functionalism emphasizes the adaptive nature of social systems and the importance of responsive strategies in addressing emerging needs and opportunities. As societies undergo economic, political, and cultural shifts, traditional power structures and gender dynamics may evolve, creating new spaces for women's agency and leadership. Structural functionalism encourages the exploration of adaptive mechanisms that enable women to navigate changing social landscapes and assert their rights within evolving contexts. By fostering resilience and innovation, structural functionalism informs the design of interventions and policies that promote gender equality, social inclusion, and sustainable development.

The theory is relevant to this study as it help offers a robust framework for analyzing the complex interplay between women empowerment and grassroots development. By examining the roles of social institutions, norms, stakeholders, and adaptive strategies, this theoretical perspective provides valuable insights into the dynamics shaping women's experiences and opportunities within communities.

Understanding these dynamics is essential for designing contextually relevant interventions and policies that advance gender equality, social justice, and inclusive development at the grassroots level.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter describes the research procedures and methods the researcher employed to obtain data needed for the study. It comprises of the research design,

population of the study, sample size, sampling technique, research instrument, validity of the instrument, sources of data, and method of data analysis. In this chapter, the work begins with an elaboration on the research method, delineating the descriptive survey research design to investigate the research questions raised in the study. The population of the study is carefully defined, outlining the target group from which data was collected. Sample size determination is addressed, elucidating the rationale behind selecting a representative subset from the population, while the sampling technique employed is thoroughly discussed to ensure the generalizability of findings. The research instrument, being the questionnaire, is meticulously crafted, with a robust evaluation of its validity to accurately measure the intended constructs. Additionally, the sources of data, including primary and secondary sources, are identified and justified, along with a comprehensive explanation of the method of data analysis, outlining the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) employed to derive meaningful insights from the gathered data.

3.1 Research Method

The research methodology adopted for the study was the descriptive survey research design. Descriptive survey research design is a methodological approach used in social science research to gather data on the characteristics, behaviors, attitudes, or opinions of a population (Adegbola, 2020). This design aims to describe and analyze the existing conditions or phenomena without manipulating variables or establishing causal relationships. It involves collecting data through structured questionnaires from a

representative sample of the target population. The essence of descriptive survey research lies in its ability to provide a comprehensive overview of a particular subject matter, allowing researchers to understand patterns, trends, and associations within the data (Bagudu, 2019). Descriptive survey research design serves as a foundational tool for exploring and documenting various aspects of human behavior and societal dynamics, contributing to informed decision-making and the advancement of knowledge in diverse fields.

3.2 Research Design

The study adopted the quantitative research method. Quantitative methods in research involve collecting and analyzing numerical data to understand phenomena, relationships, or patterns. This method aims to quantify the relationship between variables and uncover patterns or trends within a population (Alole, 2021). It emphasizes objectivity, precision, and the ability to generalize findings to a larger population. By employing structured questionnaires, surveys, experiments, or observational studies, researchers gather data that can be quantified and statistically analyzed, providing clear and measurable results (Onyekwelu, 2019).

3.3 Population of the Study

The population of the study was made up of all 207,113 residents in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. Available data from National Population Census (NPC, 2006) shows there are 207,113 residents in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

3.4 Sample Size and Technique

The sample size for the study was made up of 100 respondents selected from four (4) communities in Oredo local government namely; Ogbe, Oilihia, Uzebu and Ogbelaka community. A total of 100 respondents were randomly selected from the four communities. With the aid of the random sampling technique, twenty five (25) respondents each were selected from the four communities in Oredo local government, thus making a total sample size of 100 respondents.

3.5 Research Instrument

The research instrument was used in the study is the questionnaire. The researcher administered the questionnaire to the respondents in the four (4) communities in Oredo local government. The researcher also waited to collect back the filled questionnaire from the respondents on the spot in order to ensure a high return rate. The questionnaires was administered to respondents to complete without disclosing their identities. The questionnaire was designed to obtain sufficient and relevant information from the respondents. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, A and B. Section A focused on the demographic or personal data of the respondent such as age, sex, etc. while section B contained information which bothers on the problem of this research.

3.6 Validity of the Instrument

The constructed questionnaire for the study was presented to the project supervisor to confirm for content validity. Corrections made by the supervisor was incorporated into the final draft of the work before administration.

3.7 Sources of Data

The source of data for the study is the questionnaire. The researcher adopted the questionnaire as a method of data collection for this study. The questionnaire designed by the researcher was used to elicit information from the respondents on the nexus between women empowerment and grassroots development

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The data gotten was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Simple descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentage was used in presenting the findings of the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter dealt on the presentation and analysis of the responses to questionnaire by the respondents. The responses are presented using a frequency table distribution, simple percentage and detailed analysis was made accordingly. The data were primarily sourced from the administered questionnaires. A total of one hundred (100) questionnaires were administered to 100 respondents. The 100 questionnaires were returned completely filled. Hence, the analysis of data was based on the one hundred (100) questionnaires recovered.

4.2 Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data

This section starts with the demographic data of respondents which include sex, age, religion and marital status which are all aimed to give a concise understanding on women empowerment and grassroots development in Nigeria: A case study of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	31	31%
Female	69	69%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2024

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to sex. As shown in the table above, male respondents are constituted 31% while female respondents constituted 69%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were females.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents According to Age

AGE RANGE	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGES
16-20	13	13%
21-25	17	17%
26-30	48	48%
30 years and above	22	22%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2024

Table 2 revealed the distribution of the respondents according to age. As seen in the above table, 13% of the respondents are between the age of 15-20 years, 17% are within the age of 21-25 years, 48% are within the age of 26-30 years, while 22% are those in the category of 30 years and above. This indicates majority of the respondents are those within the age range of 26-30 years.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by religion

Religion	Respondents	Percentages
Christian	81	81%
Muslim	13	13%
African Traditional Religion	6	6%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2024

The table 3 above shows the distribution of respondents according to Religion. As shown in the table above, respondents who are Christians constituted 81%, Muslim respondents represented 13%, while those in African Traditional Religion are 6%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were Christians.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by Marital Status

Marital Status	Respondents	Percentages
Single	77	77%
Married	19	19%
Divorce	4	4%
Total	100	100%

Source: Field Work, 2024

The table 4 above shows the distribution of respondents according to marital status. As shown in the table above, respondents who are single constituted 77%, married respondents are 19% while divorced respondents 4%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were married couples.

4.3 Analysis of Findings

Research Question 1: What is the level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 5: Distribution of responses on the level of women empowerment.

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	Women in the local government can access credit loans from the government to start up their small scale businesses	2 (2%)	11 (11%)	9 (9%)	27 (27%)	51 (51%)
2.	The government gives out grant to small scale traders in the local government	6 (6%)	7 (7%)	2 (2%)	36 (36%)	49 (49%)
3.	There is employment opportunities for women in the local government	39 (39%)	13 (13%)	3 (3%)	18 (18%)	27 (27%)
4.	There is availability of women empowerment initiatives in the local government	9 (9%)	23 (23%)	1 (1%)	25 (25%)	42 (42%)
5.	There is provision of women skill acquisition centers in the local government	30 (30%)	21 (21%)	4 (4%)	29 (29%)	16 (16%)

Source: Field Work, 2024

The analysis of data in Table 5 on the level of women empowerment clearly revealed that under item 1, 2% of the sample population strongly agreed that Women in the local government can access credit loans from the government to start up their small scale businesses, 11% agreed, 9% were neutral, 27% disagreed while 51% strongly disagreed. Under item 2, 6% of the sampled population strongly agreed that the government gives out grant to small scale traders in the local government, 7% agreed, 2% were neutral, 36% disagreed while 49% strongly disagreed. Under item 3, 39% of the sampled population strongly agreed that there is employment opportunities for women in the local government, 13% agreed, 3% were neutral, 18% disagreed while 27% strongly disagreed. Under item 4, 9% of the sampled population strongly agreed that there is

availability of women empowerment initiatives in the local government, 23% agreed, 1% were neutral, 25% disagreed while 42% strongly disagreed. Under 5, 30% of the sampled population strongly agreed that There is provision of women skill acquisition centers in the local government, 21% agreed, 4% were neutral, 29% disagreed while 16% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data on the table above implies that there is a low level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Research Question 2: What is the level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 6: Distribution of responses on the level of grassroots development.

S/N	Items	Yes	No	Maybe	Neutral
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1.	Is there visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local government?	11 (11%)	61 (61%)	25 (25%)	3 (3%)
2.	Is there high level of job creation and income generation in the community?	9 (9%)	73 (73%)	17 (17%)	1 (1%)
3.	Is there access to education and clean water in the community?	7 (7%)	77 (77%)	14 (14%)	2 (2%)
4.	Is there active community involvement in local projects and programmes?	18 (18%)	53 (53%)	26 (26%)	3 (3%)
5.	Are there availability of good housing standard in the community?	6 (6%)	81 (81%)	11 (11%)	2 (2%)

Source: Field Work, 2024

The analysis of data in Table 3 on the level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State clearly revealed that Under item 1, 11% of the sampled population agreed that there is visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local government, 61% disagreed, 25% said maybe while 3% were neutral. Under item 2, 9% of the sampled population agreed that there is high level of job creation and income generation in the community, 73% disagreed, 17% said maybe while 1% were neutral. Under 3, 7% of the sampled population there is access to education and clean water in the community, 77% disagreed, 14% said maybe while 2% were neutral. Under item 4, 18% of the sampled population agreed that there are active community involvement in local projects and programmes, 53% disagreed, 26% said maybe while 3% were neutral. Under item 5, 6% of the sampled population agreed that there is visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local

government, 81% disagreed, 11% said maybe while 2% were neutral. The analysis of data on the table above implies that there is a low level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Research Question 3: To what extent do women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 7: Distribution of responses on the extent do women participate in grassroots development.

S/N	Items	Yes	No	Maybe	Neutral
1.	Do women often make donation regarding community development projects?	66 (66%)	3 (4%)	27 (27%)	4 (4%)
2.	Is there an active participation of women in the political process in the community?	83 (83%)	5 (5%)	11 (11%)	1 (1%)
3.	Do women often initiate income-generating activities in the community?	63 (63%)	7 (7%)	25 (25%)	2 (2%)
4.	Is there an active participation of women in the agricultural sector at the grassroots level?	87 (87%)	2 (2%)	11 (11%)	0 (0%)
5.	Do women often organize community groups to address local issues affecting the community?	53 (53%)	19 (19%)	21 (21%)	7 (7%)

Source: Field Work, 2024

The analysis of data in Table 7 Under item 1, 66% of the sampled population agreed women often make donation regarding community development projects, 3% disagreed, 27% said maybe while 4% were neutral. Under item 2, 83% of the sampled population agreed that there an active participation of women in the political process in the community, 5% disagreed, 11% said maybe while 1% were neutral. Under 3, 63% of the

sampld population women often initiate income-generating activities in the community, 7% disagreed, 25% said maybe while 2% were neutral. Under item 4, 87% of the sampled population agreed that there an active participation of women in the agricultural sector at the grassroots level, 2% disagreed, while 11% said maybe. Under item 5, 53% of the sampled population agreed that women often organize community groups to address local issues affecting the community, 19% disagreed, 21% said maybe while 7% were neutral. The analysis of data on the table above implies that there is a high extent to which women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Research Question 4: What are the constraints to women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 8: Distribution of responses on the constraints to women participation in grassroots development.

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
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1.	Cultural and societal norms constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development	63 (63%)	29 (29%)	1 (1%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)
2.	Limited access to education constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development	71 (71%)	19 (19%)	0 (0%)	7 (7%)	3 (3%)
3.	Economic barriers constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development	54 (54%)	21 (21%)	3 (3%)	17 (17%)	5 (5%)
4.	Political marginalization constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development	69 (68%)	18 (18%)	2 (2%)	9 (9%)	2 (2%)
5.	Lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development	47 (47%)	26 (26%)	1 (1%)	23 (23%)	3 (3%)

Source: Field Work, 2024

The analysis of data in Table 8 revealed that under item 1, 63% of the sample population strongly agreed that cultural and societal norms constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 29% agreed, 1% were neutral, 5% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Under item 2, 71% of the sampled population strongly agreed that limited access to education constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 19% agreed, 0% were neutral, 7% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. Under item 3, 54% of the sampled population strongly agreed that economic barriers constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 21% agreed, 3% were neutral, 17% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed. Under item 4, 69% of the sampled population strongly agreed that political marginalization constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots

development, 18% agreed, 2% were neutral, 9% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Under 5, 47% of the sampled population strongly agreed that lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 26% agreed, 1% were neutral, 23% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data on the table above implies that cultural and societal norms, limited access to education, economic barriers, political marginalization and lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Research Question 5: What is the impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State?

Table 9: Distribution of responses on the impact of women empowerment on grassroots development.

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	Women empowerment can contribute to grassroots development by fostering economic growth	61 (61%)	33 (33%)	2 (2%)	1 (1%)	3 (3%)
2.	Women empowerment can help enhance educational opportunities at the grassroots level	57 (57%)	31 (31%)	0 (0%)	11 (11%)	1 (1%)
3.	Women empowerment can help to uplift families and communities economically	49 (49%)	24 (24%)	1 (1%)	23 (23%)	3 (3%)
4.	Women empowerment can help enhance community cohesion and decision-making process	69 (68%)	18 (18%)	2 (2%)	9 (9%)	2 (2%)
5.	Empowering women can help encourage entrepreneurship/innovation at the grassroots level	54 (54%)	21 (21%)	3 (3%)	17 (17%)	5 (5%)

Source: Field Work, 2024

The analysis of data in Table 9 revealed that under item 1, 61% of the sample population strongly agreed that women empowerment can contribute to grassroots development by fostering economic growth, 33% agreed, 2% were neutral, 1% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. Under item 2, 57% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help enhance educational opportunities at the grassroots level, 31% agreed, 0% were neutral, 11% disagreed while 1% strongly disagreed. Under item 3, 49% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help to uplift families and communities economically, 24% agreed, 1% were neutral, 23% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. Under item 4, 69% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help enhance

community cohesion and decision-making process, 18% agreed, 2% were neutral, 9% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Under 5, 54% of the sampled population strongly agreed that empowering women can help encourage entrepreneurship/innovation at the grassroots level, 21% agreed, 3% were neutral, 17% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data on the table above implies that there is a significant impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.

Research Question 6: What are the ways we can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development?

Table 10: Distribution of responses on the ways in which women empowerment can be improved to enhance their contribution to grassroots development.

S/N	Items	SA	A	N	D	SD
1.	Access to education can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development	63 (63%)	29 (29%)	1 (1%)	5 (5%)	2 (2%)
2.	Economic empowerment can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development	57 (57%)	31 (31%)	3 (3%)	6 (6%)	3 (3%)
3.	Political participation constitute a way to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development	54 (54%)	21 (21%)	3 (3%)	17 (17%)	5 (5%)
4.	Legal reforms and protection can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development	66 (66%)	17 (17%)	2 (2%)	11 (11%)	4 (4%)
5.	Access to microfinance and credit facilities can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development	47 (47%)	26 (26%)	1 (1%)	23 (23%)	3 (3%)

Source: Field Work, 2024

The analysis of data in Table 10 revealed that under item 1, 63% of the sample population strongly agreed that access to education can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 29% agreed, 1% were neutral, 5% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Under item 2, 57% of the sampled population strongly agreed that economic empowerment can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development t, 31% agreed, 3% were neutral, 6% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. Under item 3, 54% of the sampled population strongly agreed that political participation constitute a way to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 21% agreed, 3%

were neutral, 17% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed. Under item 4, 66% of the sampled population strongly agreed that legal reforms and protection can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 17% agreed, 2% were neutral, 11% disagreed while 4% strongly disagreed. Under 5, 47% of the sampled population strongly agreed that access to microfinance and credit facilities can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 26% agreed, 1% were neutral, 23% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data on the table above implies that some of the ways to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development include access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, legal reforms and protection and access to microfinance and credit facilities.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

Findings from the study revealed that there is a low level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 2% of the sample population strongly agreed that women in the local government can access credit loans from the government to start up their small scale businesses, 11% agreed, 9% were neutral, 27% disagreed while 51% strongly disagreed. It was also seen from the analysis of data that 6% of the sampled population strongly agreed that the government gives out grant to small scale traders in the local government, 7% agreed, 2% were neutral, 36% disagreed while 49% strongly disagreed. Data

analyzed further shows that 39% of the sampled population strongly agreed that there is employment opportunities for women in the local government, 13% agreed, 3% were neutral, 18% disagreed while 27% strongly disagreed. It could also be seen that 9% of the sampled population strongly agreed that there is availability of women empowerment initiatives in the local government, 23% agreed, 1% were neutral, 25% disagreed while 42% strongly disagreed. This findings is in line with Asuquo (2020) who found out in his study that there is low level of women empowerment in Nigeria.

Findings from the study revealed that there is a low level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 11% of the sampled population agreed that there is visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local government, 61% disagreed, 25% said maybe while 3% were neutral. It could also be seen that 9% of the sampled population agreed that there is high level of job creation and income generation in the community, 73% disagreed, 17% said maybe while 1% were neutral. Data analyzed further revealed that 7% of the sampled population there is access to education and clean water in the community, 77% disagreed, 14% said maybe while 2% were neutral. Similarly, 18% of the sampled population agreed that there are active community involvement in local projects and programmes, 53% disagreed, 26% said maybe while 3% were neutral. Data analyzed further shows that 6% of the sampled population agreed that there is visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local government, 81% disagreed, 11% said maybe while 2% were neutral. In support of the

findings, Emovon (2020) found out that the level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area is a source of growing concern as the area faces significant infrastructural deficits, particularly in terms of roads, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions as many roads are in deplorable conditions, hindering transportation and economic activities.

Findings from the study revealed that there is a high extent to which women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 66% of the sampled population agreed women often make donation regarding community development projects, 3% disagreed, 27% said maybe while 4% were neutral. It could also be seen that 83% of the sampled population agreed that there is an active participation of women in the political process in the community, 5% disagreed, 11% said maybe while 1% were neutral. Similarly, 63% of the sampled population women often initiate income-generating activities in the community, 7% disagreed, 25% said maybe while 2% were neutral. It could also be seen from the analysis of data that 87% of the sampled population agreed that there an active participation of women in the agricultural sector at the grassroots level, 2% disagreed, while 11% said maybe. Furthermore, it was seen that 53% of the sampled population agreed that women often organize community groups to address local issues affecting the community, 19% disagreed, 21% said maybe while 7% were neutral. This findings is in agreement with Aliyu (2020) who found out that there is high extent of women participation in grassroots development.

Findings from the study also revealed that cultural and societal norms, limited access to education, economic barriers, political marginalization and lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the data analyzed as 63% of the sample population strongly agreed that cultural and societal norms constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 29% agreed, 1% were neutral, 5% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data also shows that 71% of the sampled population strongly agreed that limited access to education constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 19% agreed, 0% were neutral, 7% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. It could also be seen that 54% of the sampled population strongly agreed that economic barriers constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 21% agreed, 3% were neutral, 17% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed. This findings is in line with Akeju (2018) who asserted that cultural beliefs regarding gender roles and responsibilities perpetuate the notion that women's contributions to development are secondary to those of men.

Findings from the study also revealed that that there is a significant impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 61% of the sample population strongly agreed that women empowerment can contribute to grassroots development by fostering economic growth, 33% agreed, 2% were neutral, 1% disagreed while 3%

strongly disagreed. It could also be seen that 57% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help enhance educational opportunities at the grassroots level, 31% agreed, 0% were neutral, 11% disagreed while 1% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data also shows that 49% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help to uplift families and communities economically, 24% agreed, 1% were neutral, 23% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. It was also seen that 69% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help enhance community cohesion and decision-making process, 18% agreed, 2% were neutral, 9% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. In support of the findings, Nnamani (2019) found out that women empowerment plays a pivotal role in fostering grassroots development, influencing social, economic, and cultural aspects of communities.

Findings from the study also revealed that some of the ways to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development include access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, legal reforms and protection and access to microfinance and credit facilities. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 63% of the sample population strongly agreed that access to education can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 29% agreed, 1% were neutral, 5% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. It was also seen from the analysis of data that 57% of the sampled population strongly agreed that economic empowerment can improve women empowerment to enhance their

contribution to grassroots development t, 31% agreed, 3% were neutral, 6% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, data analyzed revealed that 54% of the sampled population strongly agreed that political participation constitute a way to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 21% agreed, 3% were neutral, 17% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed. It could also be seen that 66% of the sampled population strongly agreed that legal reforms and protection can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 17% agreed, 2% were neutral, 11% disagreed while 4% strongly disagreed. In line with the findings, Adesina (2020) asserted that access to education stands as a pivotal measure in enhancing women's empowerment, thereby catalyzing their contribution to grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter dealt with the summary of the study, the conclusions drawn, results obtained and recommendations offered.

5.1 Summary

This study investigated women empowerment and grassroots development in Nigeria: A case study of Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. To achieve the purpose of the study, six research questions were raised and answered. The objectives of the study were to find out the level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, ascertain the level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, investigate the extent to which women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, find out the constraints to women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, examine the impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State, and establish the ways we can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development. The research design that was used in this study is the descriptive survey research design. The sample size was made up of 100 respondents. Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. As regard the primary data, questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. The analysis of data was done using frequency count and percentages.

Findings from the study revealed that there is a low level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 2% of the sample population strongly agreed that women in the local government can access credit loans from the government to start up their small scale

businesses, 11% agreed, 9% were neutral, 27% disagreed while 51% strongly disagreed. It was also seen from the analysis of data that 6% of the sampled population strongly agreed that the government gives out grant to small scale traders in the local government, 7% agreed, 2% were neutral, 36% disagreed while 49% strongly disagreed. Data analyzed further shows that 39% of the sampled population strongly agreed that there is employment opportunities for women in the local government, 13% agreed, 3% were neutral, 18% disagreed while 27% strongly disagreed.

Findings from the study revealed that there is a low level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 11% of the sampled population agreed that there is visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local government, 61% disagreed, 25% said maybe while 3% were neutral. It could also be seen that 9% of the sampled population agreed that there is high level of job creation and income generation in the community, 73% disagreed, 17% said maybe while 1% were neutral. Data analyzed further revealed that 7% of the sampled population there is access to education and clean water in the community, 77% disagreed, 14% said maybe while 2% were neutral.

Findings from the study revealed that there is a high extent to which women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 66% of the sampled population agreed

women often make donation regarding community development projects, 3% disagreed, 27% said maybe while 4% were neutral. It could also be seen that 83% of the sampled population agreed that there is an active participation of women in the political process in the community, 5% disagreed, 11% said maybe while 1% were neutral. Similarly, 63% of the sampled population women often initiate income-generating activities in the community, 7% disagreed, 25% said maybe while 2% were neutral. It could also be seen from the analysis of data that 87% of the sampled population agreed that there an active participation of women in the agricultural sector at the grassroots level, 2% disagreed, while 11% said maybe.

Findings from the study also revealed that cultural and societal norms, limited access to education, economic barriers, political marginalization and lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the data analyzed as 63% of the sample population strongly agreed that cultural and societal norms constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 29% agreed, 1% were neutral, 5% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data also shows that 71% of the sampled population strongly agreed that limited access to education constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development, 19% agreed, 0% were neutral, 7% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed.

Findings from the study also revealed that there is a significant impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 61% of the sample population strongly agreed that women empowerment can contribute to grassroots development by fostering economic growth, 33% agreed, 2% were neutral, 1% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed. It could also be seen that 57% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help enhance educational opportunities at the grassroots level, 31% agreed, 0% were neutral, 11% disagreed while 1% strongly disagreed. The analysis of data also shows that 49% of the sampled population strongly agreed that women empowerment can help to uplift families and communities economically, 24% agreed, 1% were neutral, 23% disagreed while 3% strongly disagreed.

Findings from the study also revealed that some of the ways to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development include access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, legal reforms and protection and access to microfinance and credit facilities. This could be seen from the analysis of data as 63% of the sample population strongly agreed that access to education can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 29% agreed, 1% were neutral, 5% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. It was also seen from the analysis of data that 57% of the sampled population strongly agreed that economic empowerment can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 31% agreed, 3% were neutral, 6% disagreed

while 3% strongly disagreed. Furthermore, data analyzed revealed that 54% of the sampled population strongly agreed that political participation constitute a way to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development, 21% agreed, 3% were neutral, 17% disagreed while 5% strongly disagreed.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that there is a significant impact of women empowerment on grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. The researcher also concluded that there is a low level of women empowerment in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. It was also seen that there is a low level of grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. Moreover, it was seen from the study that there is a high extent to which women participate in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. It was also concluded that cultural and societal norms, limited access to education, economic barriers, political marginalization and lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State. It could be seen from the study that some of the ways to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development include access to education, economic empowerment, political participation, legal reforms and protection and access to microfinance and credit facilities.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were put forward:

1. Both the federal and state government should integrate gender-sensitive policies at both local and national levels to support women's empowerment initiatives.
2. The government design and implement targeted capacity-building programmes focusing on providing women with relevant skills, knowledge, and resources to actively participate in economic, social, and political spheres within their communities.
3. Women in government should advocate for improved access to quality education and healthcare services for women in grassroots communities.
4. The society should promote women's leadership roles within community-based organizations, cooperatives, and local government bodies.

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year undergraduate student of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City carrying out a research on the **Women Empowerment and Grassroots Development in Oredo Local Government Area of Edo State.**

Honestly, the research is purely for academic purposes, any information received from you would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Please tick the option you consider appropriate and fill in blank spaces

1. Sex: Male () Female ()

2. Age: 16-20 () 21-25 () 26-30 () 30 years and above ()
3. Religious Affiliation: Christian () Muslim () ATR ()
4. Marital Status: Single () Married () Separated () Divorced ()

**QUESTIONNAIRE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT
IN OREDO LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE**

Indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	N	D	SD
	Level Of Women Empowerment In Oredo Local Government Area					
1.	Women in the local government can access credit loans from the government to start up their small scale businesses					
2.	The government gives out grant to small scale traders in the local government					
3.	There is employment opportunities for women in the local government					
4.	There is availability of women empowerment initiatives in the local government					
5.	There is provision of women skill acquisition centeres in the local government					

	Level Of Grassroots Development In Oredo Local Government Area	Yes	No	Maybe	Neutral
6.	Is there visible infrastructure such as good roads and healthcare system in the local government?				
7.	Is there high level of job creation and income generation in the community?				
8.	Is there access to education and clean water in the community?				
9.	Is there active community involvement in local projects and programmes?				
10.	Are there availability of good housing standard in the community?				

	Extent of Women Participation In Grassroots Development In Oredo Local Government Area				
11.	Do women often make donation regarding community development projects?				
12.	Is there an active participation of women in the political process in the community?				
13.	Do women often initiate income-generating activities in the community?				
14.	Is there an active participation of women in the agricultural sector at the grassroots level?				
15.	Do women often organize community groups to address local issues affecting the community?				

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Neutral (N), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD)

	Constraints to Women Participation in Grassroots Development In Oredo Local Government Area	SA	A	N	D	SD
16.	Cultural and societal norms constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development					
17.	Limited access to education constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development					
18.	Economic barriers constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development					
19.	Political marginalization constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development					
20.	Lack of infrastructure and resources constitute a constraint against women participation in grassroots development					
	Impact Of Women Empowerment On Grassroots Development In Oredo Local Government Area					
21.	Women empowerment can contribute to grassroots development by fostering economic growth					
22.	Women empowerment can help enhance educational opportunities at the grassroots level					
23.	Women empowerment can help to uplift families and communities economically					

24.	Women empowerment can help enhance community cohesion and decision-making process					
25.	Empowering women can help encourage entrepreneurship/innovation at the grassroots level					
	Ways We Can Improve Women Empowerment To Enhance Their Contribution To Grassroots Development					
26.	Access to education can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development					
27.	Economic empowerment can improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development					
28.	Political participation constitute a way to improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development					
29.	Legal reforms and protection can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development					
30.	Access to microfinance and credit facilities can help improve women empowerment to enhance their contribution to grassroots development					