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## Assessment of the Contribution of Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) to Women Empowerment in Federal Capital Territory Abuja

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### Abstract

*This study critically examines the impact of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on women empowerment in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, Nigeria. Against the backdrop of economic challenges and the historical underperformance of government-led poverty alleviation programs, NGOs have emerged as key players in addressing societal needs. The study focuses on two prominent NGOs, the Society for Women Development and Empowerment (SWDE) and the Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN), to assess their effectiveness in empowering women in the FCT. The context of Nigeria's economic downturn and inadequate government initiatives has created a pressing need for external stakeholders, particularly NGOs, to fill the gaps in social development. The study highlights the proliferation of NGOs as the "third sector" in response to the shortcomings of government-led initiatives, emphasizing the collaborative efforts required to enhance the living conditions of the impoverished. NGOs, both local and international, play a vital role in national development by addressing socio-economic challenges. In Nigeria, they contribute significantly to poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, and the empowerment of women and girls. The focus on women's empowerment recognizes their pivotal role in societal development, acknowledging the need for targeted initiatives to overcome gender-based inequalities and enhance their participation across various domains. The study identifies specific challenges faced by women in the FCT, including gender-based inequalities perpetuated by chauvinistic power dynamics, traditional gender roles, and the lack of empowerment programs tailored for women. The absence of support initiatives exacerbates women's marginalization and limits their contribution to community development. SWDE and WFN, as selected NGOs, are instrumental in organizing community programs and mobilization to create awareness on health, sanitation, child rights, human trafficking, and other critical issues. Despite receiving substantial funding and support from local and international bodies, the study questions the extent to which these NGOs have translated their resources into tangible improvements in the lives of women in the FCT. The overarching concern of the study is to evaluate whether SWDE and WFN have effectively reduced poverty and enhanced the standard of living for women in the FCT. The assessment delves into the impact of these NGOs on women's agency, economic empowerment, education, and overall well-being. This executive summary encapsulates the motivation for the study, emphasizing the need for NGOs to play a transformative role in women empowerment, especially in regions facing economic challenges. The study aims to provide insights into the effectiveness of NGOs in addressing the unique challenges faced by women in the FCT and contribute to ongoing efforts in enhancing women's socio-economic status and overall well-being.*

**Key Words:** NGOs, Women empowerment, Poverty alleviation, Health Care.

## 1.0 Introduction

Successive administrations in developing countries of the world today are currently grappling with the biting effect of economic hardship. The amelioration of poverty has become an issue of great concern for these countries. Improvement of citizens' living condition rests largely on deliberate and organized investment in human development. In other words, for any nation to attain economic stability and sustainable development, there must be deliberate investment in human development, which include: provision of healthcare, education, skill acquisition, as well as general improvements in the capacities of people in the country. Therefore, to achieve economic growth, human development must be made the focal point of development programmes, policies and plans.

Nigeria, being one of the developing countries currently experiencing economic downturn and poor standard of living, has, over the years, made several efforts to formulate policies and create programmes geared towards poverty alleviation and human development. Available records reveal that, from independence till date, Nigeria has witnessed the establishment of several developmental programmes. Examples of such programmes are: The First National Development Plan (1962 – 1968), Second National Development Plan (1970 – 1974), Third National Development Plan (1975 – 1980) and Fourth National Development Plan (1981-85). Universal Primary Education (UPE), Better Life Programme (BLP)-1987, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Educational Trust Fund (ETF) (now TETFUND)-1993, Family Support Programme (FSP)-1994, Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)-1997, National Directorate of Employment (NDE)-1986, Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF), Universal Basic Education (UBE)-2004, National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS)-2004, Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative Bank (NACB) (now Bank of Agriculture) Peoples' Bank (PB)-1989. National Agency for Control of Aids (NACA), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)-2004; National Polio Immunization Programme, Immunization Programme on Measles, Free Maternal and Child Health Care Services, Free Pre-Natal and Post-Natal Health Care Services, among others. Unfortunately, most of these policies/programmes performed below expectation and did not really accomplish the objectives for which they were established to achieve.

Nigerian governments' inability to improve the social wellbeing of her citizens makes it inevitable and imperative for other stakeholders to come in. Thus, poor performance of governments in meeting the socio-economic needs of its citizens has been identified as one of the reasons for the influx of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the developing countries (Hashim *et al*, 2020), with Nigeria inclusive. Similarly, Omofonmwan and Odia (2009) as cited in Obomese (2018), affirmed that, in ensuring sustainable development, the provision of social amenities can be attained through a number of ways which includes, the government, community development associations, non-governmental organizations(NGOs) which are non-profit making and self-governing, willful volunteers set out to ameliorate the plight of people in dare need of life sustaining facilities in the society whose success can only be measured through these organizations' efficiency and effectiveness. What can be deduced from the above statements is that, improving the living standards of the poor requires concerted efforts from, not just governments, but from stakeholders like local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In recent times, there is global realization that, contemporary governments in developing countries can no longer single-handedly meet most communities' needs within their

jurisdiction in terms of service provision. This notion has triggered off the urgent desire for synergies with development partners. As noted by Dahiru (2017), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) constitute a viable alternative to government as channels of development assistance, particularly in developing countries. Consequently, the world is witnessing massive registration of NGOs and their collaboration with governments all over the world. In most developing countries, they are now referred to as the third sector, because of their laudable ideas and programmes aimed at responding to or remedying the observed phenomenal challenges in the society.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a vital role in improving the lives of people who have been affected by natural disasters or are facing other challenges. NGOs can act as implementers, catalysts, and partners to provide essential goods and services to those in need. They work to mobilize resources, both financial and human, to ensure that aid is delivered in a timely and effective manner. They play critical roles in driving change by advocating for policies and practices that benefit disadvantaged communities. They often work in partnership with other organizations, including government agencies, to address complex challenges that require a collaborative approach (Folger, 2021). One of the key strengths of NGOs is their ability to work at the grassroots level and to connect with communities directly. This allows them to gain a deep understanding of the issues facing people and to tailor their services to meet the specific needs of each community (Wright, 2018).

NGOs specifically focus in areas of skill acquisition, economic empowerment, disease control and management: Adult literacy scheme and capacity building and information driven charity, conflict resolution and peace promotion (Winston, 2021). By the year 2000, according to Britannica, there were about 6,000 recognized international NGOs and more than 2,000 out of these NGOs were accorded consultative status officially by the UN and therefore granted the right to attend its conference. In the same vein, as at 2002, there were over 37,000 NGOs in the world, a growth of 19.3% from 1990. Their purposes differ, but overall two categories dominate, economic development and infrastructure constituting 26% of the entire NGOs and research covering about 23%.

NGOs contribute to national development in the areas of poverty reduction, primary health cares, STDs/AIDS, democracy and good governance, women development and other health related matters, education and functional literacy, the development of the girl child, environmental issues, conflict resolution, drug abuse and human rights. Studies have shown that, developmental activities of most NGOs usually focus on nature conservation, skill acquisition, economic empowerment, disease control and management, literacy schemes, capacity building, amenities provision, conflict resolution, charity, and

Specifically, in Nigeria, NGOs contribute to development in the areas of democracy and good governance, poverty alleviation, primary healthcare, STDs/AIDS and other health related matters, education and functional literacy, environment, conflict resolution, drug abuse, peace promotion, girl child education and women empowerment. Women and girl child are always the core focus and target for most NGOs in Nigeria. This is because the place of women in any society can never be over-emphasized as their enormous contributions to socio-economic development cannot be overlooked. According to Ogunjemiluaa and Familugba (2015), women are the fundamental human reservoir of every society as they control most of the non-monetary economy (subsistence, agriculture, bearing children, domestic labour etc.) and play an important role in the monetary (training wage labour, employment etc. Women in most societies, whether developed or developing, are regarded as currency with which political and

economic alliances are cemented. For this reasons, women can contribute immensely in the nation's development.

Therefore, the need for greater women political representation in government through collaborative efforts of non-governmental organizations in Nigeria is long overdue. Non-governmental organizations have a paramount role in ensuring greater political representation of women, especially in developing countries like Nigeria. As Hashim (2020) posits, there is increasing evidence that all three sectors of society (government, private and civil society or NGOs, have important roles to play in nations' building and particularly in development efforts to improve the quality of lives of citizens. When they are able to work well together they mutually reinforce each other's work and can together do what none of them can do on its own.

In view of the above, this research seeks to assess the contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to the empowerment of women in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. In doing this, the study shall employ two (2) NGOs, namely: Society for Women Development and Empowerment (SWDE) and Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN).

## **2.0 Materials and Method**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The focus of this chapter is on the procedures and strategies for the work. It includes research design, area of study, sources of data, population, sample size and sampling technique, instrumentation, validity and reliability of the study, procedure for data collection and Method of Data Analysis.

### **2.2 Research Design**

This research adopts a descriptive survey design. A descriptive survey is a research method that involves collecting data to describe the characteristics of a population or phenomenon. The primary purpose of a descriptive survey is to provide an accurate representation of the current state of affairs or the existing conditions within a particular group or situation.

### **2.3 Sources of Data**

This study shall employ both primary and secondary. The relevance of both primary and secondary sources will be justified on the basis of its validity and reliability as data that were obtained from secondary sources complemented the ones generated from the field.

#### **2.3.1 Primary Sources of Data**

Primary data are first hand data that will be generated through field work by the researcher. The three major instruments that will be used are questionnaire, interview and observation. Through these, both qualitative and quantitative data were captured in this study.

- 1) **Questionnaire:** Close and open ended questions will be designed in the questionnaire and administered to beneficiaries of empowerment programmes organized by Society for Women Development and Empowerment (SWDE) and Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN) in Gwagwalada and Bwari Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. To elicit information on the level of contribution of these NGOs, their roles, the suitability of the various programme strategies to their needs of women and the impact of these intervention programmes on their welfare.

- 2) **Interview:** In this research, structured interview questions will be employed. Selected respondents for interview include community leaders, NGOs' staff, especially Head of Operations/Programmes, consultant, Heads of families, youth leaders, women organization leaders and field workers of the NGOs playing key roles in community development. This method will be useful as an explanatory device that permits follow up questions that the questionnaire may not allowed.
- 3) **Observation:** Observation method will be used to observe projects carried out by the NGOs in the community, and various training centers of the programme. This in essence is simply because, observing these projects and centers is not only to verify or authenticate their existence in reality but to examine proper execution of these projects, attitudinal dispositions of field officers of the programme, beneficiaries and other stakeholders of the programme were equally observed.

### 2.3.2 Secondary Sources of Data

Secondary data are second-hand data already generated and stored in texts, files or even in published form. The secondary sources of data in this study will include information from materials retrieved and reviewed. Examples of these materials are: World Bank Report, CBN Report, National Bureau of Statistic, Census Reports (especially from National Population Commission), IMF Report, United Nations Reports, Official publication of NGOs and so on. Secondary data will also provide viable information for this research because the documents will be used to circumvent the possibility of inadequacy of information from questionnaire and interview (primary sources).

### 2.4 Area of Study

The Area of study for this research is the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. FCT officially became the capital of Nigeria on December 12, 1991, replacing Lagos as the nation's capital. It is located around the middle belt region and it shares borders with states like Niger, Kaduna, Nassarawa, and Kogi. The FCT lies within latitude 8°25 and 9°20 North of the Equator and longitude 6°45 and 7°39 East of the Greenwich meridian. These coordinates position Abuja in the center of Nigeria. The FCT has a landmass of 7,315km<sup>2</sup> (Osiobe, et al, 2019). The FCT has six (6) local governments also known as "Area Council" (City Population, 2017). The most recent report by the National Bureau of Statistics (2022) corroborates United Nations World Urbanization Prospects Reports (2018) which pegs the population of FCT at 3,564,126.

Some of the most significant landscapes in the FCT are: Aso Rock, a 400-meter monolith left by a series of water erosions, and Zuma rock, situated west of Abuja with an elevation of 1125m. The Zuma rock is very famous for having natural contours which project the face of a human with visible eyes, nose, and mouth. Owing to its location, the FCT is classified under the moderate climatic zone as it is situated in the savannah region. As a result, the FCT experiences three seasons every year; a warm, humid rainy season; a blistering dry season; and a brief harmattan in between which is a result of the northeast trade wind. Minerals found in abundance in this region are marble, tin, mica, clay, wolframite, tantalite, and talc. Six administrative units divide the FCT.

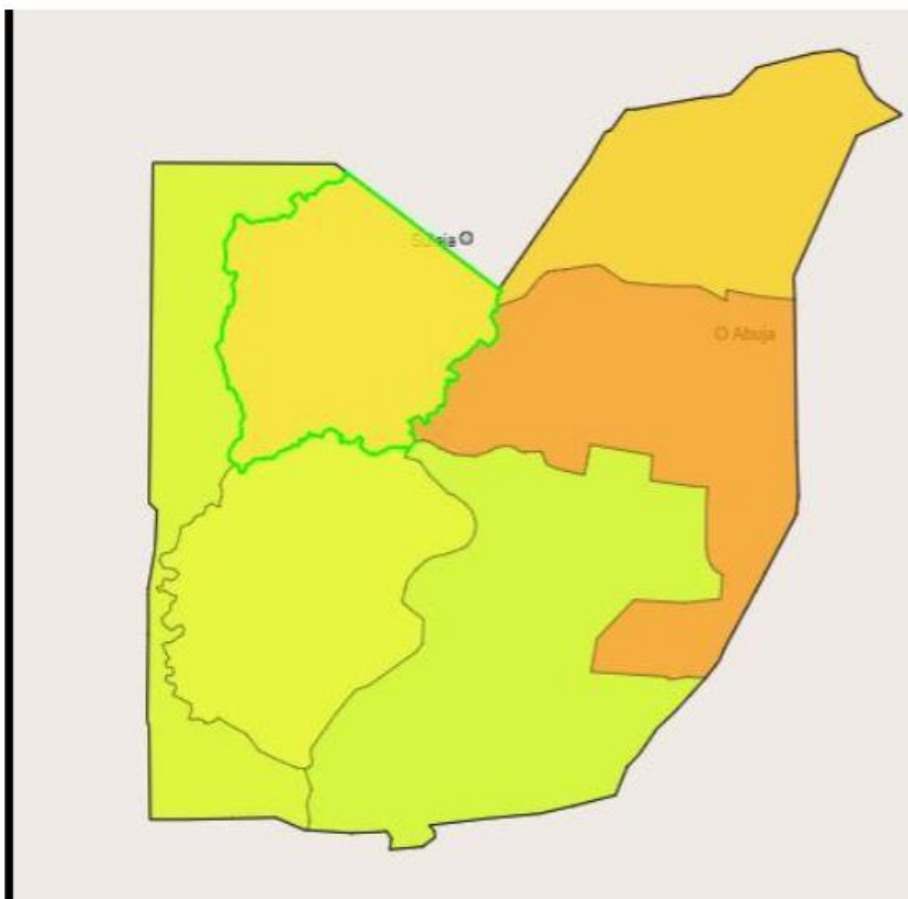


Figure 1: Map of the FCT, Nigeria

There are about 364 NGOs in the FCT area alone that are recognized by the Nigerian Network of NGOs carrying out various forms of programs and projects in Abuja. Even though these NGOs differ in their focus, they are united by the same purpose, which is to improve the socio-economic condition of people in FCT. Some of the various facets of community development that are of interest for these NGOs include but are not limited to anti-corruption, war against human trafficking, children's rights advocacy, girls' education advocacy, economic empowerment, rural infrastructure development, community health, education for all, women empowerment, and capacity building. However, the area of women empowerment this research shall dwell on is skill acquisition vocational education for women and girls in the area of study. Thus, this research shall attempt an assessment of the contributions of NGOs of NGOs in empowering women through skill acquisition and vocational education in the area of study.

## 2.5 Population of the Study

The general population for this study is drawn from the population of women in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, which stands at: 1,746,422, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (2022). For the purpose of this research, only two NGOs - Society for Women Development and Empowerment (SWDE) and Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN) have been selected. The selection of these two NGOs is justified because of its wide range of activities in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. According to the records from these NGOs, a combined total of about 609 women and girls have benefitted from their empowerment programmes.

## 2.6 Sampling Procedure and Sample Size

In determining the sample size from the above population, the research employed the Krejcie and Morgan Table for Sample Size Determination of a Given Population (1970). This calculation with respect to confidence level 95% and a margin of error of 5%. The below formula was used by Krejcie and Morgan (1970) to determine sample size:

$$S = X^2 NP (1-P) / d^2 (N-1) + X^2 P (1-P)$$

S: needs sample size,

X<sup>2</sup>: refers to the chi-square table value for one-degree freedom at the desired level of confidence,

N: represent the population size,

P: refers to the proportion of the population (assumed to be 0.50 since this would provide the maximum sample size), and

D: refers to the accuracy degree expressed as a proportion (0.05).

Table 1: Table Showing Sample Size Distribution

Area Councils	NGOs	No. Beneficiaries	Sample Size
Gwagwalada	Society for Women Development and Empowerment (SWDE)	155	
	Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN)	160	
Bwari	Society for Women Development and Empowerment (SWDE)	192	
	Women Foundation of Nigeria (WFN)	102	
Total		609	250

**Source:** Researcher Survey (2023)

Therefore, using the Krejcie and Morgan Sampling Model (1970), a total of 250 sample size was selected.

In addition, Purposive Random Sampling was employed to choose respondents. The choice of this technique is to deliberately choose only NGO beneficiaries, and to avoid the inclusion of people who are ignorant of the subject matter of the research. In the interview session, purposive random sampling was also employed to select community leaders, field workers, volunteers and other stakeholders who are deemed knowledgeable about the activities of NGOs in the area of study.

## **2.7 Instrumentation**

The instrument for this study is a self-structured questionnaire developed by the researcher and titled: “Contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations in Women Empowerment in FCT – Abuja.” The questionnaire consists of two (2) sections. Section A is on the demographic data of respondents. For instance: gender, age range, occupation and so on. While Section B is on the research questions where the respondents will indicate their opinions on the questions asked as they appeal to them, using Likert Scale of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Strongly Disagree (SD) or Disagree (D).

Interview instrument shall also be employed to obtain first-hand information from community leaders, NGO staff, youth leaders, women organization leaders and others who play key roles in community development.

## **2.8 Validity and Reliability of Instrument**

i. **Validity of Instrument:** Validity refers to the extent at which the instrument measures what it is intended to measure. It assesses the accuracy and appropriateness of the instrument in capturing the construct or concept of interest. Face Validity was used to assess the appropriateness of the instrument, while content validity assessed whether the instrument covers all the relevant aspects of the construct and whether the items are clear, relevant, and comprehensive. In doing this, a draft copy of the questionnaire was submitted to the Project Supervisors for validation. Hence, the questionnaire gave a measure of what it was structured to determine.

ii. **Reliability of Instrument:** The reliability of an instrument refers to its consistency, stability, and repeatability in measuring a particular construct or variable. It assesses the extent to which the instrument produces consistent results under similar conditions. Thus, a reliable instrument should yield similar results when administered to the same individuals or in the same conditions. In testing the consistency of the questionnaire, a pilot test was conducted in Gwagwalada Area Council. Test-Retest Reliability method was used to administer the instrument to 24 respondents (constituting 10% of the sample size) at two different times. The scores from the two administrations were then correlated to see the degree of correlation between the scores. The correlation co-efficient was used to obtain a reliability coefficient of 0.87, which indicates that the instrument is stable over time and has good test-retest reliability.

## **2.9 Data Collection Procedure**

The questionnaires were administered directly by the researchers with the help of volunteers from the communities in Gwagwalada and Bwari Area Councils. Administration of the questionnaire was done physically in the communities. With the help of these volunteers, the researcher was able to meet with the beneficiaries at their houses while others were administered in gatherings like local churches, village square etc. The community volunteers also helped in translating and sometimes in filling the questionnaire.

## **2.10 Method of Data Analysis**

Frequency Tables and Simple Percentage were used to analyze the demographic data of respondents, while Average Mean Score was employed to analyze respondents’ views on the research questions. The research used 3.0 as the cut-off mean score to take decision on whether to accept or reject the research question. A mean score of 3.0 and above indicate positive response to the research question while a mean score of 2.9 and below indicates negative answer to the research question. In addition, in testing the four hypotheses, Chi – Square test of independence was utilized.



### 3.0 Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Analysis of Respondents' Personal Data

Here, simple percentage technique was used to analyze the personal data of respondents and the result is as follows:

**Table 2: Table Showing Age Distribution of Respondents**

Age Bracket	Frequency	Percentage
10 – 20 years	36	15%
21 – 30 years	64	26.7%
31 – 40 years	68	28.3%
41 – 50 years	51	21.25%
51 years and above	21	8.75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

The age distribution of respondents as shown in Table 2 above reveals that most respondents are within age bracket 31-40 years, having a total of 68 (28.3%) while respondents within age bracket 21 to 30 years follows with a total of 64 (26.7%). Respondents within age bracket 41 to 50 had a total of 51 (21.25%) while respondents with age range 10 to 21 followed with 36 constituting 15% of the total respondents. Those within age range 51 and above takes the least spot with 21 (8.75%). The data from the table above shows that the respondents are old enough to provide information on the subject matter.

**Table 3: Table Showing Gender of Respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	8.3%
Female	220	91.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

The table above gives information about the gender of respondents. Out of the 240 respondents, 220 (91.7%) are females while 20 (8.3%) are males. This invariably explains that, most of the questionnaires were deliberately administered to women who are directly or indirectly beneficiaries of NGO empowerments in the communities.

**Table 4: Table Showing Educational Qualification of Respondents**

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
No Formal Education	45	18.75%
FSLC	65	27.1%
SSCE	70	29.2%
NCE/OND	42	17.5%
HND/BSC	19	7.9%
Masters & Above	3	1.25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4 above shows that, respondents with SSCE have the highest number with 70 (29.2%) while those with FSLC follows with a total of 65 (27.1%). Also, respondents with no formal education are 45 (constituting 18.75%), while those with NCE/OND follows with 42 (17.5%). HND/BSC follows with 19 (7.9%) while those with Masters and other higher postgraduate degrees have a total of only 3 (1.25%). The table therefore revealed that, more than half of the respondents are not well educated.

**Table 5: Marital Status of Respondents**

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	66	27.5%
Married	101	42.1%
Divorced	40	16.7%
Widowed	33	13.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

From the table above, it is obvious that married respondents have the largest number with a total of 101(42.1%), while singles follow with 66 (27.5%). More so, 10 respondents, having a percentage of 16.7% said they were divorced while 33 (13.7%) said they were widowed. This data goes further to justify the NGO programmes also targeted widows and divorcees.

**Table 6: Table Showing Occupation of Respondents**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Farming	99	41.2%
Trading	65	27.1%
Civil Servant	16	6.7%
Unemployed	35	14.6%
Student	25	10.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100%</b>

As revealed in Table 6, out of 240 respondents sampled, 99 (41.2%) were farmers, while 65 (27.1%) indicated that they are traders. Also, 35 (14.6%) indicated that they are currently unemployed, while 25 (10.4) said they were students.

### 3.2 Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

This section of the analysis is dedicated to the analysis of section B of the questionnaire which asked respondents pertinent questions concerning the research questions. The research used 3.0 as the cut-off mean score to take decision on whether to accept or reject the research question. A mean score of 3.0 and above indicate positive response to the research question while a mean score of 2.99 and below indicates negative answer to the research question.

#### 3.2.1 Research Question (1)

What is the level of contribution by NGOs in empowering women in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?

**Table 7: Level of Contributions of NGOs in Women Empowerment**

S/N	Questions	SA	A	D	SD	X	Decision
1.	NGOs play a significant role in women's empowerment in my community	116	64	16	44	3.05	Agreed
2.	NGOs provide access to financial resources and training on financial management to empower women economically	106	86	30	18	3.16	Agreed
3.	NGOs provide grants for women to boost their business	126	56	42	16	3.21	Agreed
4.	NGOs offer trainings in vocational skills such as tailoring, crafts, bead-making, soap making, poultry, fishery, and ICT, enabling women to start their businesses and generate income	88	96	38	18	3.05	Agreed
5.	NGOs offer legal assistance to women, especially in cases of domestic violence, property rights, and discrimination	90	56	36	58	2.74	Disagreed
6.	NGOs conduct awareness campaigns on topics like family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and nutrition, improving women's health outcomes	102	96	36	6	3.22	Agreed
7.	NGOs provide scholarships and support for girls and women in my community	112	90	18	20	3.22	Agreed
8.	NGOs help to bridge the gender gap in economy and literacy among men and women in our community	90	86	42	22	3.03	Agreed
9.	NGOs advocate for policies that promote gender equality, including laws against gender-based violence and discrimination	144	48	36	12	3.35	Agreed
10.	NGOs provide follow-up services on their beneficiaries to check how they are faring, years after empowering them	110	60	22	26	2.87	Disagreed
<b>Average X =</b>						<b>3.09</b>	

As shown in Table 7 above, the average mean score of 3.09 is above 3.0. In other words, the overall responses are in agreement. Therefore, the respondents agree that the level of NGO contributions in Gwagwalada and Bwari is high. The table also revealed that, NGOs play a significant role in women's empowerment; provide access to financial resources; provide

grants for women to boost their business; offer trainings in vocational skills; provide legal services; conduct awareness campaigns on topics like family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention, and nutrition, improving women's health outcomes; provide scholarships and support for girls; bridge the gender gap; advocate for policies that promote gender equality; and provide follow-up services on their beneficiaries to check how they are faring.

### 3.2.2 Research Question Two (2):

What are the socio-economic characteristics of women who are beneficiaries of NGO programmes in the FCT?

**Table 8: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Beneficiaries of NGO Programmes**

S/N	Questions	SA	A	SD	D	X	Decision
11.	Empowered women have increased income	106	86	30	18	3.16	Agreed
12.	Empowered women have access to economic opportunities made available by NGOs	118	84	24	14	3.28	Agreed
13.	NGOs help women secure formal or informal employment, thereby improving their economic stability	112	90	18	20	3.22	Agreed
14.	Empowered women are equipped with financial management skills, enabling them to save, invest, and plan for the future.	102	96	36	6	3.22	Agreed
15.	Empowered women start successful businesses and create jobs in the community	90	86	42	22	3.03	Agreed
16.	Through NGOs' training programmes platforms, women develop leadership skills	110	74	18	38	3.06	Agreed
17.	Economic empowerment by NGOs enable women to take up roles in the communities	106	86	30	18	3.16	Agreed
18.	Some empowered women engage in political and economic activities, and advocate for policies that benefit their communities	88	96	38	18	3.05	Agreed
19.	Empowered women are often more active in community development and economics initiatives	116	46	50	28	3.04	Agreed
20	Empowered women prioritize their children's education, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty	98	94	26	22	3.00	Agreed
<b>Average</b>						<b>3.18</b>	
<b>X =</b>							

Table 8 above shows that the average mean score of 3.18 is above 3.0, and thus, can be referred to as a positive response. The implication of this is that, the overall responses of this section are in agreement with research question. Therefore, it can be concluded that, the

socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries of NGO programmes in the area councils under study has improved as a result of these empowerment programmes. Invariably, the table shows that: empowered women have increased income; they have access to economic opportunities; they even secure formal or informal employment after the empowerment; they are equipped with financial management skills; they start successful businesses and create jobs in the community; they develop leadership skills; the women take up leadership roles in the communities; they engage in political and economic activities; and are often more active in community development and economics initiatives.

**Research Question Three (3):**

What are the contributions of empowered women in the development of their communities in the FCT?

**Table 9: Contributions of Beneficiaries to the Communities**

S/N	Items	SA 4	A 3	SD 2	D 1	X	Decision
21.	Beneficiaries initiate community development projects	98	58	56	28	2.94	Disagreed
22.	Beneficiaries become successful entrepreneurs, thereby providing goods and services within the community	122	62	38	18	3.2	Agreed
23.	Increased income for beneficiaries means more money circulating in the local economy	88	96	38	18	3.05	Agreed
24.	Beneficiaries who start businesses or receive vocational training create jobs for others in the community	106	43	15	9	3.16	Agreed
25.	Beneficiaries train others on the skills they have learned	116	46	50	28	3.04	Agreed
26.	Beneficiaries become mentors for others seeking to improve their lives through education or entrepreneurship	98	94	26	22	3.00	Agreed
27.	Communities with so many empowered women experience increased productivity	110	74	18	38	3.06	Agreed
28.	Beneficiaries of empowerment programmes become good ambassadors of their communities	106	86	30	18	3.16	Agreed
29.	Beneficiaries of empowerment programmes stay out of criminal activities	90	86	42	22	3.03	Agreed
30.	Beneficiaries of empowerment programmes become volunteers for developmental programmes in the community	110	70	36	24	3.10	Agreed
<b>Average</b>						<b>3.12</b>	
<b>X =</b>							

As shown in Table 9 above, the average mean score of 3.12 is above 3.0 cut-off score. In other words, the overall responses are in agreement. Therefore, what can be deduced from this data is that, beneficiaries of NGO programmes contribute to the growth and development of their communities. Also, the table revealed that: beneficiaries become successful entrepreneurs; as their income increases, it means money in circulating; beneficiaries create jobs for others; they train others; they become mentors for others; they become good ambassadors of their communities; and as a result, stay out of crime.

**Research Question Four (4):**

What are the challenges encountered by NGOs in their bid to contribute to women empowerment in the study area?

**Table 10: Challenges of Women Empowerment by NGOs**

S/N	Items	SA 4	A 3	SD 2	D 1	X	Decision
31.	NGOs find it difficult to reach out to women in rural and remote areas due to poor infrastructure	116	48	56	20	3.08	Agreed
32.	NGOs face challenges of lack of reliable transportation, and this makes it difficult for women to attend training programs or access services	97	85	32	16	3.01	Agreed
33.	Cultural beliefs and practices can limit women's roles in society	104	48	76	12	3.35	Agreed
34.	NGOs struggle to provide comprehensive training programmes due to resource constraints	90	42	70	38	2.79	Disagreed
35.	Over-dependence on NGOs by communities make sustainability a challenge for NGOs	98	38	60	44	2.79	Disagreed
36.	NGOs often struggle with securing long-term funding for their programmes, and this impacts sustainability	100	48	72	20	2.95	Disagreed
37.	Lack of, or limited data on the impact of programmes makes it challenging to assess effectiveness of NGO programmes on women empowerment	98	47	60	35	2.86	Disagreed
38.	Insecurity in the FCT impacts the safety of women and NGOs	73	26	15	6	3.38	Agreed
39.	Resistance to changes in gender dynamics and women's roles in society	55	37	9	19	3.06	Agreed
40.	Lack of awareness about women's rights and the benefits of empowerment	44	48	19	9	3.05	Agreed
<b>Average</b>						<b>3.032</b>	
<b>X =</b>							

Table 10 above shows that, the average mean score of 3.032 is above 3.0 cut-off score. In other words, the overall responses are in agreement. Therefore, what can be deduced from this data is that, NGOs empowerment programmes in the area of study is bedeviled with several challenges. Some of the highlighted challenges as shown in the table are: difficulty in reaching out to women in rural and remote areas due to poor infrastructure; lack of reliable transportation system, cultural beliefs and practices; lack of resources and facilities for training; community's over-dependence on NGOs; difficulty in securing long-term funding for NGO empowerment programmes; insecurity and safety concerns in the FCT; and lack of awareness about women's rights and the benefits of empowerment.

#### 4.1 Test of Hypotheses

Four hypotheses shall be tested in this section and will be tested using Chi – Square test of independence.

##### 4.1.1: Test of Hypothesis on NGO Contributions and Women Empowerment

The first major hypothesis tested in this study is concerned with investigating whether NGO contribution has a significant relationship with women empowerment; the responses were subjected to a Chi – Square test using the following hypotheses.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the contributions of NGOs and women empowerment in the FCT.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between the contributions of NGOs and women empowerment in the FCT.

To examine whether contributions of NGOs have any relationship with women empowerment; the relevant responses was subjected to a Chi – Square statistical analysis. A cross – tabulation of this variable is presented in Table 11 while the Chi – Square result is presented in Table 12 respectively.

**Table 11: Cross-Tabulation of NGO Contribution and Women Empowerment**

		NGO Contributions				Total
		SA	A	D	SD	
Women Empowerment	SA	66	25	18	7	116
	A	32	16	8	8	64
	D	5	4	6	1	16
	SD	20	7	8	9	44
	Total	123	52	40	25	240

**Table 12: Chi – square result of NGO Contribution and Women Empowerment**

Variables of Interest	N	D.F	$\chi^2_{cal}$	$\chi^2_{critical}$	P – value	Decision
NGO Contribution and Women Empowerment	240	9	21.8	16.9	0.00	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected

**Remark:**  $\chi^2_{cal} = 21.8$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.99$ , since  $\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{0.05, 9}$ , and  $p\text{-value} = 0.00 < 0.05$  the null hypothesis is being rejected

The contingency and the Chi – square test of independence table provided above indicates that there is a significant relationship between NGO contribution and women empowerment because ( $\chi^2_{cal} = 21.8, \chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.9$ ). This decision was taken because the calculate  $\chi^2$  of 21.8 is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 16.9 at 0.05 level of significant with 9 degree of freedom. This result implies that the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant relationship between the contributions of NGOs and women empowerment in the FCT” is being rejected, and the alternative hypothesis which states that “there is a significant relationship between the contributions of NGOs and women empowerment in the FCT” is accepted.

In conclusion, respondents are of the opinion that, there is a significant relationship between contribution of NGOs and women empowerment.

#### 4.1.2: Test of Hypothesis on NGO Contributions and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Beneficiaries

The second hypothesis tested in this study is the assessment of the relationship between NGO contributions and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries in Abuja FCT. The related responses from the respondents were subjected to a Chi – Square test of independence using the following hypotheses.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between the NGO contributions and the socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries in the FCT.

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between the NGO contributions and the socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries in the FCT.

To assess the relationship between contributions of NGOs and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries; the relevant responses was subjected to a cross-tabulation and Chi – Square test of independence statistical methodology. A cross – tabulation is presented in Table 13 while the Chi – Square result is presented in Table 14 respectively.

**Table 13: Cross-Tabulation of NGO Contributions and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Beneficiaries**

		NGO Contribution				Total
		SA	A	D	SD	
Socioeconomic Characteristics	SA	58	26	18	10	112
	A	44	19	14	8	85
	D	17	5	4	1	27
	SD	4	2	4	6	16
	Total	123	52	40	25	240



**Table 14: Chi – square result of NGO Contributions and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Beneficiaries**

Variables of Interest	N	D.F	$\chi^2_{cal}$	$\chi^2_{critical}$	P – value	Decision
NGO contribution and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries	240	9	24.3	16.9	0.00	H <sub>0</sub> is rejected

**Remark:**  $\chi^2_{cal} = 24.3$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.99$ , since  $\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{0.05, 9}$ , and  $p\text{-value} = 0.00 < 0.05$  the null hypothesis is being rejected.

The cross-tabulation and the Chi – square test of independence table presented above reveals that, there is a significant relationship between NGO contributions and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries because ( $\chi^2_{cal} = 24.3$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.9$ ). This decision was taken because the calculate  $\chi^2$  of 24.3 is higher than the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 16.9 at 0.05 level of significant with 9 degree of freedom. This result implies that the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant relationship between the contributions of NGOs and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries in the FCT” is being rejected, in favor of the alternative hypothesis which states that “there is a significant relationship between the contributions of NGOs and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries in the FCT” is accepted.

The result implies that the respondents are of the perception that, there is a significant relationship between contribution of NGOs and socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries.

#### 4.1.3: Test of Hypothesis on Beneficiaries and Community Development

The third hypothesis tested in this study deals with examining the relationship between NGO beneficiaries and community development in FCT. The relevant responses from the respondents were subjected to a Chi – Square test of independence using the following hypotheses.

**H<sub>0</sub>:** There is no significant relationship between beneficiaries and community development in FCT

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There is a significant relationship between beneficiaries and community development in FCT

To examine the relationship between beneficiaries of NGOs and community development, the relevant responses was subjected to a cross-tabulation and Chi – Square test of independence statistical analysis. The cross – tabulation is projected in Table 15 while the Chi – Square result is presented in Table 16 respectively.

**Table 15: Cross-Tabulation of Beneficiaries and Community Development**

		Beneficiaries				
		SA	A	D	SD	Total
Community development	SA	59	32	10	9	110
	A	31	22	16	5	74
	D	7	8	2	1	18
	SD	23	2	7	6	38
	Total	120	64	35	21	240

**Table 16: Chi – square result of Beneficiaries and Community Development**

Variables of Interest	N	D.F	$\chi^2_{cal}$	$\chi^2_{critical}$	P – value	Decision
Beneficiaries and Community Development	240	9	31.5	16.9	0.00	$H_0$ is rejected

**Remark:**  $\chi^2_{cal} = 31.5$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.99$ , since  $\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{0.05, 9}$ , and  $p\text{-value} = 0.00 < 0.05$  the null hypothesis is being rejected

The cross-tabulation and the Chi – square test of independence table provided above shows that, there is a significant relationship between NGO beneficiaries and community development because ( $\chi^2_{cal} = 31.5$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.9$ ). This decision was taken because the calculate  $\chi^2$  of 31.5 is more than the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 16.9 at 0.05 level of significant with 9 degree of freedom. The result implies that the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant relationship between beneficiaries and community development in FCT” is being rejected, in favor of the alternative hypothesis which states that “there is a significant relationship between beneficiaries and community development in FCT” is accepted.

It is therefore concluded that respondents are of the view that, there is a significant relationship between beneficiaries of NGOs and community development in FCT.

#### 4.1.4: Test of Hypothesis on Challenges against NGO Contribution and Women Empowerment

The last hypothesis tested in this study is about testing the relationship between Challenges of NGO and women empowerment in FCT. The relevant responses from the respondents were subjected to a Chi – Square test of independence using the following hypotheses.

**$H_0$ :** There is no significant impediment militating against NGOs’ contributions to women empowerment in FCT.

**$H_1$ :** There is a significant impediment militating against NGOs’ contributions to women empowerment in FCT.

To examine the relationship between impediments militating against NGOs’ contributions to women empowerment in FCT, the relevant responses was subjected to a cross-tabulation and Chi – Square test of independence statistical analysis. The cross – tabulation is projected in Table 17 while the Chi – Square result is presented in Table 18 respectively.

**Table 17: Cross-Tabulation of Challenges and Women Empowerment**

		Challenges				
		SA	A	D	SD	Total
Women empowerment	SA	64	16	28	11	119
	A	33	13	5	2	53
	D	6	17	14	5	42
	SD	13	2	9	2	26
	Total	116	48	56	20	240

**Table 18: Chi – square result of Challenges and Women Empowerment**

Variables of Interest	N	D.F	$\chi^2_{cal}$	$\chi^2_{critical}$	P – value	Decision
Challenges and women empowerment	240	9	27.9	16.9	0.00	$H_0$ is rejected

**Remark:**  $\chi^2_{cal} = 27.9$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.99$ , since  $\chi^2_{cal} > \chi^2_{0.05, 9}$ , and  $p\text{-value} = 0.00 < 0.05$  the null hypothesis is being rejected

The cross-tabulation and the Chi – square test of independence table provided above shows that, there is a significant relationship between NGO challenges and women empowerment development because ( $\chi^2_{cal} = 27.9$ ,  $\chi^2_{0.05, 9} = 16.9$ ). This decision was taken because the computed  $\chi^2$  of 27.9 is greater than the critical  $\chi^2$  value of 16.9 at 0.05 level of significant with 9 degree of freedom. The result implies that the null hypothesis which states that “there is no significant impediment militating against NGOs’ contributions to women empowerment in FCT” is being rejected, in favor of the alternative hypothesis which states that “there is a significant impediment militating against NGOs’ contributions to women empowerment in FCT” is accepted.

It is therefore inferred that, respondents were of the opinion that, there is a significant relationship between impediments militating against NGOs’ contributions and women empowerment in FCT.

#### 4.2 Summary of Findings

The analysis revealed the following findings:

1. That NGOs play a significant role in women empowerment in the area of study as it provides access to financial resources, grants for women to boost their business, offer vocational trainings for skill acquisition, provide legal services, conduct awareness campaigns on entrepreneurship and business startups, provide scholarships supports, help to bridge the economic gap between men and women, and provide follow-up services on their beneficiaries to check how they are faring.
2. That the socioeconomic status of women who are beneficiaries of the NGOs’ empowerment programmes has improved drastically. The result showed that the women have increase in their incomes and earnings as they have access to economic

opportunities, equipped with financial management skills, create jobs in the community, take up leadership roles, engage in political and economic activities, and are now more active in their community's developmental and economics activities.

3. That beneficiaries of NGOs' empowerment programmes contribute to the growth and development of the immediate communities of beneficiaries. The result revealed that, beneficiaries are now entrepreneurs, which invariably means: more jobs and more money in circulating.
4. That NGOs' encounter numerous challenges such as lack of funding, ineffective networking, political interference, poor infrastructure, lack of reliable transportation system, cultural beliefs and practices, shortage of resources and facilities for training, insecurity and safety concerns, poor governance, and ineffective communication and networking.

### 4.3 Discussion of Findings

Table 7 provided answers to Research Question One which asked: "what is the level of contribution by NGOs in empowering women in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?" The result as revealed in the table confirmed that the existence of empowerment activities in Gwagwalada and Bwari Area Council, and also revealed that, the level of NGO contributions in the area councils is high considering the instances of financial aids supports, grants to boost business, vocational trainings, legal services; awareness campaigns, scholarships awards, policies that promote gender equality, and follow-up services on their beneficiaries' businesses and activities.

In addition, Table 7 clearly revealed that, beneficiaries have acknowledged that, NGOs' activities in the study area are enormous to changing welfare status of beneficiaries through series of welfare packages and income generation activities that improves economic capabilities of beneficiaries. If people sufferings are eliminated they tend to be removed from bondage of poverty and insecurity. Their lives will be better up. This result is similar that of Hashim, et al., (2020) that conducted a research on the effect of the federal government special programme on rice yield and farmers' income and reported an increase in mean income of the respondents after the programme and concluded that the programme has impacted positively on the respondents.

More so, in an interview session with Mal. Abdullahi Haruna, the District Head of Dukpa Community in Gwagwalada Area Council, the traditional ruler disclosed that:

Yes, so many NGOs have visited Dukpa, and quite a number of them have contributed immensely to the life of our wives, sisters and daughters. Some of them have gotten monies to start up business, others put the monies they got into farming; and they are doing well. I remember one of them, Hajara. She got some money from one of these NGO, and now she is into rice processing. She is able to farm, and also process rice which she takes to the market in Gwagwalada. So, honestly, the NGos have helped our women in so many ways (Field Survey, 2023).

This further conforms to the submissions of Ekechukwu (2018) who posited that, Non-Governmental Organizations play important roles in the empowerment of women in Nigeria, especially in the rural areas. He added that, government uses the NGOs to reach to the people easily than any other medium. Also, this result is similar in effect to that of Utuk (2014) who believes that, it is eminently clear that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are playing

important roles in pushing for sustainable development in much of developing countries. Muogbo, Onyekewlu and Dike (2019), investigated the level of contribution of NGOs and discovered that: women make good contributions, even more than men, in the development of communities if they are given the chance; the women are not frequently participating in the community development projects as it is believed that their husbands can participate on their behalf. Mugbo, Onyekwelu and Dike (2019) further revealed that, women should be carried along in every community projects that are geared towards the development of that community; the government should help the women to contribute to the development of their communities by assisting them in starting an organization.

In addition, Research Question Two which asked: “what are the socio-economic characteristics of women who are beneficiaries of NGO programmes in the FCT?”, was adequately answered in Table 8 which concluded that the socioeconomic characteristics of beneficiaries of NGO programmes has drastically improved as a result of empowerment programmes. The table ascertained the contributions of NGOs and also highlighted the contributions of empowered women as having increased income; having access to economic opportunities; securing formal or informal employment after the empowerment; equipping themselves with financial management skills; starting successful businesses and creating jobs in the community; developing leadership skills; taking up leadership roles in the communities; engaging in political and economic activities; and becoming more active in community development and economics initiatives. This result in in line with the views of Muogbo, Onyekewlu and Dike (2019), who believe that, economically empowered women in most societies, whether developed or developing, are regarded as currency with which political and economic alliances are cemented. According to them, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), especially those that support women and girls in Nigeria, have established themselves as leaders in the community development process and acquire the skills that have brought positive changes to their communities. As effective builders of social capital, women leaders play key roles in establishing and maintaining important relationships and networks in their communities. For this reasons, women can contribute immensely in the nation’s development.

Table 9 provided answers to Research Question Three which asked: “what are the contributions of empowered women in the development of their communities.” The findings as shown in the Table shows a number of roles beneficiaries play in development of their communities. The table revealed that, beneficiaries become successful entrepreneurs, their income increases, so also is the welfare of the family, especially their children. Another contribution from beneficiaries is the creation jobs, directly and indirectly, and do on. This finding is similar to that of Hashim et al (2020) who posited that, beneficiaries of NGO empowerment programmes are engaged in training and re-training of community members to appreciate the value of self-help efforts. Increased enrolment of children in schools through mobilization and enlightenment took the lead. Where people are educated their capacities would be developed and could facilitate sense of belonging and ownership of community.

Table 10 provided answers to Research Question Four (What are the challenges encountered by NGOs in their bid to contribute to women empowerment in the study area?). Views and opinions of respondents in Table 10 revealed that, NGOs’ empowerment activities are challenged by so many difficulties such as: difficulty in reaching out to women in rural and remote areas due to poor infrastructure; lack of reliable transportation system, cultural beliefs and practices; lack of resources and facilities for training; community’s over-dependence on NGOs; difficulty in securing long-term funding for NGO empowerment programmes; insecurity and safety concerns in the FCT; and lack of awareness about women's rights and

the benefits of empowerment. This finding is consistent with the submission of Hashim et al (2020) who revealed that, NGOs face management challenges on both the internal and external fronts when it comes to carrying out their trusts. They further added that NGOs face obstacles such as political interference, a lack of funding, ineffective networking, and poor governance. They opined that, one significant challenge that NGOs face is ineffective communication and networking. It also is associated with the duplication of efforts, contradictory policies at the community level, a lack of experience-based learning, and the inability of NGOs to address the structural causes of underdevelopment at the local level.

Additionally, the finding is similar to that of Yu (2019) who asserted that, a major problem encountered by NGOs is poor governance. According to him, the understanding of good governance varied widely, with some regions showing very little understanding of why NGOs are required to have boards or what their roles, responsibilities, and functions should be. Many NGOs mismanage their resources, frequently with the involvement and encouragement of their boards. As a result, many NGOs operate inefficiently. This issue has been well documented in the majority of developing countries, where individuals have increased their involvement in forming NGOs as a means of self-sufficiency (Yu, 2019).

Tahiru, Sackey, Owusu and Bawakyillenuo (2019) further highlighted that, many NGOs operate in unbalanced, dangerous, and conflict-prone communities or collaborate with predatory individuals such as those who cause political interference or who may misuse the funding or grants allocated for the NGOs for their advantages. In some constituencies, NGO activists acknowledged that local politicians' and civic leaders' interference was a significant impediment to their work. NGOs are frequently unaware that the constitution and laws exist to safeguard them against such intimidation.

Respondents in the interview sessions also expressed their views on the challenges encountered by NGOs in their bid to empower women in Gwagwalada and Bwari Area Council of FCT – Abuja. Mr. Yakubu Sabo, a community leader, who also served as volunteer for WFN in a rural community in Bwari have this to say:

“The NGO officials are always afraid to enter our communities. The fear of being kidnapped by these bandits and kidnappers makes them not to want to come to our communities. Instead of bringing these empowerment projects to the interior villages, they prefer to do it in the towns where their lives are safer” (Field Survey, 2023).

Mr. Yakubu Sabo further disclosed that:

“Another major problem the NGOs face when they come to our communities is that, they cannot meet up with the multitude of people who need empowerment. Most times at the village square where the empowerment is administered, you will find it difficult to see because of the people who are there. The little item or money or trainings they want to do cannot go round because so many people are interested and can't access anything from the empowerment. Also,

On the timing of the empowerment programmes, the Village Head of Dukpa community, Mal. Abdullahi Haruna, posited that:

Sometimes, the timing of the empowerment programme is wrong. The NGO people normally come during the raining and farming season. Most of us don't stay at home during this time; we are all in the farm, since it is our primary occupation. So, only few women and children who did not go to farms are attended to. For me I cannot leave my farm for any reason. So they should do something about it. If they want to come and empower us, they should give us enough time to prepare, so that we can skip going to farm on the day they will come. If they do this, so many persons can benefit (Field Survey, 2023).

The above submission is similar to the views of Ali and Gull (2019) who asserted that one difficulty faced by NGOs is difficulty in obtaining sufficient, appropriate, and sustainable funding for their work. The lack of funds and funding support is a significant impediment to achieving the desired goals. Funds are critical for NGOs to implement their projects, programs, and activities that benefit their communities' development. They added that, they have a difficult time convincing donors to abstain from dealing with their funding situation. They believe there is an alliance of certain individuals and non-governmental organizations that controls access to donor funds. They can mobilize insufficient resources and frequently do not seek funding locally, preferring to attend for international donors to approach them. There is a strong reliance on donors and a tendency to tailor interventions to donor preferences.

### **5.1 Conclusion**

The analysis of this research has shown that, Non-Governmental Organizations are indeed the third sector (NGOs) in any nation's economy. It plays an important role in promoting and implementing different development activities. NGOs are very prominent and effective in implementing Sustainable Rural Development programmes. The analysis also reveals that NGOs are very prominent in effective implementation of government programmes towards sustainability rural development through the NGOs activities in vocational education, capacity building, skill acquisition, health, agriculture, community development, energy, environment, and waste, moral upbringing, youth empowerment and poverty alleviation.

Also, from the analysis of this research, it can easily deuce that, despite the integral role or contributions of NGOs in women empowerment and in the development of the society, they face management challenges on both the internal and external fronts when it comes to carrying out their trusts. The research uncovered numerous obstacles such as security concerns, customs and religious beliefs, political interference, a lack of funding, ineffective networking, and poor governance.

### **5.2 Recommendations**

In view of the aforementioned, the following recommendations and implementation strategies aimed at enhancing the role and challenges faced by NGOs in women empowerment, several recommendations are made to ensure that NGOs become more effective at providing community development services while also contributing to economic growth and stability in the area.

1. Governments, other organizations, and individuals should strengthen their support for NGOs, including by providing a supportive work environment, financial resources, equipment, and technical reporting.

2. Governments should foster an enabling environment for community development initiatives by providing funding to NGOs to carry out community-based programmes.
3. NGOs should create a dedicated database to assist the government and all other interested parties. The construction of a database that includes both social and environmental variables from existing high-quality datasets may be necessary to evaluate the relationship between social and environmental issues over time. This database can be used by all interested parties to develop programs that address the need for individuals to improve their standard of living.

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**SPONSORED BY THE TERTIARY EDUCATION TRUST FUND (TETFUND)  
UNDER THE INSTITUTION BASED RESEARCH GRANT INTERVENTION 2024**



### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Special thanks to the scheme for all the research training opportunities and funding.