

Exploration of Material Resources and Sustainable Entrepreneurship among Women of the Yoruba Speaking Community of Nigeria

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Abstract: The work examined the resource endowments of Southwestern Nigeria, women levels of empowerment and participation in the exploration, exploitation, development and management of the resources, and indicates directions for women empowerment and participation in the sector. Primary and secondary data and information were used. Relevant State Ministries in Akure, Osogbo, Ado Ekiti, Ibadan, Abeokuta and Ikeja provided data and information on what resources are where for extraction, management and development. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data and information from 1,100 subjects on women and their employment status, empowerment, resource extraction, challenges, and suggestions for sustainable empowerment of women in Southwestern Nigeria. Data and information obtained were analyzed using tables of percentiles, a box, charts and the Likert Scale. The study was able to establish that there are quite some resource endowments in the study area, namely Kaolin, Limestone, Gold, Syenite, Gemstone, Coal, Granite, Felspar, Columbite, Toumaline, Marble, Talc, Tantalite, Glass-sand, Clay, Bitumen, Phosphate, and others that could be extracted to meet the needs of the people and, particularly the women. A good proportion of the populace still see women as domestic tools that need not be heard. But the study advocates directions for women empowerment and purposeful and profitable exploration, extraction, development and management of the resources to the advantage of the women and the community in general. The paper canvassed for education, enlightenment and empowerment of women in the sub-region of Nigeria.

Keywords: Resource endowment, women empowerment, Yoruba speaking communities, sustainable development

1. Introduction

Omoruyi, & Oronsaye (2015) in their *Women Empowerment: A Catalyst for Peace Development and Justice in Nigeria* like Mbara, Anurugwo & Alatare (2015) assert that it is universally acknowledged that women are important in the economy of any nation, and they stress that "for any nation to develop and maintain sustainability, the empowerment of its women ought to be a national priority which must be pursued with rigour" (Mbara, Anurugwo & Alatare, 2015). Like Egunyomi, Fadeyi, Folaranmi & Adelore (2001), they all arguably agree that the empowerment of women has become a significant topic of discussion with regard to development and economics. They observe that "the issues of women and empowerment came into the forefront during the United Nations decade for women (1976-1985)" as the theme of some conferences, seminars and workshops, like the Beijing Conference, has been "the need to raise the awareness and status of women and bring them into the development process" (Ike, 2005) as quoted by Mbara, Anurugwo & Alatare (2015).

The position of women in the global society has been of concern to individuals, organizations and governments. Predominantly, the last two to three decades have been bothered about the status of women: Consistently and persistently, there have been government policies and programmes towards empowerment of women (Mbara, Anurugwo & Alatare, 2015; Ike, 2005; Omoruyi & Oronsaye, 2015). Similarly, from different perspectives, there have been researches and

development focusing on women empowerment (Ike, 2005; Ojobo, 2008; World Bank Group, 2011; Omoruyi & Oronsaya, 2015). This phenomenon has not only been recognised and accepted in policy formulation, interest has continued to gather momentum all over the world (Omoruyi & Oronsaye, 2015). The authors observe that "this has gained expression in the broad revision of various international organizations to advance opportunities in diverse sectors of the global economy for the empowerment and or development of women." Also, according to them, the mounting interest in women empowerment is traceable to the recognition of the fact that women are the cornerstone for peace and sustainable development in any society. Women, as mothers, home builders and managers "constitute the building block upon which happy homes revolve."

Still, like in most communities around the world, in Nigeria, following the Beijing Conference, the government came up with a National Policy in 1998. It articulates the predicament of women and means of addressing the challenges; and emphasizes that women empowerment can best be achieved and sustained through skill acquisition, functional literacy and numeracy and enlightenment campaigns.

2. The Research Problem

The southwestern Nigeria is endowed with quite a number of solid mineral resources, namely, Kaolin, Limestone, Gold, Syenite, Gemstone, Coal, Granite, Felspar, Columbite, Toumaline, Marble, Talc, Tantalite, Glass-sand, Clay, Bitumen, Phosphate, and others. While some are in commercial quantities, and are exploited, developed and managed,

others remain as hidden treasure (stock) to the people, communities, governments and the nation at large. However, for those that are known, the mining and quarrying are massively carried out predominantly by men and the women appear not to be prominent in the industry: They seem to be uneducated nor empowered. This is probably not peculiar to this sector but common to all other sectors of human endeavour in the Yorubaland, the southwestern Nigeria, where, often, women are at the background; they are neither to be seen nor heard (Ike, 2005; Omoruyi & Oransaye, 2015).

3. Aim and Objectives of the Study

The work has examined the resource endowments of southwestern Nigeria, women's level of empowerment for participation in the exploration, exploitation, development and management of the resources; and suggests directions for women empowerment for participation in resource exploration, extraction, development and management in the Yoruba communities of southwestern Nigeria. Exclusively, the following were pursued:

- Identification of the tangible material resource endowments of the communities;
- Unraveling the level of participation of women in resource exploration, exploitation, development and management in the communities;
- Identify contributory factors to low level of participation of women in the sector?
- Indication of areas that women can participate in resource exploration, exploitation, and management; and

- Making suggestions for sustainable women involvement in the solid mineral exploration, exploitation, development, management and empowerment in southwestern Nigeria.

4. Research Questions

Thus, the following four research questions were proposed to, and answered by the research sample collected in the area to address the objectives of the study:

1. What are the solid material resource endowments that could be exploited, developed and managed for sustainable development in southwestern Nigeria?
2. What are the levels of participation of women in resource exploration, exploitation, development and management in the communities?
3. What are the contributory factors to low level of participation of women in the sector?
4. What are the service areas women could be empowered in the sector?

The work was limited to selected solid mineral resource endowments of the southwestern Nigeria and the women of the communities regardless of their states of origin and whatever the background. The words "resource" and "materials" are sometimes used interchangeably to refer to solid mineral resources that are exploited to meet human needs. Kaolin, Gravel, granite, coal, gold, limestone sand, stone, lateritic soils, Talc, etc are in this grouping. Also, the work did not go into the details of exploration, exploitation, production and management of the resources.

5. Conceptual Underpinning

For the purpose of this work and for better understanding of the relevance of some of the terms used in this work, "Resources," "empowerment" and "women empowerment" "sustainable entrepreneurship" have been explained thus:

5.1 Resources

A resource is an entity, tangible and intangible, exhaustible or inexhaustible - solid, liquid or gas - that a country, community, an organization or a person has and can use, especially to increase their wealth. Resource management is allocation and conservation of resources, natural and or man-made. Emphases are usually on: (1) an understanding of the processes involved in the exploitation of the resources; (2) the analysis of the allocation of the resources; and (3) the development and evaluation of management strategies in the resource allocation and utilization. But, sustainable development and environmental protection are the major goals. "Resources" connotes a source of supply, support, or aid, especially one that can be readily drawn upon when needed. It is the collective wealth of a community or nation, or the means of producing wealth by that community or the nation. To such country or community, resource is a useful or valuable possession or quality of it. In other words, it is from resources that benefits are realized.

In this study, resources refer to material resources, tangible and exhaustible, drawn upon by the community to meet their wealth needs. As earlier mentioned, the words resources, material resources and mineral resources are used interchangeably to mean solid mineral resources in the study area that are drawn upon and or could be drawn upon to meet the wealth

needs of the individual and the entire community.

5.2 Empowerment and women empowerment

To empower is to give an individual the authority to do something. In other words, it is giving somebody control to exercise over an entity and or self. It entails gaining or transferring of power and control over activities earmarked for an individual. Ojobo (2008) defines empowerment as the process of strengthening the existing capacities and capabilities of disadvantaged groups or individual in a society as to enable them to perform towards improving themselves, their families and society as a whole. He goes further to say that "it involves the provision of [an] enabling environment for their productive and intellectual abilities to be realized."

The World Bank Group (2011) defines Women Empowerment as "the process of enhancing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes. In other words, empowerment is an act of equipping an individual or group with the knowledge and skills needed to deal with challenges of life and for self-improvement.

Consequently, women empowerment can be seen as a synthesis of the two words "women" and "empowerment." Thus, the phrase "Women Empowerment," is the process of improving the potential of women for effective participation in all aspects of development of their community in particular and the nation at large. As Okukpon (2015) asserts, women empowerment enables individual women to acquire useful knowledge, attitudes and skills, and gives them opportunities to gain access to a wide range of learning activities. This is

similar to the definition in Wikipedia Encyclopedia (2010) that women empowerment is "an act of self-decision, regarding education, participation, mobility, economic independency, public speaking, awareness and exercise of rights, political participation and others." Mbara, Anurugwo & Alatare (2015) therefore conclude that an empowered woman is one that has "power over economic, social, psychological, health and cultural situations."

5.3 Sustainable entrepreneurship

Often, women who innovate, initiate or adopt business activities are called women entrepreneurs; and entrepreneurship is based on women participation in equity and employment of business enterprise. Sustainable entrepreneurship is the use of business organizing to solve problems related to social and environmental sustainability. It is a business with a "cause," where world problems are turned into business opportunities by deployment of sustainability innovations. Sustainable entrepreneurship is a modern business concept that is among one of the most renowned strategic management of our time. Christina Weidinger, Franz Fischler and Ren Schmidpeter (2013) are absolutely convinced of these in their book *Sustainable Entrepreneurship: Business Success through Sustainability*. They aver that "without a shift towards sustainable entrepreneurship, we will neither be able to maintain our affluence nor

preserve our natural environment." Therefore, this work was made to establish the levels of participation of women in Yoruba land in the exploration, exploitation, development and management of resources in their land.

6. Methodology

6.1 Sources of data and collection

Primary and secondary data and information were used. Relevant State Ministries and Departments in Akure (Ondo State), Osogbo (Oshun State), Ado Ekiti (Ekiti State), Ibadan (Oyo State), Abeokuta (Ogun State) and Ikeja (Lagos State) provided data and information on the resources of their states, that is, what resources are where for extraction. A self-structured questionnaire was used to collect data and information from 1,100 subjects on women and their employment status, resource extraction, challenges, and suggestions for sustainable empowerment of women in southwestern Nigeria. Table 1 shows the distribution of the respondents by states, cities and towns. The largest number of respondents were drawn from Ibadan (5.91%), Sango/Ota (4.55%), and Abeokuta (3.75). The least were drawn from Ode, Ore and Igboho, 1.82% each. In all, samples were drawn from 37 major communities, out of over 350 of such communities. Data and information obtained were analyzed using tables of percentiles, a box, the Likert Scales and charts.

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Community Sampled by State</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Lagos	8	Ikeja	35	3.18
		Agege	35	3.18
		Epe	30	2.73
		Mushin	35	3.18
		Badagry	35	3.18
		Apapa Amukoko	35	3.18
		Isale Eko	25	2.27
		Ajah	25	2.27
Ogun	7	Abeokuta	55	3.75
		Aiyetoro	25	2.27
		Ago-Iwoye	25	2.27
		Sango/Ota	50	4.55
		Ijebu-Mushin	25	2.27
		Shagamu	35	3.18
		Owode	25	2.27
Oyo	7	Igbo-Ora	25	2.27
		Ibadan	65	5.91
		Oyo	25	2.27
		Ogbomosho	55	5.00
		Iseyin	25	2.27
		Igboho	20	1.82
		Igagan	25	2.27
Osun	5	Osogbo	25	2.27
		Ede	25	2.27
		Ikirun	25	2.27
		Ipetumode	25	2.27
8		Ile-Ife	25	2.27
Ondo	5	Ondo	25	2.27
		Akure	25	2.27
		Owo	25	2.27
		Okitipupa	25	2.27
		Ore	20	1.82
Ekiti	5	Ifaki	25	2.27
		Ijero	25	2.27
		Aramoko	25	2.27
		Ado Ekiti	25	2.27
		Ode	20	1.82
Total	37	N/A	1100	100.00

6.2 Data Analysis and Presentation

As shown in Table 2, the characteristics of the sampled subjects about whom data and information were collected and who provided data and information on resource, exploration, exploitation, development and management and

women empowerment and participation are distinctive. Also as deliberately designed, there were more female respondents (57.09%) than the males (42.91%) that completed the questionnaire. Other bio-data measured are age, educational background,

occupation and income status. Questions were also asked on how long the respondents have been in the community; and a general question ask for their overall opinion of the mineral resource endowments of their communities, and empowerment and levels of participation of women in the exploration, exploitation, development and management of the resource. Table 2 accentuates. 46 to 55 years age group is the largest (21.91%); and the least were over 75 years age group (1.09%). "No Education" was 9.27%; and "Others," apart from holders of Primary

School Leaving Certificate, School Certificate/NBTE, OND/NHD, B. Sc./B.A./B. Ed./ B.S., M. Ed/M. A./M. Sc./M. S./PhD was 3.18%. The respondents included Students/Apprentices (0.91%), Traders (10.55%), Transporters (9.27%), Clergymen (1.09%), Farmers (12.18%), Miners/Quarrying Operators (6.90%), Civil Servants (9.55%), Teachers/Lecturers (9.64%), Artisans (12.36%), Contractors (4.73%), House Wives (10.46%), Unemployed (10.27%) and Others (Specified) (2.09%).

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of the respondents

Attributes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	472	42.91
Female	628	57.09
<i>Age</i>		
< 25 Years	85	7.73
25 – 35 Years	123	11.18
35 – 45 Years	234	21.27
46 – 55 Years	291	26.46
56 – 65 Years	241	21.91
66 – 75 Years	114	10.36
> 75 Years	12	1.09
<i>Educational Background</i>		
No Education	102	9.27
Primary School Leaving Certificate	191	17.36
School Certificate/NBTE	236	21.46
OND/NCE	177	16.09
B. Sc./B.A./B. Ed./B.S.	242	22.00
M. Ed./M. A. /M. Sc./M. S./PhD	117	10.64
Others (Specified)	35	3.18
<i>Occupation</i>		
Student/Apprentice	10	0.91
Trader	116	10.55
Transporter	102	9.27
Clergymen	12	1.09
Farmer	134	12.18
Miner/Quarrying Operator	76	6.90
Civil Servant (Paid Employee)	105	9.55
Teacher/Lecturer	106	9.64
Artisan	136	12.36
Contractor	52	4.73
Housewife	115	10.46

Unemployed	113	10.27
Others (Specified)	23	2.09
<i>Income Status (Per Month)</i>		
< 50,000	38	3.45
50,000 – 100,00	84	7.64
101,000 – 150,000	123	11.18
151,000 – 250,000	118	10.73
251,000 – 300,000	148	13.45
301,000 – 350,000	201	18.27
351,000 – 400,000	146	13.27
401,000 – 450,000	129	11.72
451,000 – 500,000	82	7.46
> 500,000	31	2.83
<i>For how long have you lived in the community?</i>		
< 10 Years	77	7.00
10 - 20 Years	216	19.64
21 - 30 Years	221	20.09
31 - 40 Years	240	21.82
41 - 50 Years	158	14.36
51 - 60 Years	106	9.64
> 60 Years	82	7.45

The income status was categorized into ten groups. The least were less than ₦50,000:00 per month (3.45%) and over ₦500,000:00 per month (2.83%). But the highest number of respondents fell within ₦301,000:00 and ₦350,000:00 group (18.27%). All the respondents responded to the question For how long have you lived in the community? 7.45% had lived there for over 60 years and only 7.00% had lived there for less than 10 years.

Undoubtedly therefore, adequate and robust representation of the population have been selected and considered for the work. The data and information collected and analyzed for the inferences drawn also represent a good replica of the population studied.

7. Research Findings and Discussion

7.1 Research question 1

What are the solid material resource endowments that could be exploited, developed and managed in southwestern Nigeria? Major resource endowments in

southwestern Nigeria are as tabulated by state and level of development in Table 3. Irrespective of the size of the states' land mass, Oyo had the largest number of mineral resource endowments, 12, followed by Ondo, 10, and Ogun, 8. Lagos State had the least number, 3. Both Ekiti and Osun States had 5 each. Incidentally, Lagos had the least land mass, 3,345km²; and Oyo State had the largest, 28,454km². Major resource endowments are Kaolin, Clay, Feldspar and Granite that are common to almost all the states except Lagos State that does not have Kaolin. Others are Tatum, Syenite, Glass-sand, Phosphate, Bitumen, Limestone, Gemstone, Coal, Gypsum, Gold, Colimbite, Talc, Toumaline, Sillimnote, Talc, Gold, Aqua Marine, Dolomite, Tantalite and Cassiterite. Except Granite, Clay, and Glass-sand, other resources are not developed or, at best, partially developed. In other words, women have ample opportunities to

expand their coast of resource development and management.
 exploration, exploitation/extraction,

Table 3: Major Solid Resource Endowments and their status of Development in Southwestern Nigeria

<i>Location/State</i>	<i>Approx. Land Mass (Km²)</i>	<i>Resources</i>	<i>No. of Major Resources</i>	<i>Status of Development</i>
Ekiti	6.353	Kaolin Feldspar Tatinum Granite Syenite	5	Partially Developed Partially Developed Not Developed Developed Not Developed
Lagos	3.345	Glass-sand Clay Bitumen	3	Partially Developed Developed Not Developed
Ogun	16.762	Phosphate Clay Granite Feldspar Kaolin Limestone Gemstone Bitumen	8	Not Developed Developed Developed Partially Developed Partially Developed Partially Developed Not Developed Not Developed
Ondo	15.500	Coal Limestone Bitumen Kaolin Gemstone Gypsum Feldspar Granite Clay Glass-sand	10	Not Developed Partially Developed Not Developed Partially Developed Not Developed Not Developed Not Developed Developed Developed Partially Developed
Osun	9.251	Gold Granite Colimbite Talc Toumaline	5	Partially Developed Developed Not Developed Not Developed Not Developed
Oyo 9	28.454	Kaolin Marble Clay Granite Sillimnote Talc Gold Aqua Marine Dolomite Tantalite Cassiterite Gemstone	12	Partially Developed Partially Developed Developed Developed Not Developed Not Developed Partially Developed Not Developed Not Developed Not Developed Not Developed Not Developed Not Developed

Total	79.665	N/A	Effectively 23	N/A
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Source: Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals (2016). *Major Solid Resource Endowments and status of development in Southwestern Nigeria*, Abuja: Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals.

7.2 Research question 2

What are the levels of participation of women in resource exploration, exploitation, development and management in the community? The level of participation in exploration, exploitation/extraction, development and management is summarized in Tables 4, 5 and 6. The level of participation of women in resource exploration is obviously very low. "Very High Level of Participation" and "High Level of Participation" are 0.00% each. "Do Participate" is only 2.09%. "Very Low Level of

Participation" and "Low Level of Participation" are equally very low, only a meager 4.09% each. But "Don't Participate" is humongous high, the majority, 81.18%. Cumulatively, responses as to "Very High Level of Participation," "High Level of Participation," "Do Participate," "Low Level of Participation" and "Very Low Level of Participation," of women in resource exploration were 10.27% only. Inversely however, Don't Know" and "Don't Participate" were massive, 89.73% (see Table 4).

Table 4: Level of Participation in Exploration of Mineral Resources

<i>Levels of Participation</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Proportion (%)</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>	<i>Inverse Cum. %</i>
Very High Level of Participation	0	0.00	0.00	100.00
High Level of Participation	0	0.00	0.00	100.00
Do Participate	23	2.09	2.09	100.00
Low Level of Participation	45	4.09	6.18	97.91
Very Low Level of Participation	45	4.09	10.27	93.82
Don't Participate	893	81.18	91.45	89.73
Don't Know	94	8.55	100.00	8.55
Total	1100	100.00		

On the level of participation in exploitation/extraction of the resources, Table 5 shows as follows: "Very High Level of Participation," 1.18%; "High Level of Participation," 1.36%; "Do Participate," 4.64%; "Low Level of

Participation," 10.64%; and "Very Low Level of Participation," 11.00%. But "Don't Participate" was the highest, 70.09% and "Don't Know" was 1.09%. Conversely, "Don't Know" and "Don't Participate" alone were huge, 71.187%.

Table 5: Level of Participation in Exploitation/Extraction of Mineral Resource

<i>Levels of Participation</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Proportion (%)</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>	<i>Inverse Cum. %</i>
Very High Level of Participation	13	1.18	1.18	100.00
High Level of Participation	15	1.36	2.54	98.82
Do Participate	51	4.64	7.18	97.46
Low Level of Participation	117	10.64	17.82	92.82
Very Low Level of Participation	121	11.00	28.82	82.18
Don't Participate	771	70.09	98.91	71.18
Don't Know	12	1.09	100.00	1.09
Total	1100	100.00		

In addition, studied was the levels of participation/involvement in the development and management of the resources by the women. Only 2.09% picked "Very High Level of Participation." 2.55% picked "High Level of Participation," 3.91% picked "Do Participate." "Low Level of Participation" and "Very Low Level of Participation" were 5.18% and 14.54% respectively. "Don't Participate" was

70.18%. Surprisingly, an enormous proportion, 71.73%, picked either "Don't Know" or "Don't Participate," that is, as against 28.27% of "Very High Level of Participation," "High Level of Participation," "Do Participate," "Low Level of Participation" and "Very Low Level of Participation" all put together (see Table 6).

Table 6: Level of Participation/Involvement in Development and Management of Resources

<i>Levels of Participation</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Proportion (%)</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>	<i>Inverse Cum. %</i>
Very High Level of Participation	23	2.09	2.09	100.00
High Level of Participation	28	2.55	4.64	97.91
Do Participate	43	3.91	8.55	95.36
Low Level of Participation	57	5.18	13.73	91.45
Very Low Level of Participation	160	14.54	28.27	86.27
Don't Participate	772	70.18	98.45	71.73
Don't Know	17	1.55	100.00	1.55
Total	1100	100.00		

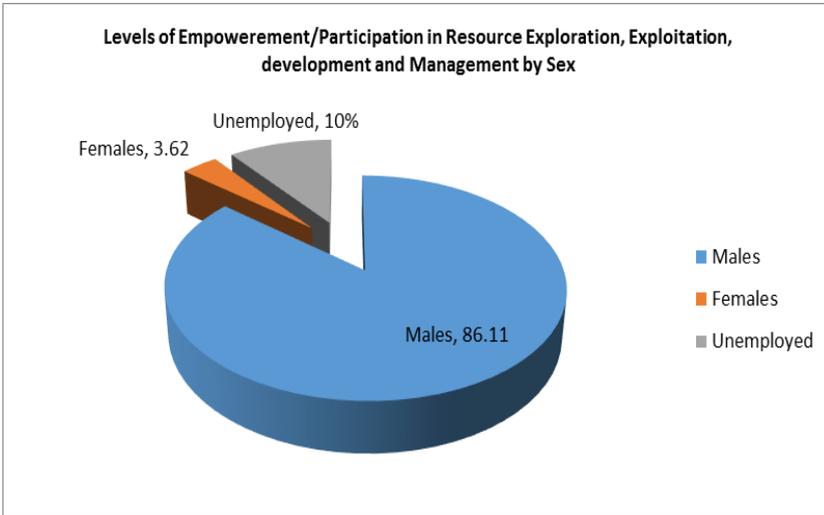


Fig. 1: Levels of Empowerment/Participation in Resource Exploration, Exploitation, Development and Management by Sex

Figure 1 compares the level of participation/involvement of males and females in the exploration, exploitation, development and management in the sector. The response to this question showed that the level of female participation was extremely low, 3.62%, compared to the males' 86.11%, see Fig.1. There was need to examine further the level of participation of the women in other major areas of human endeavour: (1) Teaching Service (including lecturing in higher institutions); (2) Civil service (including services in private companies and government agencies); (3) Quarrying and Mining; and (4) Trade and Commerce, see Fig. 2 (a), (b), (c) and (d) respectively. The unemployed, (males and females), 10.27%, was generic to all the four categories. In the teaching service,

there were more males, (58.18%) than females (31.55%). In the civil service, the proportion of males was 61.00% and the females account for 28.73% only. Similarly, the proportion of males in quarrying and mining was 79.64% compared to their female counterparts, 10.09% only. But there were more women in trade and commerce 48.00% as against the 41.73% of their male counterpart, see Fig 2 (a), (b), (c) and (d).

It is obvious, more men were generally engaged in all major recognized areas of human endeavour - teaching service, civil service, and quarrying and mining, except in trade and commerce - that were prominent in the community than the women; and as much as 10.27% were unemployed.



Fig. 2: Level of participation of the women in other major areas of human endeavour in Southwestern Nigeria

By and large, a question was asked: what could have been responsible for low level of participation in the entrepreneurship by the women? See Table 7.

7.3 Research question 3

What are the contributory factors to low level of participation of women in the sector? Table 7 summarizes reasons why the participation of the women in the sector is low.

Table 7: Why were there low level of participation women in the business of Mineral Resources Exploration, Exploitation, Development and Management

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Proportion (%)</i>
Limited Access to Fund	1001	91.00
Fear of Failure	982	89.27
Balancing Business/Work and Family Life	910	82.73
Building Support Network	932	84.73
Lack of Self Confidence	769	69.91
Taboo and Cultural Background	979	89.00
Social Expectations	781	71.00
Educational Background	1051	95.55
Lack of Background Knowledge and Experience	1048	95.27
Societal Support	931	84.64
Others (Specified)	1008	91.64

Once again, a respondent picked more than one choice but none of them was picked by all of the respondents: The least picked was "Lack of Self Confidence" (69.91%), followed by "Social Expectations" (71.00%). Others were "Limited Access to Fund" (91.09%), "Fear of Failure" (89.27%), "Building Support Network" (84.73%), "Balancing Business /Work and Family Life" (82.73%), "Educational Background" (95.55%), "Lack of Background Knowledge and Experience" (95.27%) and "Societal Support" was 84.64%. Others (Specified) was 91.64%.

These are significantly high by any standard (Weidinger, Fischler and Schmidpeter, 2013). In other words, women are not significantly empowered/supported to participate in the sector.

7.4 Research Question 4

In what areas could the women be empowered to participate actively in resource exploration, exploitation,

development and management in the community? Box 1 shows the tangible solid resources of the communities that are in commercial quantities (Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals (2016): Kaolin, Granite, Clay, Limestone, Gypsum, Talc, Sillimnote, Tantalite, Feldspar, Syenite, Bitumen, Gemstone, Gold, Toumaline, Aquamarine and Cassiterite. Others are Titanium, Glass-sand, Phosphate, Coal, Columbite, Marble and Dolomite, about 23, that were differently found in different communities in various quantities and qualities (The Presidency (2007; Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals, 2016). While some are being exploited in commercial quantities, others remain (in the ground as untapped) stock. More importantly, there are multiplicity of opportunities that these have and can equally availed both men and women (Ali & O’Faircheallaigh, 2012; Richard, 2005; Hamann, 2003; Lertzman & Vredenburg, 2005).

Box 1: Mineral Resources that can be exploited/extracted, developed and managed southwestern Nigeria

Kaolin	Feldspar	Tatinum	Aquamarine
Granite	Syenite	Glass Sand	Dolomite
Clay	Bitumen	Phosphate	Cassiterite
Limestone	Gemstone	Coal	Sillimnote
Gypsum	Gold	Columbite	Tantalite
Talc	Toumaline	Marble	Etc, etc

Apart from the exploration, exploitation, development and management roles in the sector, Table 8 outlines 19 responses to questions as to others possible service areas that the women may be empowered for self-development and sustainability in the community. All the subjects picked more than one item each. The least picked were "Provision of Religious Services" (47.34%), "Transport and Communication

Services" (50.18%) and "Financing of Projects" (59.82%). The highest picked/suggested were "Environmental Gentrification" (91.09%), "Record Keeping" (91.00%), "Office Administrative Services" (90.70%) and "Education/Training of Stakeholders" (90.18%). All others picked were also by not less than 60.00% of the respondents.

Table 8: Service areas women could be empowered for the exploitation, exploitation, development and management of the resources

<i>Possible Services²</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Proportion (%)</i>
Awarding/Serviceing of Contract	781	71.00
Provision of Security Services	715	65.00
Food Vending	922	83.82
Financing of Projects	658	59.82
Provision of Errand Services	929	84.45
Transportation an8d Communication Services	552	50.18
Provision of Religious Services	521	47.36
Legal Services	817	74.27
Mediation Services	804	73.09
Medical/First Aid Services	922	83.82
Welfare Services	982	89.27
Office Administrative Services	998	90.73
Record Keeping	1001	91.00
Educating/Training of Stakeholders	992	90.18
Expert Advice	818	74.36
Shelter and Accommodation	901	81.91
Environmental Gentrification	1002	91.09
Research and Development	988	89.82
Others (Specified)	938	85.27

The opinions of the male and female subjects and the different professionals do not differ significantly. But this work was unable to discuss in detail the direction and dimension of either sex's involvement nor was it able to explore further the reasons for lack of empowerment and or the insignificant participation of women in the industry.

But, for sustainability of the individuals, families and the communities (and of course, the nation at large), women must be empowered. The onus is on the governments of the region and the communities to enforce the empowerment of the women in this sector in both formal and non-formal settings so that they will be able to perform expert roles; and also be able to educate/train stakeholders in relevant skills; in environmental gentrification, welfare services, record keeping, medical/first-aid services, mediation and legal services, food vending and others. As Anyanwu (2002), Abiona (2009), Hamann (2003), Lertzman & Vredenburg (2005) and Okpanachi (2011) have stressed, women in the communities may be educated in different areas of human endeavour, and mostly in those areas that will be most relevant to the industry in both formal and non-formal settings.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Southwestern Nigeria is rich in material resources but women empowerment, and participation in the exploration, exploitation, development and management is insignificant compared with the levels of their male counterparts. Women face barriers like discrimination, matrimonial and inheritance law, cultural practices, lack self-confidence, education, societal

supports, access to fund and others. Culture and traditions limit what a woman can do. Whereas, there are several areas of the industry that women could be well endowed and empowered to participate. Undoubtedly, Adult Education may have to play a significant role to educate and develop the women. Women must not be discriminated against; and they must be encouraged and supported financially, socially and morally by the families, friends, philanthropists and government institutions.

In addition, individual women should have the character of empowered persons for social and economic development of themselves, their communities and the nation at large, namely by: (i) having decision-making power; (ii) having access to information and resources that will enable them to take properly, informed decisions for themselves and to the advantage of the community and the nation at large; (iii) having the belief in themselves and capable of making positive change or have the ability to make a change for themselves, the community and the larger society; and (iv) having the ability to learn new skills and or improve their personal and or group power.

The southwestern Nigeria women must be empowered for the betterment of each and every one, and for the development of the communities and the nation at large. Social taboos and traditions, poor backgrounds, lack of motivation, heavy workload, early marriages, low social status and so on should not constitute any barrier to women's education, development and empowerment.

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