An Impact Analysis of Women Economic Empowerment Policies: a Case Study of Wamakko Local Government Area Sokoto State

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Abstract

This research analyses the impact of women economic empowerment policies/programme on the activities of women using Wamakko Local Government as a case study. Eighty (80) beneficiaries of the programme were purposely selected and administered questionnaire. Data obtained were analyses using both descriptive statistics and independent t-test. Results reveal that the programme had succeeded in empowering the women's capacity. Specifically, results disclosed that the monthly mean income of the beneficiaries increased from N 4,964.6 to N16,132.5, before and after the intervention of the programme respectively. It is therefore recommended that government should ensure that the level of women's participation in the economic empowerment programme is sustained to give more room for women to undertake various programmes that the centre provides.

Keywords: *Impact analysis, Women economic empowerment, Wamakko LGA*

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Background to the Study

The most vulnerable members of the populace in sub-Saharan African countries are women who dwell in rural locations as far as poverty scourge is concerned. The reason for this ugly development is connected with the prevailing norms and customs. Women are also more vulnerable to poverty because of their weak capacity to own and control resources for productive purposes.

Issues of gender misconception continue to militate against enjoyment of rights and full participation of women in national development. The National Gender Policy (NGP 2006) states that 'dearth of gender technical expertise, inadequate human resources and insufficient skill has plagued the gender and development sector. This is coupled with constrained partner, participation and programme beneficiaries from maximizing development opportunities to the detriment of overall development of the nation. Olakulein and Ojo [2006] pointed out that illiteracy remains at the center of women empowerment problems in Nigeria and the only effective way to meaningfully contribute to the emancipation of women in Nigeria society is to widen the access of women and girls to equal educational opportunities.

Women being the only gender whose role is that of mothers and careers, first teachers and backbones of societal morality are supposed to be central and critical to national development. This is because, once they are well equipped, then the society has gotten a strong engine to succeed and if otherwise, then the society is in danger.

In Nigeria women development gained tremendous boast with Better Life Programme (BLP) in 1987 leading to an increasing public and government awareness of prospective role women could play in national development. Amaka (2007) opines that majority of the population who live in poverty are women and it is estimated that more women and children live in rural areas.

According to Adewole (1997) women empowerment can be described as the provision of adequate opportunities for women to develop their potentials and contribute to the development of the nation in particular and to the world in general. He further described women empowerment as the provision of conducive environment for opportunities for women to contribute their quota to the social, political and economic activities.

In fact, many rural women, up still present time, do not have awareness of many of the government policies and programmes that are meant to relieve their poverty problems. Hence, many policies aimed at empowering women such as Better Life Programme launched in 1984, Family Support Programme which was launched in 1994 and Poverty Reduction Programme launched in 2001 have not yet yielded significant impact on Nigerian women,

However, given the disturbing nature of poverty on women, the state(Sokoto) described as one of poorest in Nigeria, should be desirous of improving, the women economic activities by establishing, maintaining and improving women development centers. It is against this background that the study tends to investigate and analyse the impact of

economic empowerment policies on the economic activities of women in Wamakko Local Government, Sokoto state.

Statement of the Problem

Most of the rural women who constitute a greater percentage of poor people, particularly in Wamakko Local Government area in this part of the country are still holding the belief that women are not to engage in productive activities to support their families.

Odubogun (1996) examines the extent of economic empowerment of Nigerian women based on their participation in various economic activities and noted that economic powers of Nigerian women systematically and persistently deteriorated particularly since 1986. Generally, women economic empowerment is low in Nigeria compared to their male counterparts. Many women still live on menial jobs. Most jobs performed by women do not have economic values. All works and activities that do not require financial rewards are the responsibilities of women (Akomolafe, 2006).

The alleviation of poverty has generally been the economic policy of successive administrations in Nigeria over the years. However, it can be noted that little success had been recorded in cutting down the number of people that still live below poverty line. Governments at all levels have though conceived and implemented several socio-economic policies and programmes to eliminate rural poverty and to create prosperity, among women. Little improvement are recorded in women's economic status.

From the going, the study intends to investigate and answer the following questions.
i.   To what extent had the womens' economic empowerment programme positively impacted on women in Sokoto State in general and Wamakko Local government in particular?
ii.   Is there any significant difference in the income of beneficiaries of women's economic empowerment programme before and after the programme?
iii.   What hinders women from partaking in economic activities despite the availability of women empowerment programme? These and other related questions are what this study sets to investigate.

Objective of the Study

The general objective of this study is to analyse the impact of various government empowerment programmes on the economic activities of women in Wamakko Local Government Area. Specific objectives include:
i.   To investigate if there is any difference in the income of beneficiaries before and after the empowerment programmes in the study area
ii.   To identify the factors that hinder women from partaking in the economic activities despite the availability of women economics empowerment programme in the study area.

Hypotheses of the Study
In line with the statement of the problem and the objectives of the study, the following hypotheses are proposed for this study.

Ho$_i$: There is no significant difference in the average income of the beneficiaries before and after empowerment policies in Wamakko Local Government Area.

Hii: There is significant difference in the average income of the beneficiaries before and after empowerment programme in the study area.

Scope and Limitations of the Study
This study is limited on the impact analysis of economic empowerment policies on the economic activities on women. The study covers women from Wamakko Local Government Area who have benefited from women economic empowerment programme i.e.Sokoto State Poverty Reduction Programme [SSPRP].The period covered by the study is 2005-2011.

The major limitation of the study includes difficulty of obtaining relevant and reliable information due to lack of up to date relevant materials and improper record keeping. Illiteracy of the respondents who are women also constitutes another limitation to the study. However the information obtained is expected to serve as basis of our analysis.

Secondly, since economic empowerment policies are government policies that deal with government directly or indirectly, officials are often reluctant to release any relevant information related to these policies.

Related Literature
Theoretical Framework
This section provides the theoretical framework for the study. The section reviews two theories that are relevant to this study, both of which are useful in understanding the context within which the study is conducted. However it is the human capital theory that provides the theoretical underpinning for this research.

Human Capital Theory
The human capital theory is one of the most popular and important theories that can be used in the discussion of women economic empowerment and economic policies [Revallision and Martins 1995]. The core thesis of human capital theory is that people learning capacities are comparable to other natural resources involved in the production process (Revallision and Martins 1995). The theory encourages investment in economic empowerment policies, education and other relevant trainings because such investment will entail increase in income in the future.

According to Revallision and Martins 1995, by such investment, women will accumulate appropriate knowledge, vocational skills and thus, increase their level of income and reduce poverty among them. According to human capital theory, poverty reduction either in rural or urban centers involves effort at improving the quality of human capital of the nation through investing on economic empowerment policies and education. This will eradicate poverty among women in both rural and urban areas.

The human capital approach suggests that investment on economic empowerment policies and training could be used as a vehicle to alter the inequality in the income distribution in society particularly on women by raising the relative position in the income distribution of people and also narrowing their income deferential. Human capital therefore, can be considered as panacea for real and sustainable national development that can effectively reduce poverty in any society. A society that has a high quality human capital would be able to take full advantage of any government provision at the rural or urban areas for its benefit (Schendel, 1996).

Evelyn (2008) in her study pointed out that empowerment of women contributes immensely to the development of the nation. In this context she strongly recommend that women as major contributors to the economic development should have access to employment programmes where they should learn various skills which include tailoring, hair dressing, weaving, soap making, pomade making, bag making and bakery among others.

Feminist and Gender Theory
Another relevant theory is the feminist and gender theory. The central proposition of this theory is that women should be included and should participate in the development process in order to address the systematic   exclusion of women in development (UNDP 2008).

In this regard, women are viewed strictly in terms of their value in the development process of the nation. The Feminist and Gender Theory emphasize that gender equality and empowerment of women should be fully integrated into policy formulation and project design.   Feminist theory focuses on the effects of oppression on women by patriarchy and systematic inequalities. Feminist and gender theory focuses on the inclusion of women in decision making process, access to education and empowerment, awareness building and informational resources about benefits and purpose of women economic empowerment. (Kovacs 2005).

Empirical Literature
According to Baden et-al (1998) empowerment programme refers to transformative process of the people, mentally, physically, socially and morally. Similarly, Santosh [2010] views economic activities of women as an access of human to financial services as a means to build income generating activities to increase bargaining power within household and thus, to enable women to empower themselves. Economically, Santosh [2010] considered economic activities of women as an investment in human capital that yields a return in the labour market especially in the long run. In line with these definitions, economic empowerment programme and women economic activities are vital to the well being of the society.

Using a survey approach, Kabeer [2001] investigated the role of empowerment programmes on the activities of women and found that the empowerment programmes has succeeded in increasing the economic activities of women in Bangladesh through skill acquisition, self employment and serving as employers of labour.

Shandhan [2009] used semi structured interviews on study of women economic empowerment programme and the result revealed that economic empowerment programme has positive impact on the economic activities of women in India. Shandhan [2009] further pointed out that after empowerment programme the beneficiaries i.e women were able to generate 4,634 Indian rupees around 7.7 million euro.

Kabeer (2000) carried out a study on women economic empowerment using survey approach based on questionnaire and found that empowerment programme in India has positive influence on the activities of women in rural India by improving the standard of living of women. Fasoranti [2010] examined the impact of empowerment on poverty alleviation among women in rural areas in Akoko North West in Ondo state of Nigeria and the descriptive results have shown that there is a positive relationship between the economic empowerment programme and economic activities of women.

Santosh [2010] in his study on the roles of two communities based organizations [CBOs] in Indian using t test and found that the empowerment programme has succeeded in increasing income of rural women after the economic empowerment programme. Rahaman [2001] used chi-square test, and the result revealed positive correlation between economic empowerment programme and economic activities of women. Rahaman [2001] further opined that empowerment policy is an important liberating force in societies, where women in particular have to struggle against repressive social and economic conditions.

Rowland [1997] in a study on the role of empowerment programme on the economic activities of women in Hondurus, the results after using chi-square test revealed that there is strong relationship between economic empowerment programme for women and their economic activities. Similarly, Werber [2006] in his study, also revealed strong correlation between economic empowerment and economic activities. He opined that economic empowerment of women programme had enabled women to have more access to consumption, health care, contraception, power and access to property.

Despite the mainstream findings by Santosh [2010] and Kabeer [2001] that economic empowerment programme has positive correlation with the economic activities of women. Johnson [2005] in his study however, using survey approach, the result reveals that economic empowerment programme have negative relationship with women economic activities. He further pointed out that only few women are self employed after economic empowerment programme, because majority are rarely interested in starting business, as they are very much aware of the risk.

Fernando [2006] in his study found a negative relationship between economic empowerment programme and women economic activities. He refers to economic activities as a low productive sector. Similarly, Wright [2006] using survey approach based on questionnaire revealed negative relationship between economic empowerment programme and economic activities. He opined that women economic empowerment programmes increased financial well being.

A Review of Policy Measures on Poverty Reduction in Nigeria among Workers
Since poverty is multi-dimensional, it then follows that poverty alleviation programmes designed to address the problem should also be multi-dimensional in approach.

National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP)
NAPEP is one of measures of poverty alleviation strategies, which came up after the Ahmed Joda Panel Report of 1999 and the Professor Ango Abdullahi Committee Report of 2000. Poverty is one of the most serious problems confronting Nigerians today. It is generally associated with condition under which people live.

NAPEP consists of all relevant programmes and projects that are aimed at eradicating poverty among the people of Nigeria. The programmes have been coordinated and classified into four main schemes. These are the programme, Rural Infrastructure Development Schemes (RIDS), the Social Welfare Services Scheme (SOWESS) and the Natural Resources Development and Conservation Scheme (NARDCS) Obadan (1996)

The main function of NAPEP is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of poverty eradication contents of the concerned ministries [Agriculture and Rural Development, Education, Health, Water Resources, Works and Housing, Employment, Labour and Productivity, Women Affairs and Youth Development and Industry] to ensure that the activities are centrally planned and coordinated in order to complement one another with a view to maximize impact and effective use of resources. Obadan (1996) It is in pursuance of the intervention mandate that NAPEP embarked on the women empowerment through the programme. These consist of capacity acquisition programme (CAP), mandatory attachment programme [MAP] and the credit delivery programme Obadan (1996).

Better Life Programme (BLP)
Better Life Programme was inaugurated in September, 1987 by the First Lady of the Federation Mrs. Maryam Babangida. The major objective of the programme was to boost the economic activities in the rural areas via the enhancement of rural incomes and the arrest of rural-urban migration.

Poverty in Nigeria is a rural phenomenon and the rural women are worst hit by the dreadful malady of poverty. This is due to lack of skill and education necessary for gainful employment. The targeting of women in the fight against poverty will no doubt reduce significantly aggregate level of poverty in the country. The Better Life Programme, therefore, tried to harness the potentials of rural women and thereby impacted positively on their economic activities and incomes. The Better Life Programme has been founded to improve the quality of life of many women through the distribution of various inputs, granting of easy credits and the establishment of various educational/enlightenment programmes (Ogwumike, 1987).

Achievements of Better Life Programme (BLP)
Since its inception in 1987, the Better Life Programme has recorded numerous successes some of which can be enumerated below. It has laid the foundation for the empowerment

of rural women in particular and the Nigerian women in general. These women have been equipped with relevant skills and resources to embark on self help projects and small private enterprises (Babangida, 2005).

Through the programme, about 418 Multipurpose Women Education Centers have been established all over Nigeria (Babangida, 2005). These centres have facilities for an integrated curriculum that focuses on literacy programmes, simple book keeping and accounting skills, child care, etc. Moreover, about 7,635 farmers co-operative society have been set up across the country (Babangida, 2005). Notable achievements were recorded in the distribution of seeds and seedlings.

Ogwumike (1987) concludes that the Better Life Programme had made tremendous impact with regards to poverty alleviation. Thus, the achievements of better life programme include 11,373 women cooperatives by 1993, the establishment of 3,613 processing mills, as well as the distribution of farm inputs such as fertilizer to women who ordinarily would not have had access to such inputs though they carry out the bulk of agricultural activities.

The Family Support Programme (FSP)
The Family Support Programme was initiated by Mrs. Maryam Abacha under Abacha's Administration in 1994. It aimed at improving on previous experiences of women in development programme by broadening its coverage and sharpening its focus.

In the Blueprint (1994) the family basically caters for its members, basic needs such as shelter, nutrition as well as mental and physical health. Particularly, due to the socio-economic conditions of Nigeria today, many families are unable to meet these basic needs. Some of the consequences of these are loss of family ties, damaging or dysfunctional relationships, delinquent and sometimes violent or criminal behaviour on the part of members. To meet daily needs, growing number of families have turned their children to hawking and begging. Oladeji and Abiola, (1998) cited that both family support programme and family economic advancement programme were designed and set up to improve the quality of life of rural dwellers particularly women. The objectives of Family Support Programme include: Eradication of negative, social and cultural factors affecting women and children; Assisting rural families to increase agricultural production as well as improving their nutritional status; Promoting and improving the welfare of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the society, notably. Children, women, disables, distributes, the aged etc [Blueprint 1994].

Achievement of Family Support Programme
According to Sokoto State Family Support Programme (1998) the achievement of family support programmer include establishment of Maryam Abacha women and children hospital, which was built and commissioned in 1997. Since then, it has been recording tremendous successes especially in the area of Vesicle Vaginal Fistulate (VVF).

The Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP)
The Family Economic Advancement Programme was launched in 1997 by Her Excellency the First Lady, (Dr.) (Mrs.) Maryam Sani Abacha. Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) as a micro credit scheme is an investment promotion and poverty alleviation programme aimed at stimulating appropriate economic activities in the various wards of local government areas of the country. The programme was established in order to raise the level of productivity and economic power of the people especially the vulnerable ones, through the establishment of cottage industries (News Letter, 1997). The Family Economic Advancement Programme simply known as FEAP is a blueprint designed to facilitate the economic empowerment of women and other disadvantaged groups. It is a grassroots economic project aimed at improving the standard of living of low income families. It is therefore, an important component of the Family Support Programme of the present administration.

Basically, FEAP premise lies in tackling some identified problems of low income families. These include lack of capital and accessibility to credit, lack of collateral in obtaining credits, lack of entrepreneurial and equipment (News Letter, 1997).

Achievement of Family Economic Advancement Programme
Family Economic Advancement Programme had made a positive achievement on the life of women through loan, which the family economic advancement programme advanced to them. These loans that were obtained by women from various financial institutions, enabled the women to purchase the materials, which each woman is specialized in, such as knitting, tailoring, soap making e.t.c [FEAP 1998]

The loans were given to them so that the women could have their own sources of income, in order to reduce the level of poverty among them. With these loans, over 250 women were been able to have started their own cottage enterprises [FEAP 1998]

Methodology of the Study
Brief History of the Study Area
Wamakko Local Government was curved out of the former Sokoto Local Government when new local government areas were created by the Federal Government in May, 1989. The headquarter of Wamakko Local Government is Wamakko town. It is situated in the western end of the state capital, Sokoto, and is just 11 kilometers away from the Sokoto city centre. Wamakko is located approximately on longitude 50,00'N and latitude 130,00'N of the equator. (Sokoto State Economic Potential 2008)

It is bordered on the north by Tangaza Local Government Area, on the south by Bodinga and Yabo local government areas on the western part, it borders Silame Local Government and to the east, Sokoto North and South and Kware Local Government Areas. The estimated land area of Wamakko Local Government is 889 square kilometers. Even though this local government is situated within the arid zone of the state, nevertheless, it is surrounded by rivers. This makes it possible for its inhabitants to embark on full time dry season farming as well as mixed farming.

The estimated population of Wamakko Local Government area is 179,619 people as stated in the 2006 National Census. It is made up of four districts, they are Wamakko, Dundaye, Gumbi and Gumburawa. The culture of the people of the local government is not much different from that of any other Hausa/Fulani clan in the state. The dominant tribes in the local government are Hausa, Fulani, and Adarawa. The major languages widely spoken in the area are Hausa and Fulfulde. The predominant occupations of the people are farming and trading (Sokoto state economic potential, 2008).

Population of the Study
The population of this study comprised of selected women from Wamakko local government area that benefited from training in women development centre in Sokoto state. Wamakko local government area was chosen because, it has four district namely, Wamakko, Gumbi, Dundaye, Gumburawa and also has one of the highest participant in the activities of Sokoto State Development Centre. (Action Plan 2002\2004).For the purpose of this study Wamakko local government was selected and 100 questionnaires were administered to beneficiaries of the state development centre to generate the required data for this study.

Sampling Size and Sampling Technique
A sample is necessary when a population is large. This research adopted the non probability sampling technique, owing to the inability of the researcher to reach the entire population of the study. As a result, the study targeted the beneficiaries of the programme at Wamakko local government only. Nevertheless, a total number of 80 respondents, using Israel (2009) sample size table on 100 populations were considered for the study.

Mathematically: $n = \dfrac{N}{1+N(e)^2}$ ………………………… (1)

Where n = sample size
N = Size of population
e = precision level

Given the population size as 100 with precision level of 0.05 the sample size is determined as:

$$n = \frac{100}{1+100(0.05)^2} = \frac{100}{1+100(0.0025)} = \frac{100}{1+0.25} = 100/1.25 = 80$$

Sources of Data
Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. The primary data was based on structured interviews and structured questionnaires. The purpose of using both interview and questionnaire is that some of the respondents are not literate and so the task of completing questionnaires effectively becomes difficult. The secondary data will be collected from relevant text books, newspapers and academic journals and articles.

Data Analysis
This section explains the techniques employed in data analysis. As earlier stated, this study used questionnaire and interview to generate data to test the impact of economic empowerment policies on the economic activities of women in Wamakko Local Government area. In analyzing this data, inferential statistic would be employed to analyze the data. The independent t test was used to compare the average income of the beneficiaries before and after the empowerment programme. This is to enable the researcher to observe the income of women before and after the empowerment programme.

The independent t-test is said to be a parametric method when certain assumption are made about the parameters of the population (Population distribution), which the sample represents when testing hypothesis.

Phase 1
It is assumed that the sample comes from a normally distributed population with a mean of a specific value and equal variance. The t test is obtained by the formula below:

The basic formula for the sample variance is:

$$S^2 = \frac{\sum(x\text{-}x)^2}{n\text{-}1}$$

The observed difference between means is converted into a value of t by the following expression:

$$t = \frac{X_1 - X_2}{X_1 - X_2}$$

The standard error of the difference between means is always designated by $\delta X_1 - X_2$ and is calculated by the formular:

$$\delta X_1 - X_2 = \sqrt{\left[\delta^2/n_1 , \delta^2/n_2\right]}$$
Where:

$$\delta^2 = \frac{(n_1\text{-}1)\,S_1^2 + (n_2\text{-}1)S_2^2}{n_1 + n_2\text{-}2}$$

The degree of freedom used in conjunction with the t distribution is:

$$df = n_1 + n_2 - 2$$

Phase II
It is assumed that the sample comes from a normally distributed population with a mean of a specific value and unequal variance. The T test is obtained by the formula.

$$df = \frac{S_1^2/n_1 + S_2^2/n_2}{\left[\dfrac{\left(S_1^2/n_2\right)^2}{(n_{1-1})}\right] + \left[\dfrac{\left(S_2^2/n_1\right)^2}{(n_2-1)}\right]}$$

Decision Rule

If the calculated value i.e., test statistics is less than or equal to the critical value (the tabulated value), null hypothesis (Ho) will be accepted, but if the calculated value is greater than the tabulated value we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative (Hi)

Error

Two errors are commonly committed when testing the hypothesis i.e. type I and type II errors. Type I error is committed when null hypothesis is rejected when it is true and type II error is committed when null hypothesis is accepted when it is false.

Descriptive Analysis and Results Interpretation

The table presents the average of certain data of interest. It should be cautioned at this point that the section makes no attempt to undertake hypothesis tests, leaving this to a subsequent section.

Table 1: Summary of income of Women before and after the Empowerment programme

Variable	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev	Min	Max
Income before	80	4964.6	3420.8	400	24.00
Income after	80	16132.5	1337.30	2000	45,000

Source: Field Work June (2012)

Table 1 presents descriptive statistics on the income of women before and after the empowerment programme. It can be seen from the table that 80 observations were taken on income of women before and after the empowerment programme. The average mean of income of women before the empowerment programme is 4964.6 with the standard deviation of 3420.8 while the minimum income of women before the empowerment programme is 400, the maximum income of women before the empowerment programme is 24000. On the other hand, income of women after the empowerment programme has the average mean 16132.5 with standard deviation of 13373.0. While the minimum income of women after empowerment programmes 2000, the maximum income of women after is 45,000. With these, it shows that there is increase in income of women after the empowerment programme which also shows a positive correlation between the empowerment programme and the income of the women participated in the programme.

The minimum income of women after the empowerment programme is 2000 while the maximum income of women after the empowerment programme is 45000. Based on the figures, it could be concluded that there is significant difference in the average income of the beneficiaries after the empowerment programme because comparing the result of income of women before and after the empowerment programme, the minimum income of women after the empowerment programmse is greater than the minimum income of women before the empowerment programme i.e. 2000 is greater than 400. This conclusion is however unwarranted because the average giving in table 4.7 involve no statistical test.

Inferential Analysis using Independent T-test

As mentioned in the preceding section, the descriptive results involve no test, hence no major statistical inference could be drawn based on such results. In order to prepare ground for the statistical inference the two sample T test procedures were applied for the equal variance using STATA 9.1, to examine whether the average values of income of women before the empowerment programme differed from the one after the empowerment programme.

In addition to the above, income of women before and after the empowerment programme is used as a variable for measuring the impact analysis of women empowerment programme on the economic activities of women, with 80 observations of income of women before the empowerment programme and 80observation of income of women after the empowerment programme.

Table 2: Independent T test Result (Equal Variance)

Empowerment programme	Mean value
Income before the empowerment programme	4964.6
Income after the empowerment programme	16132.5
Combined	10548.5
Difference	-11167.9
Diff = O	0.0000
Diff > O	1.0000
Total	**-7.2364 ****

Significant at 10% (*); 5% (**); 1% (***)
Source: Data analysis sJune (2012)

As could be seen from the Table 2, for the equal variance, the average mean for the combined observation is 10548.5, while the average mean of the difference of income before and after the empowerment programme is -11167.9. The calculated T-value is -7.2364 with 158 as degree of freedom at 5% level of significant. This shows that the P value is 0.0000 at 5% level of significance. Therefore, from the result the P value is less than the value i.e. 0.0000 is less than 0.05.

This rejected the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the average income of the beneficiary's i.e. women after the empowerment programme when the difference is equal to zero. On the other hand, when the difference is greater to zero, the P value is greater than the i.e. 1.000 is greater than 0.05 which also rejects the null hypothesis, which states that there is no significant difference in the average income of the beneficiaries after the empowerment programme.

Hypothesis Testing Using Independent T-test
The independent T test using (STATA 9.1) reveals that the average values of income of women after the empowerment programme is higher than the income of women before the empowerment programme and this support the alternative hypothesis and reject the null hypothesis, the alternative hypothesis VIZ, there is significant difference in the average income of beneficiaries after the empowerment programme is accepted based on the available statistical data shown in table 1.

The null hypothesis, VIZ there is no significant difference in the average income of beneficiaries i.e. women after the empowerment programme, rejected solely on the basis of statistical evidence. From the result of hypothesis testing, it can be deduced that economic empowerment programme has played a significant role in increasing the average income of beneficiaries i.e. women after the empowerment programme. This, thereby reject the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant increase in average income of women after the empowerment programme. Based on the course of these findings, there is a positive correlation between economic empowerment programme and an increase in income of beneficiaries i.e. the establishment of women empowerment training programme and an increase in income of beneficiaries i.e. the establishment of women empowerment training programme has contributed positively to the income of women benefited from the programme. Furthermore, this gives answer to research question one.

Generally speaking, it can be conclude from the hypothesis testing above, that the training of women on Vaseline, soap making, tailoring and knitting etc. has improved the income and standard of living of women in Wamakko Local Government.

Interpretation of Results
The independent T-test results based on STATA 9.1 disclosed that the average value of income of empowerment programme beneficiaries is much higher than that of before empowerment. This is in support of the alternative hypotheses that, empowerment has significantly improved the income of its beneficiaries thus, there is a positive relationship between empowerment programme and economic activities this answer our research question.

Discussion of Findings
From the result in table 2 it can be observed or seen that the establishment of economic empowerment programme has contributed positively to the income of beneficiaries in Wamakko local government that is there is significant differences in the income of

beneficiaries after the empowerment programme in Wamakko Local Government. This is in line with the prior expectation of the study, thereby rejecting the null hypothesis which states that there is no significant difference in the average income of beneficiaries after the empowerment programme. These results are in line with the findings of Santosh. (2010) and Shandhan (2009). They obtained similar result their studies that economic empowerment programme has positive impact on the economic activities of women in India. Kabeer (2001) also obtained similar result and reject the null hypothesis as well as confirming the prior expectation of the study. Impliedly, it found that empowerment programme has succeeded in increasing the economic activities of women in Wammako local government through skill acquisition self empowerment and serving as employers of labour.

The funding in the study agree with the findings of Kabeer (2000) and Rahman (2001) who argued that economic empowerment programme in India has positive influence on the activities of women in rural India. A similar study, related with our findings is that of Fasoranti (2010) and Rowland (1997) in their study they pointed that there is a positive correlation between economic empowerment programme and economic activities of women.

Finally, the findings in the study also agree with findings of Werber (2006) who opined that economic empowerment programme had enable women to have more access to consumption, health care and access to property. It further opined strong correlation between economic empowerment and economic activities of women. However, Johnson (2005) reported results that are different from the findings in this study, the study reported negative relationship between economic empowerment programme and economic activities of women.

The finding in this study also differs from the result reported by Fernando (2006) who reportes negative relationship between economic empowerment programmes and women economic activities. Fernando (2006) refers women economic activities as a low productive sector. He opined that low productive sector. He opined that low productive recorded may be due to inadequate and ineffective training facilities. Finally, the finding in this study also disagrees with the finding of Wright (2006) who reports negative relationship between economic empowerment programme and economic activities. Wright (2006) further argued only that negative relationship may be due to lack of clearly formulated mandate mainly because it was decree-based.

Conclusion
On the basis of the finding of the study, the following conclusions are drawn. The study concludes that economic empowerment programme had succeeded in improving the standard of living as well as income of women in Wamakko local government area. This is reflected in the increased income of women benefiting from the programme based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that empowerment programme influenced the growth of income of women in Wamakko local government through skill acquisition, self empowerment, and employers of labour.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this research the following policy recommendation should be considered:

Government at all levels should encourage individual, philanthropists and philanthropic organizations to set up poverty alleviation related NGO's in order to complement their efforts in fighting the scourge of poverty in the country. Poor people need to be involved in the formulation of empowerment related programmes. This could be done through the involvement of civil society and or community based organizations in order to create a sense of ownership and ensure accountability and effectiveness of the programmes. Counseling session should be organized for the participants. It should be more private and more confidential. Similarly, referral and follow-up services should be introduced in order to allow for effective counseling for the trainees.

Government should try as much as possible to protect the facilities that are provided to women development centres, and provide a forum in which qualified and teaching staffs would remain, in the centres, and to provide them with incentives and yearly increments. The trainers also need to be adequately motivated and rewarded for better results. Finally, there is a steady increase in the level of participations of women in the economic development programme of the women development centers in the state, Government should ensure that the level of women participation in the economic empowerment programme is sustained to give more room for women to undertake various programmes that the centre provided.

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Appendix I

Income before Empowerment Programme ₦	Income After Empowerment programme ₦
1200	3000
1700	5000
2,400	6000
5,556	10,000
4000	8000
1000	5000
6000	25,000
6000	40,000
6000	45,000
6000	45,000
5,560	10,000
5,550	10,000
5,500	10,000
6000	45,000
6000	25,000
6000	20,000
6000	45,000
6000	45,000
6000	45,000
5000	10,000
20,000	30,000
24,000	34,000
500	2000
2,000	5000
6,000	15,000
6,000	45,000
6,000	20,000
5,556	10,000
5,000	10,000
5,500	10,000
5,000	10,000
5,000	10,000
5000	10,000
6000	10,000
5,500	10,000
6000	7000
6000	45,000
6000	45,000
6000	45,000
6000	45,000
5000	10,000
1000	5000

Income before Empowerment Programme ₦	Income After Empowerment programme ₦
5000	10,000
5000	10,000
2000	5000
1000	5000
3000	5000
7000	19,000
7000	14,000
7000	12,000
5000	11,000
6000	10,000
2000	5000
2,500	4000
2000	4000
400	2000
1000	5000
2000	6000
5000	8000
2700	7,600
3000	6000
2000	5000
10,000	18,000
10,000	15,000
2000	7000
3000	9000
1500	15,000
5000	15,000
5000	18,000
5000	17,000
5000	13,000
5000	17,00
5000	18,000
2,500	14,000
5000	10,000
5000	12,000
5000	17,000
5000	11,000
5000	8,000
1000	5000

Appendix II

STATA Output

--- log:
C:\ProgramFiles\Stata 9.1\Lubabatu.log
 log type: text
 opened on: 29 May 2012, 23:21:33
.
end of do-file

. do "C:\Users\AB1F20~1.ALF\AppData\Local\Temp\STD0a000000.tmp"

. summarize incbefore incafter

```
    Variable  |   Obs       Mean      Std. Dev.      Min    Max
-------------+-------------------------------------------------------
    incbefore |    80      4964.6      3420.845       400    24000
     incafter |    80      16132.5     13373.01      2000    45000
```
.
end of do-file

. do "C:\Users\AB1F20~1.ALF\AppData\Local\Temp\STD0a000000.tmp"

. ttest incbefore == incafter, unpaired

Two-sample t test with equal variances
```
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Variable |   Obs       Mean    Std. Err.   Std. Dev.   [95% Conf. Interval]
---------+--------------------------------------------------------------------
incbef~e |    80      4964.6    382.4621    3420.845    4203.328    5725.872
incafter |    80     16132.5   1495.148    13373.01    13156.48    19108.52
---------+--------------------------------------------------------------------
combined |   160    10548.55   887.5782    11227.08    8795.586    12301.51
---------+--------------------------------------------------------------------
    diff |          -11167.9   1543.29                 -14216.04   -8119.76
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
    diff = mean(incbefore) - mean(incafter)                  t =  -7.2364
Ho: diff = 0                          degrees of freedom =      158

   Ha: diff < 0            Ha: diff != 0           Ha: diff > 0
 Pr(T < t) = 0.0000     Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.0000        Pr(T > t) = 1.0000
```
.
end of do-file

. do "C:\Users\AB1F20~1.ALF\AppData\Local\Temp\STD0a000000.tmp"

. ttest incbefore == incafter, unpaired unequal

Two-sample t test with unequal variances

Variable | Obs   Mean   Std. Err. Std. Dev.   [95% Conf. Interval]
---------+--
incbef~e | 80   4964.6   382.4621   3420.845   4203.328   5725.872
incafter | 80   16132.5   1495.148   13373.01   13156.48   19108.52
---------+--
combined | 160   10548.55   887.5782   11227.08   8795.586   12301.51
---------+--
    diff | -11167.9   1543.29   -14234.25 -8101.554
----
    diff = mean(incbefore) - mean(incafter)   t = -7.2364
Ho: diff = 0   Satterthwaite's degrees of freedom = 89.2946

    Ha: diff < 0   Ha: diff != 0   Ha: diff > 0
 Pr(T < t) = 0.0000   Pr(|T| > |t|) = 0.0000   Pr(T > t) = 1.0000

.
end of do-file

. do "C:\Users\AB1F20~1.ALF\AppData\Local\Temp\STD0a000000.tmp"

. log close
      log: C:\Program Files\Stata 9.1\Lubabatu.log
 log type: text
 closed on: 29 May 2012, 23:21:56